

April 18, 2023

The Second April meeting of the Danville City Council was held on April 18, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9).

Staff Members present were: City Manager Ken F. Larking, Deputy City Manager Earl B. Reynolds, Jr., City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi.

Mayor Jones presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor Miller gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Boy Scout Troop 300.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation: Lawrence G. Campbell, Sr., Day
Presented to: Council Member L.G. "Larry" Campbell, Jr.

Mayor Jones recognized Council Member Campbell and asked that he, his daughter, and grandson come to the podium, and presented Council Member Campbell with a proclamation in honor of his father, the late Apostle Campbell. Council Member Campbell thanked the Mayor, fellow colleagues, City Manager, and Deputy City Manager, stating he has lost his mentor. He was honored to stand there today and say thank you to the City of Danville. Rev. Campbell thanked Chief Booth, for police service for those occasions, and to the community for the food, care, and love for a great man. The fight was not over, and they must continue to move forward. Rev. Campbell noted he was honored to stand there on behalf of the Campbell family, to the City of Danville, and say thank you; words could not express how he felt.

City staff and school board members expressed their condolences to Council Member Campbell and his family. Each spoke of their personal experiences with Apostle Campbell, their gratitude for how he helped to shape the city, the community, and how everyone was better for having known him during his lifetime. His legacy will carry on, through his family, and those who have been blessed to know him. They recounted the sermons and inspiration that he passed on, his love for God and his dedication to others made him a great friend to all. Mayor Jones stated that he wanted Council Member Campbell, on his return, to hear all the accolades shared by Council and staff about his father. Through this situation there was something that Rev. Campbell had said that he will never forget, every time they talked, Larry has told him "we are better together". Council Member Campbell thanked everyone so much for their kind words.

Presentation: Danville Rotary Club
Presented by: Bill Harville, Jack Morning, and Dan Angel

Mr. Harville offered the Danville Rotary Club's condolences to Council Member Campbell. Mr. Harville spoke about the Rotary Club's history of partnering with the City of Danville, especially with Parks and Recreation, and they were very familiar with the proposed plans for the Riverfront Park. They have had the privilege of occupying that space over the past seven years with their Field of Honor display of American flags between June 14 and July 4. Mr. Harville explained they

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came here tonight to present the City with a check in the amount of \$50,000 for the establishment of the new Riverfront Park. Mayor Jones and Council thanked Danville Rotary for the donation.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Campbell, and **second** by Council Member Mayo, Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on March 21, 2023, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of General Fund Financials as of March 31, 2023.

Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins gave a review of the General Fund financial results through the end of March; that was nine months into the fiscal year, or 75% complete. Revenues continue to perform well and they have received \$82.8M, 67% of the budget and an increase of \$5M over last year at this time, primarily from interest income. Local consumer taxes were outperforming budget and up from last year; overall, the City has exceeded last year by \$2.5M. Sales tax was \$8.6M, up \$500,000 over last year and slightly ahead of budget at 76%. Meals tax was at \$8.2M, up \$868,000 over last year and currently tracking ahead of budget at 76%. Business Licenses have done very well this year, the City received a total of \$6M; it has already exceeded budget at 109%, up \$586,000 over last year. Some of the larger companies can choose to pay their installments quarterly, so the City will still be collecting some business licenses in June. Lodging was \$1.9M, an increase of \$405,000 over last year and 65% of budget. All state revenues were at 75% of budget as expected with no concerns. On the Expenditure side, overall, the City was at 79% of budget and they always runs a little ahead of 75% because of debt services that were paid twice a year, once in September and in March, therefore debt services were 100% paid. Departmental Spending was at 71%, trailing budget and typical. Under non-departmental costs, the biggest one was group health insurance, and as mentioned in the past, the City was running ahead of budget at 87%. Also mentioned in previous months, the employee premium went up January 1st, and the City was just beginning to see that come in. That will help offset those costs as they go through the end of the year; however, it was all based on claims and they will have to wait and see how that turns out. The proposed budget for next year had a \$1.5M increase to that line item and Interest income for this year should balance that overage. The fiscal audit for this year was delayed due to staff turnover; this has been completed and finalized. The audit report was received today, and Mr. Adkins noted he was happy to report that there were no findings or audit adjustments. A copy has been linked on the City's website.

Council Member Campbell asked if there would be more in reserves at the end of the fiscal year, and Mr. Adkins stated that was hard to say right now. The Fiscal Year 2023 budget did call for a withdrawal from the fund balance of about \$1.8M - \$1.9M. They have to wait to get all revenues in, make their year-end adjustments and see how the spending turns out. Rev. Campbell asked the City Manager if they can increase the reserves, it would increase the City's credit rating. City Manager Ken Larking stated that was one of the criteria that credit rating agencies look at when they were providing ratings. Danville has a fund balance policy, which they exceed, and that was looked on favorably; there were other aspects they looked at as well. One challenge the City will have next year was the increased revenues coming in from the casino resort, which will increase the base budget amount and more will have to be placed into reserves. Mr. Adkins stated that Fiscal Year 2022 ended with \$34M in unassigned fund balance; the policy for that year said it needed to be \$22M. With the increased revenues for the next budget, the policy will say that they need at least between \$27 and \$28M in fund balance.

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Council Member Campbell questioned if they can increase that policy, they will have a cheaper interest rate and it will put the City at a higher level. Council Member Vogler stated that he was in agreement with Council Member Campbell, and he had stated in previous meetings, he hoped in the near future Council would be able to have a discussion to Rev. Campbell's point, and set a policy that will take a percentage of the annual casino revenue to place into the reserve fund so that the City has a dedicated revenue source that would go into that reserve fund for the reasons mentioned. Council Member Saunders stated that the City was growing; the fund source was also increasing, does that affect the bond rating as well, and Mr. Adkins explained as the City Manager stated, that was one thing they were graded on when they receive their bond rating and they do score very high in that category. The only thing really holding the City back now was their local economy, and their average income per household, those types of statistics; that will improve with economic development. Staff will push for an upgrade in their rating just as soon as they can.

Vice Mayor Miller noted his agreement that they need to put a little of this aside, a percentage of this revenue, because there may be extra funds needed, or employee pay raises. Mr. Larking stated he appreciated Council Member Saunders' previous comment. City Council deserved a lot of credit for the financial situation they were in by adopting budgets, policies and procedures, by investing in economic development over the years and providing the staff the resources to implement those strategies in a way that has made a difference in the community and has helped to boost the economy as the finance director has pointed out.

Council Member Campbell stated they know there were a lot of school kids being shot, would hope they can look at that constructively and make sure their schools were safe. Do they need to upgrade that security a little bit. Mayor Jones referred Rev. Campbell to the current budget because that was one of the top priorities, and there were extra monies going to the schools.

CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST TO VACATE A RIGHT-OF-WAY ON PINEY FOREST ROAD

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding vacation of a Right of Way. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 11, 2023 and April 17, 2023.

Mayor Jones recognized attorney R.J. Lackey representing the applicant who was there to answer any questions. Council Member Whittle asked exactly where this was, and Mr. Lackey stated the address was 441 Piney Forest Road. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04.10

AN ORDINANCE VACATING APPROXIMATELY 2,248 SQUARE FEET OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ON PINEY FOREST ROAD.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Whittle and carried the following vote:

VOTE:	9-0
AYE:	Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller, Saunders, Vogler, Whittle, and Buckner (9)
NAY:	None (0)

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CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR APPROPRIATION OF THE DANVILLE REGIONAL FOUNDATION GRANT.

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Miller, and **second** by Council Member Mayo, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04.11

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FROM THE DANVILLE REGIONAL FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 AND NO LOCAL MATCH FOR A TOTAL GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR AN APPROPRIATION OF THE COMMUNITY FLOOD PREPAREDNESS FUND (CFPF) AGREEMENT

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Whittle, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-04.12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$331,740 AND LOCAL MATCH IN THE AMOUNT OF \$36,860 FOR A TOTAL GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$368,600 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Chase Murphy, 592 Jenny Lane, who expressed his condolences to Council Member Campbell, and spoke against the RV park due to safety and pollution concerns.

Mayor Jones recognized Shawn Moultrie, 195 Arey Lane, who expressed his condolences to Council Member Campbell. Mr. Moultrie stated the government exists to serve its citizens. City Council works for them, they have a voice. He stated that he was not against having an RV park, but he was against putting it in their neighborhood; their community. They want Council to consider their concerns as a group.

Mayor Jones asked the City Manager if there were any details on the RV park since nothing has come before Council, and Mr. Larking stated there was an agenda item for the Planning Commission that was pulled recently, and believed it will be under consideration for a future date with the Planning Commission. There was a public hearing that was part of that meeting as well as notification to the neighbors.

Judy Barksdale withdrew her request to speak.

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Mayor Jones thanked everyone from Jenny Lane to for coming out tonight. Council Member Campbell asked if a traffic study would be completed, and Mr. Larking noted that a traffic study would be done.

Mayor Jones recognized Tom Collins, 909 Poplar Trace, who expressed condolences to Council Member Campbell, and thanked Council for the positive impact their decision to raise pay will have on the employees and the community.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Larking thanked Michael Adkins for filling in for him last week, stating he feels blessed to have strong and capable people in these positions at the department head level. As a community and as an organization they were blessed for having such strong and capable people in these positions and thanked City Council for providing staff the resources to do their jobs well.

There were no communications from the Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, or City Clerk.

Council Member Hood stated this past weekend he had the pleasure of joining the Wendell Scott Foundation for the NASCAR truck race in Martinsville; it gave him a whole different outlook on NASCAR. They have a driver by the name of Rajah Caruth who was driving at 20-years-old representing Danville in that race series. Mr. Hood noted his agreement with a quote that was said earlier that he thought was appropriate for all sectors, "We are better together."

Vice Mayor Miller welcomed the City Manager back. Dr. Miller noted last weekend he attended an event that celebrated the 102nd anniversary of the Almagro Masonic Lodge and had an excellent time. Dr. Miller once again expressed his condolences to Council Member Campbell.

Council Member Saunders asked his former coworker Bill Smith to stand, stating Bill has been in the Boy Scouts for 34 years and was also a veteran. Mr. Saunders asked Mr. Moultrie if he was related to Evette Moultrie; Mr. Moultrie noted it was his aunt, she passed away in the 9/11 attacks. Mr. Saunders noted when he was a bus driver, Evette rode his bus, and noted his condolences to the Moultrie family for their loss. Mr. Saunders discussed memories of his brother, and Bishop Campbell and stated to Council Member Campbell, his father's memory will never die because his memory will live on forever.

Council Member Vogler stated it was good to have Council Member Campbell back in chambers. Mr. Vogler noted he attended the STEAM event earlier tonight with his son and they had so many great things going on from organizations in the school system, bounce houses and dunk tanks. It was a great event, and he would like to thank everyone who helped to do that for the kids. Mr. Vogler stated he would like to thank this team for the phenomenal group they have who work tirelessly and no one ever sees; it is something he was continuously in awe of. They have the greatest mayor and this was the best City Council; they were just getting started.

Council Member Whittle questioned at the last meeting held was there an ordinance for tents being placed on property. The City has had issues with homelessness and people panhandling. There were people who showed up from different groups and he was curious where they were with that because it seems to be a little out of control. Mr. Whittle noted he would love to sit in on a meeting or two to chime in.

Mayor Jones stated that Larissa Deedrich at the Danville Housing Authority has been working on that and Mr. Larking stated Ms. Diedrich, Mr. Reynolds, himself and others in different

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organizations have been meeting with partners to develop a plan. Someone has already been hired to develop a plan to help people get out of the situation that they were in. It was a huge challenge across the country as well as here and they want to do it the right way, the most effective and compassionate way for their citizens.

Council Member Buckner stated there were a lot of good things going on in the community for those looking for things to do. Mr. Buckner noted he received a couple of emails this week and two of them stand out to him: the Knights of Columbus 2023 Wine Festival was Saturday, April 29 at the Community Market from 3pm to 10pm, and the Cinco de Mayo street festival was May 5 from 5pm to 10pm on the 500 block of Craghead Street. Mr. Buckner noted they were glad Rev. Campbell was back, and "We are better together."

Council Member Campbell thanked everyone and the Mayor for recognizing Apostle Campbell with a day; he appreciated it more than they can imagine. On behalf of Bibleway Cathedral and the Campbell family, thank you.

Mayor Jones recognized Chasta White and asked her to come forward to give citizens information about Make Danville Shine month during the month of May. Ms. White noted that Make Danville Shine would kick off on May 6. The expo will take place at the community market from 8am to 12pm; this was the kickoff of the Farmer's Market as well. There will be a lot going on that day and encouraged citizens to come out and show their support.

Mayor Jones recognized the Boy Scouts and thanked them for coming, and thanked everyone from Jenny Lane for coming before their Council, stating their concerns and for being here tonight. Mayor Jones noted, to the young people, they were about to embark on many celebrations; graduations, prom, and all types of parties. Please be safe; they want them all to be safe, celebrate themselves but when they were doing that and having cookouts, parties, and all the things that they were doing that they deserve, be safe. As Council Member Campbell stated, there was too much going on across the country and happening to young people.

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK