

June 20, 2023

The Second June meeting of the Danville City Council was held on June 20, 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

Council Member Sherman M. Saunders gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Consent Agenda items. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on June 13, 2023. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on May 16, 2023, and Work Session Meeting held on May 16, 2023. Draft copies of the Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Accept Schoolfield Master Plan Funding from Caesars LLC.

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2023-06.07, Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenues from Caesars Virginia, LLC Casino Revenues for the Schoolfield Master Plan for an Appropriation in the Amount of \$360,000 and Appropriating the Same.

Amending the Fiscal Year Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Recreation Enrichment Program in the Amount of \$262,494.

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2023-06.08, Amending the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for Funds in the Amount of \$55,611 for a Recreation Enrichment Program and the Local In-Kind Share of \$206,883 for a Total Appropriation of \$262,494 and Appropriation of Same.

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

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

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OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE BUDGET, CSP, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Approving the Budgets of the Various Funds of the City of Danville for Fiscal Year 2024.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06.03

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BUDGETS OF THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.

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

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

Fiscal Year 2024 Capital and Special Projects Plan

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06.04

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

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

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

Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2024

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06.09

BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Miller.

Council Member Buckner noted that he wanted to thank City staff for all their hard work. Every department head has done a phenomenal job this year, saving taxpayers money, and looking out for the City's best interests. Mr. Buckner thanked Mr. Larking and Mr. Reynolds for their hard work; he thought they made this one the easiest budgets Council ever had.

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Vice Mayor Miller noted in the past, budgets were a painful period with a lot of contention, but the past few budget years have been much better. Mr. Larking and his staff put everything together, presented it to Council, and answered questions; things have gone much easier. Council Member Saunders noted he has been through several budgets over the years; the City Manager and his staff keep Council informed, make sure they understand what was going on, and get Council's ideas and thoughts prior to bringing them a package. When it was brought to Council, it passes in a very good way; that was because of the City Manager and his staff, who prepare Council to govern the City. Council Member Vogler thanked the City Manager and staff for the excellent work putting this budget together with Council. To be able to have starting pay for all city employees at 100% of the market for the first time ever in the history of the City was a great accomplishment. That was due to the dedication and hard work of everyone involved; it was a great achievement through this budget process. Mr. Vogler stated he looks forward to the things they do next; it was an exciting time in the City, and the best was yet to come.

The **Motion** was carried by the following vote:

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

APPOINTMENTS

Consideration of Recommendations to Various Boards and Commissions

Vice Mayor Miller and the Committee on Appointments made the following recommendations:

Airport Commission:	Reappoint:	Stephen Daniel and Robert Jiranek
Dan River ASAP	Reappoint:	Michael Sheetz
Danville Community College Board	Reappoint:	Ernestine Payne
Danville CPMT	Reappoint:	Tammy Warren and Jerome Holman
Danville Pittsylvania CSB	Reappoint:	Geary Davis
	Appoint:	Pamela Saunders
Danville Utility Commission	Reappoint:	Helm Dobbins, Vanessa Cain and Dr. Gary Miller
Planning Commission	Appoint:	John Ranson
Social Services Advisory Board	Reappoint:	Cynthia Pruitt-Rhodes
Transportation Advisory Board	Appoint:	Debra Hairston and Rhonda Spraggins

The recommendations will come before Council at the July 6, 2023 meeting to be voted on.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS AS OF MAY 31, 2023

Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins gave a review of the General Fund financial results through the end of May which was 92% complete and only ten days left in the fiscal year. The City was past June 5th which was the collection day for real estate and personal property taxes, and he can share more current information than was in the report. The current Real Estate budget was \$18.8M, the City will exceed that by about 1% which translates to \$190,000 to \$200,000. The

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Delinquent Real Estate tax budget was \$900,000 and the City should exceed that by a couple thousand dollars. Personal property has done very well, including machinery and tools; the budget for Fiscal Year 2023 was \$14.5M; it looks like that will be exceeded by 1% or 2% which translates to a couple hundred thousand dollars. Delinquent personal property taxes have also been very successful this year; the budget was \$1.1M and it looks like that will finish at \$1.5M. Under Local taxes, Mr. Adkins noted he can only comment on what was collected through May; Sales Tax did very well at \$10.7M, or 95% of budget. This was an increase of about \$770,000; it was very likely that will also exceed budget between \$400,000 and \$500,000 for this fiscal year. Business licenses were currently at 111% of budget, up \$886,000 over last year. Meals tax was also performing well; they have collected approximately \$10M, which was 94% of budget, and about \$1M more than last May. It will likely exceed budget by a couple hundred thousand. Lodging taxes may be the only item in the local taxes that will not meet budget; it had been increased during the year anticipating more. The lull in the winter was more than expected and they were currently at \$2.4M which was 82% of budget. This was still an increase over last year of \$486,000; it may fall short of budget but maybe only by \$100,000 or \$200,000. One item that was not budgeted for, which Council was aware of, was the casino gaming fees and taxes that were related to that. The revenues generated in May for Caesars' operations generated a direct payment to the City of \$298,000 which correlates to their main revenues. Also, they pay a gaming tax to the state which passes to the City; for May that will be around \$715,000; the City will receive that in July. The state will be paying the City quarterly so the payment received in July will be for April, May, and June; that was unbudgeted revenue. The City will be receiving more for the operations in June, but those revenues will be held aside from fund balance, and will be used for the items identified in the Investing in Danville study and the items supported by Council. Interest earnings were doing very well this year with interest rate increases. State revenues were also on track for this year. In short, revenues are doing very well.

Mr. Adkins noted on the Expenditure side, Departmental Spending was at 85% of budget at the end of May and should come in under budget at the end of the year. The only concern this year was Non-Departmental expenses, specifically group health insurance; this was based on claims, and has been running about 10% ahead of budget. That might be as much as \$1M over budget but the real estate, personal property and local taxes will be more than enough to cover the group health insurance. Group health insurance was hard to budget, and they do increase it a little every year. In addition, the FY 2023 budget called for a draw from fund balance of about \$1.9M; at this point, the additional revenues the City received and the conservative spending of the departments, he believed the General Fund will break even, and maybe even add a little bit to the Unreserved Fund Balance at the end of the year. At the end of FY 2022, the Unassigned Fund Balance was \$34.3M, the City's requirement at that point was \$24M. With the budget that was just adopted for next year, that requirement increases to \$28M; there was still a buffer and he was looking for that to increase if not this year, than next year.

Mayor Jones commented on the reduction of the annual fee for business licenses and asked how well that area has performed and Mr. Adkins noted Business Licenses exceeded budget this year and were at 111% of budget. Council Member Campbell asked if the quarterly payments from the state were included in the \$36M that was received and Mr. Adkins stated it was included in the estimates. Council Member Vogler noted that Council eliminated the business fee for small businesses that had \$100,000 or less in annual revenue, which was a large number of businesses, and Mr. Adkins stated it was about \$80,000 worth of revenue. Mr. Vogler noted there were a large number of small businesses that were positively impacted by it, but it did not hurt the City's bottom line in terms of revenue. Mr. Vogler noted he hoped they continued to look for things like that in the future to help those small businesses and individuals in the community.

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CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS TO THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM REGULATIONS

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06.10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE PROVIDING FOR THE CLASSIFICATION, COMPENSATION, AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS OF THE CITY.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE REVISION OF THE DANVILLE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 14 - FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06.11

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REORDAINING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 14, ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION", OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2024 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06.05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION BY THE CITY TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANTS FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL COSTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.

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

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (9)

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NAY: None

CONSIDERATION OF REVISION OF THE DANVILLE CITY CODE, CHAPTER 37 – TAXATION

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06.12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 37, ENTITLED “TAXATION” ARTICLE XI, ENTITLED “PARTIAL EXEMPTION OF REAL ESTATE TAXES FOR CERTAIN REAL ESTATE,” TO ADD A NEW SECTION 37-169.1 ENTITLED, “MULTIFAMILY/COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES”, TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Buckner.

Council Member Vogler asked for a brief overview, and Division Director of Housing Development Susan McCulloch explained the City was in dire need of new residential housing, single and multifamily. The Danter study recommended the City incentivize developers and even buyers/renters to cultivate an environment of being residential friendly. The taxation part was about those classified as commercial, be classified as multifamily so that it encourages more adaptive reuse of historic buildings. There were other programs for renters and buyers to fix up homes.

Council Member Whittle asked if this was for median income housing, and Ms. McCulloch noted the first item being voted on was for developers to come in and find adaptive uses for old warehouses and manufacturing buildings in historic districts, into both commercial and multi-family, but encouraging multi-family. Mr. Whittle asked why this was not done as a “blanket” because there were buildings all over the City that would benefit from this. Ms. McCulloch explained in this case, staff looked at the current ordinance which addresses the downtown tobacco warehouses, North Danville, Old West End, Holbrook Ross, and Dan River Mills #8 historic districts. They wanted to be uniform so they continued with that; that can be revisited. Mr. Larking noted the IDA was considering other incentives for new construction of multifamily housing. Mr. Whittle asked to also look at existing buildings throughout the City because if it was going to implement housing and 30% commercial development, he thought it should be blanketed because the City has a housing need. Mr. Larking noted that between the items under consideration tonight by Council and those under consideration from the IDA, they have a pretty comprehensive list of incentives. Staff can certainly revisit and see how things were going with the ones in place and see if it can be expanded to other areas of the city. The current ordinance for multi-family calls for these specific districts; this provided more clarity on the types of incentives, how long they would last and what percentages would be available.

Mr. Vogler noted he thought it was a great first step and the next agenda item was good as well; he was glad Council was looking at that, and noted his agreement with Mr. Whittle, he hoped they can look at expanding this further, and Mayor Jones noted his agreement as well.

The **Motion** was carried the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (9)

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NAY: None

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE RESIDENTIAL INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-06.13

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THREE PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT HOMEOWNERSHIP AND RENTAL OCCUPANCY FOR THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo.

Council Member Vogler asked for Ms. McCulloch to give a brief explanation and Ms. McCulloch explained this ordinance included a down payment assistance grant program of up to \$5,000 for 81% to 95% of the area median income. This program will help those looking at existing and new housing and being able to get down payment assistance. There was a rental deposit assistance grant of \$500.00 with the same income criteria that would help those move up or move somewhere else in a rental capacity. Council Member Vogler noted this was good for helping people get into a home and it should help entice developers as well. Council Member Whittle asked if this was restricted, and Ms. McCulloch stated that it was restricted to income. DRHA has a program that helps families with down payment assistance for under the 81% median income. Mr. Larking stated this enhances what already existed for lower and moderate income families; what was missing in the market was demand for middle class families and availability of product for middle class families. This meets what Ken Danter had described in his housing report as a need within the community, homes between the ranges of \$250,000 to \$350,000. Council Member Campbell asked if this was for first time home buyers, and Ms. McCulloch explained it was not limited to first time home buyers although it encourages that. Council Member Campbell asked if this program was looking at area where homes were becoming derelict, and Ms. McCulloch noted absolutely; if someone wanted to purchase a home, fix it up, and live in it then they would be eligible for this program.

The **Motion** was carried by the following vote:

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

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE DANVILLE AREA HUMANE SOCIETY TO CONDUCT A RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06.06

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE DANVILLE AREA HUMANE SOCIETY TO CONDUCT A RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC AT LEAST ONCE EVERY TWO YEARS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENT OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA.

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The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo.

Vice Mayor Miller noted that having a rabies vaccination clinic in the City was a needed service, rabies seems to be back on the upswing; they need to get animals vaccinated. Mayor Jones asked Paulette Dean to please stand and thanked her for everything she does for the community; Ms. Dean thanked the City for their support.

The **Motion** was carried by the following vote:

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

CONSIDERATION OF ENTERING INTO A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH THE PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06.07

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SHERIFF OF PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY, THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE CITY OF DANVILLE, THE SHERIFF OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, AND THE CITY OF DANVILLE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY FOR DEPUTIES OF THE PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WHO ARE WORKING AT THE DANVILLE PITTSYLVANIA COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD CRISIS CENTER LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF DANVILLE.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo.

Council Member Whittle asked for clarification on the resolution, and Lt. Colonel Chris Wiles explained this closed the jurisdictional gap that exists in the City under certain circumstances where law enforcement officers of other jurisdictions have jurisdiction outside of their agency's original jurisdiction. If a Pittsylvania County Sheriff's deputy happens to be working in the City of Danville in the capacity of that assignment at the Crisis Intervention Center, they currently have no jurisdiction without this ordinance, unless they had someone was in custody that was from or transferred from Pittsylvania County. This closes that gap in jurisdiction and grants Pittsylvania County Deputies the same jurisdiction as a Danville City Police Officer or Danville Sheriff's Deputy when they were working in the City of Danville on assignment at the Crisis Intervention Center environment. Council Member Saunders noted that it has been said once a police officer goes one mile out of the city limits they no longer have jurisdiction, was that true, and Lt. Colonel Wiles stated there were some instances where law enforcement does have jurisdiction when they go outside their home jurisdiction; the Code provides for jurisdiction standing as a mile outside of the home jurisdiction. An example would be if an officer stops a vehicle close to the city limits and it happens to cross over into the county there was still that one-mile area to cover it.

The **Motion** was carried the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,

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Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

CONSIDERATION OF THE RELEASE OF CITY-HELD LIENS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #03282, #22050, #25889, AND #21151

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06.08

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF CITY-HELD LIENS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #03282 CAMPBELL STREET, PARCEL #22050 COLQUHOUN STREET, PARCEL #25889 FLORAL AVENUE, AND PARCEL #21151 GREEN STREET TO FACILITATE THEIR DONATION TO THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF CORRECTING A SURVEY ERROR ON CITY PARCELS ON LEE STREET

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06.09

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ADOPTION OF A NEW SURVEY TO CORRECT A BOUNDARY DISPUTE BETWEEN REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #24581 AND PARCEL #20984 ON LEE STREET.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF THE RELEASE OF CITY LIENS AGAINST PARCEL #01570 RHODENIZER STREET

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06.10

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A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF CITY-HELD LIENS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #01570 RHODENIZER STREET TO FACILITATE ITS SALE.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Delores Tate. Mrs. Tate was a resident of the Old West End District, and addressed Council about an issue of dog owners not picking up their dog's feces. She discussed hazards as well as issues with owners not being responsible and picking up after their dogs. She asked that permanent signage be placed reminding owners to pick up after their dogs.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, or City Clerk. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield reminded everyone the next regularly scheduled meeting of City Council would not be on Tuesday, July 4th as it was a holiday. The meeting would be on Thursday, July 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Vice Mayor Miller congratulated Jason Grey and everyone at Utilities for their quick work in getting power turned back after the storm. Dr. Miller discussed the ribbon cutting last Friday at 2 Witches Brewery where a food truck was opened, and they were also presented with a hometown heroes award. Dr. Miller noted the American Recovery grant was available for small businesses, and to contact Kelvin Perry in Economic Development for additional information.

Council Member Saunders thanked Paulette Dean for everything she does for the City and for the region, and thanked Jason Grey for everything; he canceled his trip, came back to Danville, and helped out with the storm areas. Mr. Saunders noted having a housing problem in the City was a good problem to have but they have to have options for those looking for housing. This says a lot about what the City was doing.

Council Member Buckner stated it was a good thing, but for those looking to move it was difficult even when there were higher offers. There were homes selling for more than the market value in all areas of the City. Council Member Whittle stated that he has seen more inventories taken up and homes selling for more than asking price. The IDA was working hard in the City to come up with more housing solutions. There was a huge gap to fill and hopefully more developments will come. Mr. Whittle noted it was a great time to come and develop in Danville. City Manager Ken Larking stated that the City was working on a lot of incentive programs to entice developers to come in to renovate buildings and build new housing.

Council Member Vogler noted that housing was a great conversation. Looking back a decade or so they were trying to give away houses. To look at where the City was now and to see how far they have come was truly amazing and speaks to their growth and progress. Mr. Vogler noted their new challenge was growth, but he would rather have that challenge than any other. He has

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spoken to two developers from out of town that were looking to possibly do projects in Danville, so people were looking at Danville. It was just a matter of putting the right people in the right place at the right time. Mr. Vogler stated they recently wrapped up the City's tee ball season with Parks and Recreation. There were five great tee ball teams this year and he coached one of them; they had a lot of fun. Youth baseball was supposed to finish up this week; they won every game except for one and as much as they love to win, it was more importantly about spending time with the kids and teaching them the game, life lessons, teamwork, how to win but also about how to deal with loss and those kinds of things. Mr. Vogler noted he thought that football signups will be coming up soon and looked forward to that.

Council Member Whittle thanked all City staff, especially those in Utilities for their work with the storm. Mr. Whittle noted inflation was high, it was coming down slightly which also affects the housing market. Mr. Whittle asked the City Manager to explain what the Investing in Danville committee does, and Mr. Larking noted the committee was formed in 2020 before the referendum on the casino. They used a process of virtual town hall meetings and citizen surveys, due to the pandemic, and a report was produced which was available online. It describes a variety of projects that were recommended to use the casino monies for, to invest in long-term, sustainable projects that improve communities and the life of the citizens. A refresh was being done now that more money has been made available, and a new process will start, to come up with new ideas for investments. Mr. Whittle asked about setting the money up in a foundation to earn interest that can be used without touching the initial money.

Mayor Jones noted that when this was originally set up he went through and read the whole report and he urged Council to do the same.

Council Member Buckner noted this Saturday was Boxing at the Ballpark, weather permitting; citizens can check the website for a postponement date. Council received an invite to the Robert Marsh Perspective this Sunday, June 25 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History. Mr. Marsh was a great artist; it should be a wonderful exhibit and he looked forward to seeing it. Mr. Buckner wished everyone a happy 4th of July, be safe, have fun, enjoy, do your thing, and come watch the fireworks downtown; it was going to be a great show. Mr. Buckner gave a shout out to the Harvest Jubilee board for stepping out of their comfort zone and getting Nelly to perform at the Carrington Pavilion on July 8 at 7:00pm. Mr. Buckner encouraged citizens to get their tickets, it was going to be an amazing summer in the City.

Council Member Campbell thanked the Danville Utility Department and City workers for their quick response to the storm, getting power turned back on, and getting trees up out of the roadway. Rev. Campbell commented on how additional income from the casino would be handled and how he thought they were on the right track with that. Danville was a good place to live and they have a very bright future.

Council Member Hood noted that he previously had an exchange with Council Member Saunders, about thanking everyone for celebrating Juneteenth and the many events that were brought forth in the City. This Friday, June 23rd was a Stop the Violence Community Field Day; this was a free event at Dan Daniel Park Shelter #17. There will be motivational speaking, food, games, kickball, face painting, and more; it was from 4:00pm to 8:00pm and was brought by Tia Johnson. Mr. Bryant stated he would like to give her a shout out for citizens who come out, put their resources and their hard-earned money together for prizes, certificates, and medals for all the games. They want to do their part to encourage and let young people know they can talk about issues.

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Council Member Mayo commented on the White Coat ceremony at SOVAH, and gave kudos to Jason Grey and City staff for the work done during the storm. It is amazing to see how much damage can come from a storm in such a short amount of time. He noted that he just finished up his 20th basketball camp; it was a free camp, and he was looking forward to the next one. Mr. Mayo commended John Moody and his staff at Social Services for the work they do to help those with homelessness, food, and other needs. Congratulations to the graduates of 2023 of Galileo and George Washington and congratulations to the teachers, workers, staff, and school board members as well. The Juneteenth celebration held by Kenny Lewis at the Institute this Saturday was absolutely phenomenal; there was an R&B group, singer, a fashion show, and many exhibits.

Mayor Jones yielded to Vice Mayor Miller to comment on the White Coat Ceremony. Vice Mayor Miller noted that students do classwork for two years and then start clinicals, at which time they receive a white coat, usually put on by their parents, and a free stethoscope. This was a rite of passage, and they were very proud.

Mayor Jones noted that one of the toughest parts of their job was the budget process. Years ago, they used to meet with all the department heads for hours and it was a tough process. He wanted to thank the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and the entire team for how they were able to put things together differently for the past few years. Dr. Hairston and her staff need to be thanked for the amazing job on their budget and how they have promoted people within the school system. To Council Members Vogler, Mayo, and Bryant, they were very modest. There were so many programs going on in the City for the youth and these three council members, along with others, were really working hands on with the youth. Mayor Jones noted Tyson was giving out free food starting at 8:00 am tomorrow at the Police Department. There was no need to sign up just come and get in line. Mayor Jones noted he was honored as the Mayor to be sitting in this seat, after watching "The Movement" in theaters. To the citizens of this community, he does not take their words lightly as Mayor. To everyone, keep working with the young people because they have to do more for them. So much pressure was put onto them but if everyone keeps working with them then they can save them.

Council Member Saunders thanked the Mayor for allowing him to give comments at the event last Sunday and apologized for not calling him down front to stand with them. It was a pleasure to call Chiefs Booth and Morris to come down and stand. Council Member Campbell stated the film would be shown again on June 30. Mayor Jones encouraged people to go and see this production. It will be at Bibleway at 6:00 pm. He thanked Council Member Saunders and Campbell for the sacrifices their families made.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK