

The Regular October meeting of the Danville City Council was held on October 4, 2022, at 7:00 pm 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 P. Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Sherman M. Saunders was absent (1).

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.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Boy Scout Troup #374.

Melvin Shumate, Den Leader for Pack #374, thanked Council Members for allowing the Troop to visit Council. Troop #374 recited their Scout Law and their Scout Oath, and Mr. Shumate discussed what Scouting was about; scouts asked Council Members questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Presentation: Danville Community College

Presented by: Dr. Jerry Wallace, President, Danville Community College

Dr. Wallace thanked City Council and staff for the opportunity to speak about Danville Community College and the things they were doing. Dr. Wallace noted he has concluded his first ninety days, connected with the Police Department and participated in a community walk, collaborated with the Fire Department, and will be doing a workforce training for the Danville Fire Department and the Danville Area Training Center with their EMT program. He was touring the surrounding localities and meeting with the leaders, and currently working with TriCounty Community College in North Carolina who has a casino nearby, to make sure Danville was prepped and workforce ready for Caesars. They were also traveling to a Tyson's plant in North Carolina, and looking at the training and workforce needed for that as well. They have the Job and Resource Fair coming up with over 1,300 jobs available, enrollment at DCC was up, and they will be launching the Cyber Security workforce training, a sixteen week course. They will be partnering with Averett on an Aviation Maintenance program, and working with Dr. Franks to allow the Averett students to take courses at DCC, a reverse transfer program. Dr. Wallace noted DCC wants to help with the housing shortage and try to get a building, construction, trades program back up and running. Mayor Jones thanked Dr. Wallace for his presentation, and asked Council Member Mayo to further discuss the upcoming job fair. Council Members thanked Dr. Wallace and congratulated him on all the DCC programs.

Proclamation: Lead Safety Awareness

Presented to: Michael Beckner, Lead Safe Program Manager in Danville.

Mr. Beckner thanked the Mayor and City Council for the Proclamation to bring attention to the dangers of lead and the illnesses that it caused. The Danville Lead Safe program started this past spring to help Danville families provide safe and healthy homes that children need to succeed in life. This program was actively seeking homes of children under the age of six, and pregnant and nursing mothers. It addresses the hazards in home on a comprehensive level, with actions ranging from sharing information to lessen the dangers in the home to completely eliminating most household dangers. Mr. Beckner noted more information was available on

www.danvilleva.gov under the Community Development page, or calling 434-799-5260, ext 2486.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of the Consent Agenda items:

Consideration of Approval of Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on September 6, 2022.
Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in the Amount of \$38,500 for a City-Wide Preservation Plan

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2022-09.07, An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for a Grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in the Amount of \$26,950 and Local Match in the Amount of \$11,550 for a Total Grant in the Amount of \$38,500 and Appropriating the Same.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Department of Historic Resources Grant in the Amount of \$18,209 for the Freedmen's Cemetery Project

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2022-09.08, Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for a Grant from the Department of Historic Resources in the Amount of \$12,709 and a Local Match in the Amount of \$5,500 for a Total Amount of \$18,209 and Appropriating the Same.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Victim Witness Program Grant

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2022-09.09, An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for a Grant from the Commonwealth of Virginia for a Victim Witness Program in the Amount of \$177,083 and Appropriating Same.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Vogler and Whittle (8)
NAY: None
ABSENT: Saunders (1)

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-10.01

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND AWARD BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, OF ONE OR MORE SERIES OF GENERAL OBLIGATION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS, HERETOFORE AUTHORIZED, AND PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, DETAILS AND PAYMENT OF SUCH BONDS

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Vogler and Whittle (8)
NAY: None
ABSENT: Saunders (1)

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking presented a short video shown at the ICMA, the International City and County Manager's Association. Mr. Larking noted he has been a member of the ICMA since he began his career in local government. Each year they have a conference and they asked the City of Danville if they wanted to have a video featured at the conference this year. They came to Danville and produced the video which was shown during the conference, throughout the four day event in Columbus, OH. The video was produced with the help of staff and the people at ICMA. Also at the ICMA, several staff members, the Gang Coordinator Robert David and Police Major Wiles did a presentation on the crime prevention, intervention and community engagement which has resulted in the past few years, of a significant decrease in crime in the community. One attendee noted it was the best presentation at the conference. Mr. Larking stated he was very proud of the work of all city employees and was glad to be able to feature a couple of them at the ICMA conference.

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

Council Member Hood noted Council's support of the schools and had the honor last Thursday of visiting GWHS to speak to a group of young men called Gentlemen by Choice, organized by Corey Williams. These young men were looking to thrive in the City and community, and pressing their education forward. Mr. Hood thanked Tanya Fullerwinder for inviting him to speak at her Jobs for Virginia graduate class, and thanked all the Utility workers who put in countless hours this weekend to help restore power to the citizens.

Council Member Mayo thanked Cub Scout Pack 374 for coming to Council, as well as the Tunstall High School students. Mr. Mayo thanked Dr. Wallace for coming and for what he represents; he was doing great things for the City, and encouraged citizens to attend the job and resource fair on November 1st at the Danville Community Market.

Vice Mayor Miller also thanked the Utility workers, it was dangerous work with long hours. Dr. Miller acknowledged the Tunstall students attending and noted some of the Council Members attended VML this week; they get a lot of good ideas from other communities and pass on ideas from Danville. Dr. Miller noted the Shrimp Fest was back this year, and it was a great time.

Council Member Vogler noted he attended the VML conference in Richmond; there were so many ideas shared and he had a couple that he wanted to bring up. Mr. Vogler noted small

businesses were the backbone of the economy. He would like Council to consider eliminating the \$50 license fee for businesses with revenue under \$100,000. Mr. Vogler noted he thought the budgetary impact would be minimal, but the impact on local small businesses could be profound in a positive way. Mr. Vogler noted the other thing that was discussed a lot at the conference was inflation and what localities can do to help address it. Personal Property taxes increased for citizens because of higher assessments; the City provided tax relief earlier this year to lessen that impact but hoped Council can do more. The tax rate cannot be adjusted before the next bills come out but what they can do was provide a tax rebate to the citizens. Rather than have the citizens pay the bill and then give them the rebate after the fact, if they act quickly they should be able to provide what amounts to an instant tax rebate that would show up on the next bill.

Mayor Jones noted he agreed with Council Member Vogler on the tax rebate; he would put this in the City Manager's hands for him and his staff to look into this before the tax bills go out.

Council Member Whittle noted VML was a great collaboration, thanked the Cub Scouts and Tunstall High School for coming to Council, and thanked the utility workers. Mr. Whittle noted if Council was going to reduce something, they need to reduce real estate taxes four cents on the hundred, which helps everyone.

Council Member Buckner noted a lot of great information was shared at VML, and believed the rebate will be a great thing for the citizens. Mr. Buckner noted it was sad news to hear about Reverend Lovelace, the debates he had at his church were always good. Mr. Buckner encouraged citizens to attend the Job Fair on November 1st.

Council Member Campbell noted Reverend Lovelace was a friend and always came out to speak for the people; he will be missed in the community. Reverend Campbell stated VML was very informative, Council always goes to look for information to bring back home. Now other cities look at Danville and what they have done; there was a lot Danville was doing well, and noted he was in favor of the rebate.

Mayor Jones recognized the Cub Scouts and Tunstall students, thanked them for being there tonight and noted Council Member Saunders was not at Council this evening because of a death in the family. Mayor Jones thanked Dr. Wallace for attending, and stated to the City Manager he hoped the video he showed can be pushed out for the citizens to watch, and encouraged citizens to attend the Job Fair. National Night Out was next Tuesday on October 11th and encouraged citizens to attend.

ADJOURNED: 7:41 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK