

July 16, 2024

The Second Regular July meeting of the Danville City Council was held on July 16, 2024, 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, and J. Lee Vogler, Jr., (8). Absent: Madison J.R. Whittle (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.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Saunders gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Campbell **moved** for adoption of the following Consent Agenda items:

Approval of Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on June 18, 2024.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for an Airport Maintenance Grant

Ordinance No. 2024-07.10, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 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 \$64,000 and for the Local Share in the Amount of \$46,000 for a Total Appropriation of \$110,000 and Appropriating the Same.

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

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER TRANSMISSION LLC

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-07.03

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER TRANSMISSION AGENCY AGREEMENT FOR ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION SERVICES IN THE DANVILLE-PITTSYLVANIA COUNTY REGION.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1

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

**CONSIDERATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
– ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN**

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding the HUD One Year Action Plan. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 2, 2024. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Campbell and **second** by Council Member Buckner, a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-07.04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SUBMIT TO THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) A ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Deborah McKague, who appeared with her ASL interpreter and discussed feral cats in the area, her efforts to save some of them, encouraged the use of the TNR program, and also discussed the kill/save rates at DAHS.

Mayor Jones recognized Sue Ellen Lawton who noted she was glad to hear of the city's expansion of the isolation area at the DAHS and the monies set aside to sterilize outside cats. It was so encouraging and deserved a moment of celebration, and thanked everyone involved in making these critical changes.

Mayor Jones recognized Ann Searce who addressed Council and spoke for residents of the Fox Hollow neighborhood regarding their opposition to the construction of a 30 x 50 red metal storage building at 205 Fox Hollow Drive. Ms. Searce asked the City to close the loophole in the zoning ordinance to prevent incompatible structures, overturn the building permit allowing the structure or direct the citizens on how to oppose it.

Amber Brooks did not appear.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Council Member Hood noted next Wednesday, July 24th at the Boys and Girls Club, they will be hosting George Bell who was the Guinness Book of World Record's tallest man; he was a former sheriff's deputy for fifteen years, played for the Harlem Globetrotters, a cancer survivor and the

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founder of *Stand Tall Against Bullying*. Mr. Hood noted Friday at 10:00 a.m. there will be the ribbon cutting for the Doyle Thomas Park Splashpad.

Vice Mayor Miller noted the new splashpad will be a remarkable addition to the City. Dr. Miller stated citizens had approached him, telling him Lynchburg had problems with their splashpad with contamination and asked what precautions the City takes testing and inspecting the water in the City's splashpads. City Manager Ken Larking explained it was continuously monitored, filtered, the Ph levels were checked, and the water was treated with UV filters; daily the chemical checks were done by staff to make sure the water was safe.

Council Member Saunders noted it was an honor to spend time with U.S. Senator Tim Kaine who was in Danville today; they have been friends for a long time and he has a lot of good things to say about Danville. When Senator Kaine was Governor of Virginia, every year in January, his first stop was Danville. It was an honor to be with him today along with the Mayor and other Council Members.

Council Member Vogler thanked everyone who came out tonight, and those who spoke. Mr. Vogler noted he and his children went to see the new splash park on Green Street and looked forward to the official ribbon cutting on Friday. Construction has started on the Ballou Park splash pad and the Riverfront Park was moving along. Mr. Vogler asked the City Manager if citizens have questions about the real estate assessment, where do they go to get that information. Mr. Larking noted in the Finance Department, there was a Real Estate Assessment office, they were responsible for doing the assessment every two years. Mr. Vogler noted the City lowered tax rates including real estate taxes to hopefully lower citizens' tax bills; citizens received their new assessments recently with large increases. Mr. Vogler stated he hoped lowering taxes was the start of an ongoing conversation.

Council Member Campbell noted he was thankful for the splash parks that were being opened, this will enhance the quality of life within the community. Rev. Campbell noted the loss to the City of Pastor Kirby Brown; the Greater Deliverance Church community was shocked at his sudden death; they were praying for the church and his family.

Mayor Jones thanked all who attended this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK