

June 4, 2024

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on June 4, 2024, at 8:24 p.m. in the Conference Room located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: 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 (8) James B. Buckner 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.

Mayor Jones presided.

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Vogler and **second** by Council Member Mayo, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on May 7, 2024, were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE PERSONNEL SYSTEM

Director of Human Resources Sara Weller noted the revised version of the Personnel regulations were in the agenda packet; all of the changes were administrative changes, there were no policy changes.

Council had no questions and agreed to put this on an upcoming business agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 32 – RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Director of Human Resources Sara Weller noted this item was for changes to the Retirement Code; there was a redlined version included in the agenda. Most items were clean ups from changes made years ago; some were administrative changes that were in line with City practices and there was a small change in the disability retirement terms.

APPOINTMENTS

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

Danville Pittsylvania Community Services Board - Appoint Maureen Belko and Shakeva Frazier

Dan River ASAP - Appoint Richard Marlowe

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Corrie Bobe noted they will be sending out a news release tomorrow highlighting a survey that will be launched to capture feedback from the small business community as well as entrepreneurs on how the City can better serve them. Several months ago, the City engaged a consultant to better understand the best practices for SWaM businesses and how they can incorporate that into daily practices. Based off the feedback

June 4, 2024

of the local business owner community, they will come back with recommendations on what the City should continue to do, build upon, or implement.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted Council should have received an email about the General Assembly changing the amounts that City Council members can earn; there was a small window of time to get that on an Agenda.

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted the General Assembly, starting July 1, has increased the maximum amount of pay that both Mayors and Council Members can get. For this jurisdiction, it would go up to, for the Mayor, \$37,000 per year and for Council Members, up to \$34,000 per year. The Council has to vote on this four months before the election; there was only one meeting to do that and that was the July 2nd meeting. If Council were to approve that, they would have to hold a public hearing and then vote on an ordinance. If approved, it would be July 1, 2025 before the pay increase took effect. Mr. Whitfield explained that if Council was in favor of this, Council would decide how much they wanted to increase, up to the maximum or the maximum and if Council was ready, staff could have everything prepared, and have the public hearing set for the July 2nd meeting.

Mr. Vogler noted that last year Council voted for an increase and it still hasn't taken effect, where it went from \$10,000 to \$18,000, why doesn't that take effect in January and Mr. Whitfield noted that was one of those things that never was picked up on when they changed the elections. Mr. Whitfield stated the language says, when it can possibly happen, and it turns out it will be July, according to the State code. Mr. Larking explained this item, if Council votes on it on July 2nd, would not go into effect the same time; Council would be replacing what they already voted on which was \$18,000 and \$20,000 for the Mayor.

After further discussion, Council recommended they change it to the maximum of what the State allowed, and put this on the July 2nd agenda.

Council Members discussed the council's budget planning process.

CLOSED MEETING

At 8:40 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: discussion or consideration of the acquisition and/or disposition 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: discussion regarding the sale and/or potential purchase of a specific parcel of property for use by prospective industrial, commercial, and mixed use projects looking to locate to 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 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:

June 4, 2024

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

Upon unanimous vote at 9:03 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Vice Mayor Miller **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 Mayo and carried by the following vote:

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

City Manager Ken Larking discussed what was needed in the White Mill to get the commercial space ready, and that the IDA will be voting on this at their next meeting. No Council action was required at this time.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:08 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK