

October 5, 2023

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on October 5, 2023 at 8:52 p.m. in the Conference Room 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, Barry Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Mayor Alonzo L. Jones 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.

Vice Mayor Miller presided.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon Motion by Council Member Buckner and second by Council Member Mayo, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on September 5, 2023 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Vice Mayor Miller noted the Committee on Appointments met earlier that evening and made the following appointment recommendations:

Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority: Reappoint: Larry Toomer

River District Design Commission: Reappoint: Adam Jones and
R.J. Lackey

PROGRAM UPDATES

City Manager Ken Larking noted the short term rental discussion earlier indicated that changes need to be made. Staff was doing their best to try to come up with answers to citizen questions by developing processes. Mr. Larking stated he attended a conference and Airbnb was a speaker; he thinks they were trying to do their best to work with localities to come up with regulations that were sensible, helpful, and balanced the need for safety, tax revenue collections, and protecting neighborhoods. It was a very complicated subject, not all communities were the same, and it was going to have to be worked through. Mr. Larking noted he was going to reach out to the Director of Local Government Relations at Airbnb to see if there was anything they could do to help the City. It would be important for Council to have a work session discussion about this. Council will be inundated with short term rental requests by special use permit; staff knows there were over one hundred, Council has heard about twenty or thirty, so there will be at least seventy more. As more and more residential properties were converted into short term rentals, they were taken off the market for people who live here; it was important to have that as part of the conversation, because the City does have a need for additional housing. There was also truth to the fact that a lot of these short term rental properties were marginal in nature; people were taking care of them, and if they were on Airbnb there were systems that encouraged people to take good care of the property. Because they have a rating system, he believed it was very important to the hosts and the people who stay at these places to have a good rating.

Mr. Vogler questioned if the City had its short term rental policies on the website where it was easy for people to find, and suggested when Council had this discussion, that the City make it easy for people to find, and simple and easy to read.

October 5, 2023

CLOSED MEETING

At 9:02 p.m., Council Member Vogler **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: discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely impact the bargaining position of the City as permitted by Subsection (A)(3) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, and more specifically to consider the sale and/or purchase of a specific property for use by a prospective industrial, commercial, public safety or and mixed use projects looking to locate in the City, and an Economic Development discussion and update concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made and/or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made as permitted by Subsection (A)(5) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider an update on multiple prospective commercial, mixed use, hospitality, and industrial projects considering locating within the City and/or locating within the region in cooperation with the City's regional partners, and discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where bargaining was involved where made public initially, the financial interests of the governmental unit would be adversely affected as permitted by Subsection (A)(6) 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: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (8)
NAY: None
ABSENT: Jones (1)

Upon unanimous vote at 10:47 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of the following Resolution:

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

October 5, 2023

ABSENT: Jones (1)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:48 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK