

July 18, 2023

The Second Regular July meeting of the Danville City Council was held on July 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, Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr. and Barry Mayo were absent. (2)

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 J. Lee Vogler, Jr. gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: Danville Police Department Four Year Accreditation

Presented by: Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission

Mayor Jones recognized Martinsville Sheriff Steve Draper, a Commissioner of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, who came before Council to recognize the Danville Police Department for their commitment to law enforcement excellence, as evidenced by the successful completion of their recertification process of the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation program. This process involves bringing the administrative, operational, training, and personnel policies and practices of the department into compliance with one hundred and ninety-two professional standards of the Commission. This was the Danville Police Department's seventh accreditation.

Danville Police Chief Scott Booth thanked Council, the City Manager, and Deputy City Manager for giving the police department the tools necessary to receive this accreditation. Chief Booth also thanked his staff and the accreditation managers. Council Members congratulated Chief Booth and the Police Department on this achievement.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Whittle, Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on June 20, 2023, and Work Session Meeting held on June 6, 2023, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF THE EXPANSION OF THE RENTAL INSPECTION DISTRICT PROGRAM

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Expansion of the Rental Inspection District Program. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 13, 2023. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

July 18, 2023

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-07.06

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9, ENTITLED "BUILDING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, MORE SPECIFICALLY ARTICLE VIII, ENTITLED "RENTAL HOUSING INSPECTIONS", SECTION 9-196, ENTITLED "RESIDENTIAL RENTAL HOUSING INSPECTION DISTRICTS REESTABLISHED; APPLICABILITY" TO ADD (A)(4) AND (A)(5) CREATING A FOURTH AND FIFTH RENTAL INSPECTION DISTRICT.

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

Council Member Whittle asked if any restrictions were added to this, and City Manager Ken Larking stated that no restrictions were added, just additional coverage areas.

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

VOTE: 7-0-2
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)
NAY: Campbell, Mayo (2)

CONSIDERATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding the HUD One Year Action Plan. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 13, 2023. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07.16

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) A ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Miller and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 7-0-2
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)
NAY: Campbell, Mayo (2)

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A PROPOSED WATER MAIN EXTENSION TO VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-07.17

July 18, 2023

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE OPERATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR A WATER MAIN EXTENSION TO THE VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY CAMPUS.

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

Council Member Saunders noted that this was another example of the City of Danville partnering with their neighbors; VIR was a major partner with the City of Danville. Mr. Saunders stated he would like to applaud the City Manager for working this out with everyone, and thanked Council for supporting it. Council Member Buckner asked if this was a partnership with the Pittsylvania County Service Authority, along with the City of Danville, and would the City be splitting the cost with them, or was it about setting forth the plan to do so. Mr. Larking noted that this resolution was more about the operations and not who was paying for it. Halifax County was trying to get a grant from the EDA to help pay for the water line; they have already secured some funds from the state. The EDA wanted to make sure that the City of Danville and Pittsylvania County agreed to work with Halifax County to get water delivered from the City of Danville to Halifax County for the purpose of serving VIR. The City has not agreed on how to pay for it. Council Member Buckner asked if taps would be allowed along the way, and Mr. Larking noted they would be allowed but that was up to Pittsylvania County. All the water line that was needed for the City of Danville goes to Pittsylvania County; the water line would connect to the Pittsylvania County system and deliver water from the City's utility department. Council Member Vogler noted this was a serious need for VIR for a long time, and for the City to step in and help was a major thing; VIR was fantastic for the entire region. Mr. Whittle asked if this was a \$3M dollar spread, and Mr. Larking explained that they had \$5M available to spend toward an \$8.9 million project.

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

VOTE:	7-0-2
AYE:	Buckner, Hood, Jones, Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)
NAY:	Campbell, Mayo (2)

COMMUNICATIONS

The City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, and the City Clerk did not have anything this evening.

Vice Mayor Miller noted that several members of Council went to the PLAN Danville meeting in the Almagro community, to represent the City and listen to what the citizens would like to see for their community. Dr. Miller discussed the history of the community when it was first incorporated into the City with its own fire and police departments, post office and hospital; it was an amazing area. The citizens want to keep their history intact, asked for the usual things like curbs and gutters, better roads and streets, asked to keep their fire station and have more police patrols in the neighborhood, and have Oak Grove Cemetery mowed more often. It was interesting to hear all the citizens.

Council Member Saunders noted that Danville was growing and will continue to grow. This past weekend he rode around, and it was amazing to see the restaurants filled, and so many things going on in the City. To the police department, it was better for people to see police officers as neighbors and friends, and appreciated the leadership from the police chief and leaders in the City as well. Mr. Saunders noted his congratulations to Mildred Richardson on being named the principal of Woodberry.

July 18, 2023

Council Member Vogler noted it has been a great summer out at the ballpark with the Danville Otterbots; they set an attendance record a few weeks back with over 3,000 people attending. People were coming from all over and Mr. Vogler reminded citizens that the Otterbots were playing tonight. They were in a battle for first place, and have been very competitive. Mr. Vogler stated the crew that takes care of the field was the best, the field was in great shape; they were doing a great job. Mr. Vogler noted that Council has had this discussion before, but that park needs upgrading, it was 30 years old; other parks are making big upgrades, and they want to make sure they put the best facility and fan experience forward.

Council Member Whittle congratulated the police department for an outstanding job, and all City departments. There were hundreds of jobs in the City and plenty of jobs available for those who were looking for employment. Mr. Whittle noted several meetings ago a group of individuals were here to speak about a camping ordinance, and asked if a group was formed to help with that issue. Mr. Larking stated they did engage a group to help the City study the issue and see what the City can do to help alleviate that. A report was done over a few months, and he has a series of recommendations on how the City can collectively address that issue as far as helping people find homes. With regard to camping on public property, he believes that ordinance was on the Table, and City Attorney Clarke Whitfield confirmed it was postponed indefinitely so it could be brought up at any future Council meeting at any time. Mr. Whittle asked that those individuals be a part of the solution. Mr. Larking noted staff has had conversations and they have been included in that.

Mayor Jones thanked Council for all that they do; Council Members Campbell and Mayo were on vacation. Mayor Jones noted he and Mark Aron went to Woodberry and interviewed the new Principal, Mildred Richardson and Assistant Principal, Rayshawn Woodson; there was a link on River City TV that people can go to in order to find out how they can partner with the school system. Mayor Jones stated there will be a Youth Summit Saturday, August 5 from 11am to 2 pm at 3421 Kerns Church Road in Sutherlin, VA.

CLOSED MEETING

At 7:35 p.m., Vice Mayor Miller **moved** that this meeting of the City Council of the City of Danville, Virginia be recessed and that Council immediately reconvene in a Closed Meeting for the following purposes: consultation with legal counsel and briefing by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or potential litigation in which such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body permitted by Subsection (A)(7) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

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

VOTE:	7-0-2
AYE:	Buckner, Hood, Jones, Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)
NAY:	Campbell, Mayo (2)

Upon unanimous vote at 8:22 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of the following Resolution:

July 18, 2023

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Council convened in Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a Certification by the Council that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each Member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of Virginia Law under Section 2.2-3711 were heard, discussed or considered, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Committee.

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

VOTE: 7-0-2
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)
NAY: Campbell, Mayo (2)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:23 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK