

April 2, 2024

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on April 2, 2024 at 8:11 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, 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.

Vice Mayor Miller presided.

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Vogler, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on March 5, 2024, were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE DANVILLE CITY CODE – CHAPTER 24

Chief of Police Chris Wiles explained the City Code deals with three different types of permits: assembly, street closures and parade permits. They were currently out of line with state code and needed to be updated. Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson did the research on these items, which streamlined the processes; specifically, they added assemblies and street closure permits under one umbrella and then a separate one for parade permits. They also added requirements specifically related to insurance to protect the city, officers, and personnel. There was always the risk of something occurring on City property while it was actively being utilized for a third party, this gives the City the ability to have some protection. A lot of people have liability insurance coverage on their own and this will have that requirement.

Chief Wiles noted the ordinance does a good job of providing some flexibility; there were provisions on both sides where in the event there was a financial hardship, that those requirements can be waived. Council Member Saunders questioned who would have the authority to waive that and Chief Wiles noted it depended on which permit it was. Event permits were going to be issued through the City Manager's office; in that case, it would be the City Manager. They work closely in any of the assembly permits; obviously, there was a public safety nexus to most of them. For the parade permits, it was the Chief of Police who issued those or his or her designee, so that would be on the Chief to make that determination. Assembly permits or special event permits, it was the City Manager or designee.

Council agreed to put it on an upcoming agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Director of Economic Development and Tourism Corrie Bobe reminded Council about their upcoming procurement fair which will take place on Wednesday, April 10th at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. They will have two sessions, one in the morning running from 8:30 a.m. until noon and a second in the afternoon, from 1:30 to 5:00 p.m. There will be several presentations, one in general on the procurement process, another on how to obtain capital, and then how to become a SWaM certified business. They will have vendors, including the City of

April 2, 2024

Danville, Caesars Virginia and other businesses and localities participating, and have various opportunities for small businesses to obtain contracts for either products or services. Ms. Bobe encouraged Council to stop by.

Council Member Whittle questioned if the General Assembly had passed an order that if a local contractor was within a couple percent they would be able to have that contract. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted he did not know if they passed that but what the city code says was that if it was tie, it goes to the business from the locality. Mr. Whitfield noted he would check into Mr. Whittle's question.

Ms. Bobe stated she would send out a news release this coming week; beginning on May 6th, they will begin a six-week marketing course titled "Can You Hear Me Now;" it was a marketing workshop for small businesses. They were partnering with Letter Press communications out of Farmville along with the Small Business Development Center, to provide a six-week training for small businesses on relevant marketing techniques such as communication, visual branding, videography, photography, and digital advertising. They will run these each week at the Fire Station headquarters from 6:00 until 8:00 on Mondays. This was a free class for the small business community; they were limiting it to 25 businesses, however, each business can have two representatives participate. If they complete the course, they will have a one year's free subscription to Canva Pro which was a website development software as well as one on one consultation with Weather Press Communications.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted he would be on annual leave for the rest of the week. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted he would also be out of the office the rest of the week.

Council Member Vogler noted he wanted to acknowledge Caden Randlett who attended Council this evening. Mr. Vogler noted he had a chance to sit down and have lunch with him, and he was interested in an internship with the City.

CLOSED MEETING

At 8:25 p.m., Mayor Jones **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 purpose: 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 within the region in cooperation with the City's regional partners.

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 (0)

April 2, 2024

Upon unanimous vote at 8:48 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Mayor Jones **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: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle, (9)
NAY: None (0)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:50 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK