

September 19, 2023

The Second Regular September meeting of the Danville City Council was held on September 19, 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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation: Crop Walk Week
Presented to: Sherri Tuck

Ms. Tuck thanked Council for the Proclamation for Crop Walk Week. Ms. Tuck discussed statistics on citizens experiencing hunger and acute hunger in the US, and the one hundred and fifty three households that were served daily by God's Storehouse. God's Storehouse has seen a 32% increase in need since 2022, and reviewed the reasons why they hold the Crop Walk each year. Ms. Tuck introduced Karen Harris from God's Storehouse who noted 25% of what was raised in the Crop Walk goes to God's Storehouse; that can be a very significant amount and they were very grateful for that. Anytime God's Storehouse was in need, the community stepped up, helped out by stocking shelves and sending volunteers. Ms. Harris encouraged Council to come out on October 1st to walk with the group.

Presentation: VALOR Award Recipients
Presented by: Police Chief Scott Booth

Chief Scott Booth addressed Council, noting it gave him great pride to talk about the five officers, four who were present this evening. On Tuesday, September 12th the Virginia Associations of Chiefs of Police had its annual awards banquet and the four officers present were presented with their most prestigious award, the VALOR award, which was given to officers in the State of Virginia, who exhibited exemplary valor in the face of danger. Corporal Hawkins, Officer Neighbors, Detective Lieutenant John Dixon, Detective Sargent Richard P. Wright, and Detective Jordan T. Land, received this award for an event that happened on February 10, 2023. Chief Booth reviewed the incident and the actions of the officers involved in the shots fired event.

Mayor Jones and Council thanked the Police Department for all that they do.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Campbell Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on August 15, 2023 were approved as presented. Draft copies of the Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2023

City of Danville Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins reviewed the financial results through the end of August, two months into the new fiscal year, and 17% of the year complete, noting revenues were performing well compared to budget. The next billing and collection cycle for property taxes will be in November, and were due December 5; he will have more to comment on later this year about that. Delinquent collection of real estate taxes were performing very well; the City has already collected 26% of budget for that line item. Local driven consumer taxes continue to run slightly ahead of budget and an increase over last year of a little over \$1M. Half of that increase was related to the direct payment received from Caesars for July activity, but the other half was growth in mainly three areas: sales tax, meals tax, and lodging. Sales tax through August was \$2M, 18% of budget and up about \$250,000 over last year at that time. Meals tax was also \$2M, 19% of the budget and up about \$170,000 over last year, and lodging taxes were \$545,000 for the first two months, 22% of budget, up about \$100,000 over last year. Occupancy rates for May, June and July were the highest three months the City has had. When they developed the budget last December, they had an idea of how high the interest rates would go; they have increased more, interest income has performed at \$809,000 for the first two months, 45% of the budget for this year, and up \$714,000 over last year. This will continue to help the City with any unexpected expenditures. As far as other revenue items, although there were some timing differences, all of the Federal and State revenues were on track and he had no concerns. For Expenditures, after adjusting for some timing differences, the Departmental Spending was at 15.8% or just under 16%, trailing budget just a little. Increases over last year were primarily due to the implementation of the pay study and merit based increases, as was expected and budgeted for. For Non-Departmental expenses, primarily group health insurance and debt service, both of those were tracking with budget. Last year, the health insurance claims ran ahead of budget; they were not seeing that this year yet. Health Insurance right now was at 16% of budget, one percent behind where they would expect that to be.

In summary, Fiscal Year 2024 was off to a good start. Mr. Adkins noted the auditors from Brown, Edwards were here for the next two weeks doing their field work on site; everything was on schedule there and no concerns. Also, the next parcel auction of abandoned parcels will occur in Chambers on Thursday, October 12th starting at 1:00 p.m. Council Member Whittle questioned the interest the City was getting, that was off the \$35M and Mr. Adkins noted that was correct; the City invests that in various ways such as CDs and other municipal bonds. Council Member Vogler noted the City was running ahead of where they were last year in multiple revenue streams and asked what the collective amount was, and Mr. Adkins noted for the first two months related to the consumer driven taxes, it was about \$500,000 in comparison to last year. In comparison to budget it was few hundred thousand. If the trend continues, Mr. Adkins stated he believed those budget items will exceed expectations by \$1M or 1.5M if that trend continues throughout the rest of the fiscal year. Council Member Saunders commended Mr. Adkins and his staff for the work they do, and Mr. Adkins noted it takes a tremendous team to do the work they do and will note Mr. Saunders's comments to them.

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES WITH PROCEEDS OF A BORROWING

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09.09

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RESOLUTION OF OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES WITH PROCEEDS OF A BORROWING

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

Council Member Whittle questioned this item, and Mr. Adkins explained the budget that was adopted intends to issue bonds for certain capital projects. As the City will not issue those bonds until the spring, if any spending occurs between now and then, it enables the City to take the bond proceeds and basically reimburse itself. The City fronts the expenses of these projects until the bonds were issued and then can reimburse themselves with those proceeds.

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 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY ENTERPRISE ZONE #1

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding an Amendment to Enterprise Zone #1. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on September 9, 2023 and September 16, 2023. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09.10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR THE CITY ENTERPRISE ZONE 1.

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

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE SHARING APPLICATIONS

1. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ENDORSING A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE SHARING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR RICHMOND BOULEVARD PEDESTRIAN ACCESS PROJECT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09.11

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A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE SHARING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR RICHMOND BOULEVARD PEDESTRIAN ACCESS PROJECT.

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

2. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ENDORSING A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE SHARING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURE 1816 ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE OVER APPLE BRANCH

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09.12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE SHARING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURE 1816 ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE OVER APPLE BRANCH.

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

3. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ENDORSING A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE SHARING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR BROADNAX STREET AND BETTS STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09.13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REVENUE SHARING APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FOR BROADNAX STREET AND BETTS STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.

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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**BUDGET APPROPRIATION – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024
BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FEDERAL AND STATE AVIATION CAPITAL
FUNDING**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-09.08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR FEDERAL AND STATE AVIATION CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE REHABILITATION OF THE SOUTH RAMP AT THE DANVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT PLUS ADDITIONAL STATE AVIATION FUNDING RELATED TO THE REPLACEMENT OF THE TERMINAL BUILDING ROOF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,753,439 AND FOR THE LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$116,939 TO BE PROVIDED BY A TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND SUPPORT OF SPECIAL GRANTS FUND AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

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

**BUDGET APPROPRIATION – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024
BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR OLDER AMERICANS ACT GRANT FUNDING
IN THE AMOUNT OF \$476,635**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-09.09

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING CERTAIN REVENUES TO PROVIDE FOR TITLE III-B GRANT FUNDS AND LOCAL SHARE FOR SENIOR CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

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

**BUDGET APPROPRIATION – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024
BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR AIRPORT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$50,000**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-09.10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR STATE DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION MAINTENANCE GRANT FUNDS RELATED TO THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN AIRPORT PROPERTIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 AND FOR THE LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CANCELING THE OCTOBER 3, 2023 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09.14

RESOLUTION CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING OF DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023, AND SCHEDULING A SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023.

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

City Manager Ken Larking explained that Tuesday, October 3, 2023 was Danville's National Night Out; typically their National Night Outs were in August, but it was a very warm time of the year, so the City recognizes National Night Out in October. The kick off will be in the Westmoreland community and will start around five o'clock. Mr. Larking encouraged citizens to get out and get to know their neighbors; City staff members and City Council members will be out in the communities meeting people, talking about issues and hearing about concerns. That was why the City Council meeting was being moved to October 5, 2023. Vice Mayor Miller noted National Night Out has been going on since 1984, Danville was going to keep the tradition going, and discussed activities including Council Members dancing.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, and Vogler (8)
NAY: Whittle (1)

CODE CHANGE – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING DANVILLE CITY CODE SECTION 23-7 AND 23-8 RELATED TO SOLICITATION

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-09.11

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REORDAINING IN ITS ENTIRETY SECTION 7, ENTITLED "PROHIBITION AGAINST CERTAIN FORMS OF AGGRESSIVE SOLICITATION" AND SECTION 8, ENTITLED "SOLICITATION ON CENTER MEDIAN OR SIDE OF STREET PROHIBITED" OF CHAPTER 23, ENTITLED "OFFENSES - MISCELLANEOUS", OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED.

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

Council Member Campbell asked for clarification for citizens and Mr. Larking explained that there were certain aspects of the current ordinance that have to be rewritten because of court cases that have occurred; some have risen to the level of the Supreme Court. In addition, the purpose of this was to protect public safety, because there were places in the City where it was not safe to do some of those activities. They want to make sure that they have the ability to guide some safe behaviors

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when there was a possibility of what they were doing could be dangerous. Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson explained there have been several court cases that apply to Virginia out of the 4th Circuit, that occurred after the last time this ordinance was passed. Some of what was in the current ordinance was not good under Federal law right now; the City was bringing it into compliance so it can be enforced.

Council Member Saunders noted that in the summary it reference ensuring people's civil rights and safety in terms of the Constitution, and asked what that meant. Mr. Dodson explained the Federal court cases were specifically about Freedom of Speech. Panhandling was a form of free speech, so a lot of the laws were overly restrictive under the Constitution according to the Federal Court. Staff included that to make sure the City was not restricting people from panhandling in places where they have a right to be, like certain sidewalks. This was targeted specifically at the dangerous traffic medians that were narrow or had high rates of speed. Staff looked at minimum distance from the road, the grade to make sure it was safe to stand on, the surface area, and the speed limit and rate of traffic. The existing law says it cannot be done in all center medians; the Federal Court said localities cannot be that strict, there must be reasons why, so staff came up with a list of reasons working with the Department of Public Works based on actual safety criteria.

Council Member Vogler noted that a large number of citizens have been asking Council to look into this and address it; it may not solve all the issues the City has been having but it was a step that City needed to take. Aggressive panhandling has been happening in the City, a number of business owners and citizens were concerned about it and safety concerns. Mr. Vogler stated he was glad staff looked into this and maybe some other things that could be discussed in the future. Council Member Campbell asked if they were in the wrong location would they be arrested and Mr. Dodson noted they would not. As written, it requires the police to first ask them to leave if they were in a place they were not supposed to be; this was a recommendation from a Supreme Court case on what to do when regulating sidewalk activity. The goal wasn't to punish people, but to get them in a safe location. If they have been asked to leave and return, that proved intent to break the law.

The Motion **passed** with the following vote:

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A POLICY ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-09.15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA REGARDING CITY EMPLOYEE-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

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

Mayor Jones requested the City Attorney to explain what Council was voting on with this item and City Attorney Clarke Whitfield explained they were voting on what would be the City of Danville's collective bargaining policy. It prohibits any elected or appointed official, employee or appointee of the City to recognize any labor union or any other employee association.

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Council Member Saunders stated he believed they were being asked to reinforce the policy where there would be no collective bargaining in the City of Danville, and Mr. Whitfield noted that was correct. Mr. Saunders noted Virginia was a right to work state and having a right to petition the government, how does that fare with the collective bargaining and not getting people to advocate on their behalf. Mr. Whitfield explained they would certainly be allowed at any time to petition the Council if they had other demands; the policy also requires the City Manager's office and administration to work with employees as best they can, and it does preserve the management rights of the City Manager. Mr. Saunders noted setting a policy that says there will be no collective bargaining, it seems like the City was trying to get ahead of a problem, but that could cause a problem. Mr. Whitfield noted the way the law works was if the employee groups were to get together and be able to tell Council that a majority of them want to have collective bargaining, then the City has 120 days from that date to decide what they were going to do, whether they were going to allow them to collectively bargain or not; this gets ahead of all that. Mr. Whitfield stated this policy preserves the status quo. Mr. Saunders questioned if it preserves the status quo why does the City need another policy and Mr. Whitfield explained employees can force the Council into a situation where they will be required to either approve or disapprove of a policy.

Mr. Larking noted it was really a statement of policy to say that the City won't recognize an employee group for the purpose of collective bargaining; it was the way they do things now, so this was just making that affirmative statement that that was the way the City Council intends to continue. The City has had situations where employee groups and people representing employee groups have come to City Council on multiple occasions asking for the City to do something, and nothing has happened. This was letting people know this was the policy of the City of Danville, they can come and ask, but the City Council has already made a statement that they will not do collective bargaining. That was the recommendation.

Council Member Vogler questioned the City Attorney that the City has never had collective bargaining and Mr. Whitfield noted that was correct and until 2021, it was not legal. Mr. Vogler noted this item essentially formalized the system that the City has had in place, it does not change anything in the current system, or with the grievance process, or change anything about the City's current process and Mr. Whitfield noted that was correct.

Council Member Campbell stated a City employee talked to him about this and some employees were worried that if they do complain, that the performance they were graded on could be deteriorated. Mr. Larking noted the City has policies that allow employees to complain anonymously about things, a whistleblower administrative policy and procedure, where any employee can make a complaint about their supervisor or anyone in the city. Mr. Whitfield noted this policy requires the City Manager to develop, promote and maintain written policies and procedures consistent with the law that encourages a positive work place.

Vice Mayor Miller questioned what changed in 2021, why was the City doing this and Mr. Whitfield explained the General Assembly in 2021 adopted a law that allowed collective bargaining for public employees. Up until that point, that had never been done. The law says, that if a majority of an employee work group comes to City Council and asks for collective bargaining, then Council, within one hundred and twenty days has to make a decision. Staff did not want to put Council in a situation where all of a sudden they only had a couple months to decide what they were going to do. This sets the policy and hopefully prevents that from happening. Dr. Miller noted it was very intimidating for one person to go before the City Manager and that was why some people would like to have a representative to speak for them or with them. Dr. Miller noted he had a hard time voting at this point to not allow collective bargaining; he believed it was an inherent right of an employee.

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Mr. Vogler asked the City Manager if collective bargaining were implemented in the City, what was the estimated cost to fund that implementation. Mr. Larking explained if collective bargaining were allowed, there would likely be multiple employee groups, that each would negotiate the terms of their employment. There would have to be systems in place to monitor and keep track of the various policies that apply to each employee group, and there would have to be someone to negotiate the terms of those collective bargaining contracts. There would have to be multiple systems in IT, Finance and Human Resources. There would have to be employees that would administer collective bargaining in each of those departments, and someone in charge of negotiating the contracts with the employee groups. All of that comes at a cost and that was before even talking about if the collective bargaining agreement called for certain types of provisions to occur; there might be a cost to that as well. Staff estimated about \$1M a year in additional costs to the City to implement collective bargaining. There have been other cities in Virginia that have adopted collective bargaining and those costs ranged from \$1M to \$2M annually just to administer collective bargaining.

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

VOTE: 6-3
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Vogler and Whittle (6)
NAY: Campbell, Miller, Saunders (3)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Pernell Valentine, 625 Piney Forest Road, Suite 108, who spoke to Council noting for the last four years he has not been treated with the utmost respect by Danville Public Schools, stating he wanted to be heard. Mayor Jones noted the City Attorney, and the Attorney for the School Board will meet with Mr. Valentine.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Jones noted there have been, all over the country, people calling in bomb threats and other threats to the school systems, and asked the City Attorney to share with the public, the consequences of calling in false threats. Mr. Whitfield noted he looked into two types of threats that have been seen in Virginia: one was the general threat of violence, that someone was going to do something at the school, or to school children, other than a bomb threat, and that was a Class 6 felony that has a jail sentence of up to five years. Bomb threats were a Class 5 felony; in Virginia, if the person was close enough to age eighteen, they can be treated as an adult, they would no longer get the protection of the juvenile system, and could receive a sentence of up to ten years in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

Mayor Jones asked Council Member Saunders to send a message to the young people in the City, and Mr. Saunders noted he did not know how to respond to that; it was a very serious matter and does not know why people have the audacity to take things lightly. They were not only threatening others, but they were also endangering themselves; people can retaliate and it was not something they wanted in their school system. The parents or guardians of these children need to have this conversation with them. Mayor Jones noted Education was Council's number one priority and they will not tolerate this.

Mr. Larking reminded Council about the invitation from Robert David for September 25th for a round table meet and great with St. Lucia County, Florida; they were coming to Danville to look at

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the implementation of Danville's comprehensive gang model and speak with staff. Mr. Larking noted there was a Project Imagine graduation on September 20th at 5:00 p.m. at their office on Bridge Street.

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

Council Member Mayo noted with schools around the nation, citizens have to continue to talk to their children. Mr. Mayo thanked the students from Tunstall High School for attending, and encouraged them to talk to each other. Mr. Mayo noted he was looking forward to National Night Out, touring around the different neighborhoods and meeting with citizens.

Vice Mayor Miller noted National Night Out was October 3rd, and it was one of Council's favorite nights. Last week the Westmoreland Neighborhood Association met, and they were looking for reassurance that when Chief Booth leaves, his policies will continue; Deputy Chief Wiles was in attendance and those policies will continue. Dr. Miller acknowledged Tyrell Payne in attendance, noting he was the medical student coordinator at the hospital, with 23-25 students. Last week Council had a trolley ride around Almagro; they were there to hear what the citizens wanted, and listen to their ideas. One request was for a covered bus shelter, right now there was a bench on Betts and Epps Street.

Council Member Saunders noted with regard to Almagro, he appreciated what the City was doing in terms of revitalizing the neighborhood. People were pleased to see the roads paved and staff there asking questions, putting together plans, and thanked the City Manager and staff for what they were trying to do. Mr. Saunders noted some funding has become available to help repair the Oak Hill Cemetery. Mr. Saunders noted to the Loyal Baptist Church family, Council was praying for them, were sorry about the fire at their church, and special thanks to the Fire Department for their response to that fire. Mr. Saunders encouraged parents and guardians to talk to their children about violence and negative behavior.

Council Member Vogler noted he had a great time at the event at Oak Hill Cemetery, the City Manager did a fantastic job giving the presentation and looks forward to the improvements there, and other improvements in other neighborhoods in the City, working to spread out the success the City has had in the downtown area in the last several years. Mr. Vogler gave a shout out to the teachers, staff and students at Forest Hills Elementary School; the recent numbers that came out show that Forest Hills performed better than 61% of schools across Virginia, and other schools were showing improvement. Mr. Vogler encouraged parents to be involved with their children in the schools; if parents don't make their children's school work important in their life, how can the child make it important in their life.

Council Member Whittle noted he had a great day at the Salvation Army with the Mayor at the ribbon cutting, watching them finish up their new park. Mr. Whittle discussed a recent trip to Boston, and talked about listening to different viewpoints and ideas, stating hate was a cancer. Mr. Whittle noted to the City Clerk an error on a vote on a previous meeting's minutes.

Council Member Buckner thanked everyone attending tonight and thanked all the City employees; Council could not do what they do without them; the City runs because of them, and thanked them for their dedication and the citizens they serve. Mr. Buckner invited citizens to tune into 104.5 the Dan and listen to the GW Eagles as they take on Staunton River Golden Eagles.

Council Member Campbell noted it was an interesting meeting; climate change was real and noted he would love to see more emphasis that Danville would be a climate change city.

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Council Member Hood noted he was glad to hear that Schoolfield Elementary was accredited as well, and also Galileo. Mr. Hood noted youth need to understand consequences; once they think of the consequences on the other side of what they do, they could work with their actions instead of going out and creating these types of problems. Mr. Hood recognized Bankers Entertainment who brought a VH-1 TV Series cast to the area to do a concert this past Saturday, and thanked all those people who volunteer and take time out of their schedules to help out.

Mayor Jones recognized the residents from Almagro and thanked them for being at the meeting tonight, and the students from Tunstall. To the Loyal Baptist Family, he was there on Friday, and to see how the church members gathered, and the firefighters tried their best to save that church; they worked tirelessly. The police department had the father daughter dance, now they will have the mother and son dance. Mayor Jones discussed the threat made to George Washington High School and the negative posts from people on Facebook against the schools; these posts were not coming from the kids, but from the adults. When kids see that negativity, they think if the adults can do it, they can too. Council has made education their number one priority, they were standing behind the schools, and encouraged students to stop the negativity.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK