

February 6, 2024

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on February 6, 2024 at 8:32 p.m. in the Conference Room located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: James B. Buckner, 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 (8). L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr. was absent (1). Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller left the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Staff Members present were: City Manager Ken F. Larking, City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi. Deputy City Manager Earl B. Reynolds Jr., was absent.

Mayor Jones presided.

## **WORK SESSION ITEMS**

### **CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

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

- Southern Area Agency on Aging      -    Reappoint Andre Bethea and Appoint Mandy Crowder
- Airport Commission                      -    Appoint Hampton Wilkins

Council Member Buckner asked if they could consider having a Council Member on the Airport Commission as a liaison, especially since they were going into partnership with DCC. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted they would have to research that, and if it was okay, the City Code would have to be amended to add a member from Council.

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES**

Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Corrie Bobe noted she has provided Council with the new issue of the Virginia Travel Guide that was released about a week ago. These publications were distributed to all the welcome and visitor centers; page 144 shows information on Danville and Pittsylvania County. There were strict guidelines on what can be included as attractions within the community. Ms. Bobe noted she would like to give the Tourism staff credit; prior to this year, there was a list of maybe three or four items, and staff has worked with VTC to add listings that spread from page 148 over to 150. Ms. Bobe noted this enhances the visibility of the community through the state publication.

Ms. Bobe stated they have selected a consulting firm to lead the hotel study to evaluate the current demand for hospitality within their market, and what those demands will be in the next five to ten years. Staff will be working with a group called Revpar International.

Assistant Director of Economic Development and Tourism Kelvin Perry stated staff has also engaged a parking management consultant to help the City. The River District continues to grow, parking becomes a concern and staff wants to make sure they implement strategies that would be best not only for merchants but individuals coming downtown.

Mr. Perry noted he had a good conversation with Caesars; the City will be doing a procurement fair on April 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 5:00; the attempt was to ensure that individuals who would like to present for the City at any of their other educational institutions or industry, they will have an

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opportunity to meet with them and understand what services they need at their particular location. They will have a representative from the Virginia Small Business Finance Authority to help people become SWAM certified. Staff continues partner with the River District Association Dream Launch, they were into the third week, had 108 people register and were averaging about 114 each night. The participants include about 70% African American, 25% were white, 76% were female, 24% were male, and 8% were first time business individuals.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Council Member Vogler noted at one point in time Danville was going to get the VML conference because of Caesars, but the time line changed, could they get an update.

Council Member Whittle asked if someone from Economic Development could reach out to Troy Graves at Troy's Upholstery on North Main Street.

### **CLOSED MEETING**

At 8:40 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 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 possible purchase of real property for use as parking, a potential park, and for a potential mixed use development, 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 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.

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

VOTE: 7-0-2  
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Mayo,  
Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Campbell, Miller (2)

Upon unanimous vote at 9:12 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;

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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 Mayo and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 7-0-2  
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Mayo,  
Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Campbell, Miller (2)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:13 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC  
CITY CLERK