

November 19, 2024

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on November 19, 2024, at 8:05 p.m. in the City Council 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 P. Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9). *Mr. Vogler left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.*

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.

PROGRAM UPDATES

City Manager Ken Larking noted that the Mayor asked that he bring back the topic of having Parks & Recreation located within the White Mill.

Mayor Jones noted they have visited the site, there was a long discussion on this; if they don't move it to the White Mill, it will have to stay where it was and asked Council for their thoughts.

Mr. Hood noted he has a better understanding of this and agreed with them moving there. Mr. Vogler noted he understands better and that moving into the White Mill was a great idea; he still had a little question about the space itself. Dr. Miller noted it was tough sell for him, like the school board, there were other spaces, and was a maybe. Mayor Jones noted he was a yes for them moving. Mr. Mayo noted he was a yes and Rev Campbell noted he was in favor of this 100%, but the City needed to be cautious for the future in reference to other investments the City will be getting into. Mr. Saunders, Mr. Buckner and Mr. Whittle all noted they were in favor of this.

Mayor Jones noted the City Manager had eight Council Members in favor and one maybe.

Mr. Larking thanked Council members for considering this and believed they will be pleased with the outcome.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Director of Economic Development and Tourism Corrie Bobe noted that understanding that there were limited shovels and hardhats at the groundbreaking last week, staff has ordered some for all members of Council and the Board of Supervisors. This will allow them to have something to commemorate that occasion.

Ms. Bobe noted last week, several staff members attended the VA-1 Conference, which was the Governor's Annual Tourism Conference, and for the first time ever, the VA-1 Governor's Tourism Conference will take place in Danville next November in the Caesars Resort.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Whitfield reminded Council that Mrs. Vernon had appealed Council's decision to approve the housing project on West Main. The Courts ruled in the City's favor, and Mrs. Vernon decided not to appeal moving forward.

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CLOSED MEETING

At 8:16 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, consideration or interview of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, salaries, disciplining of specific public employees or appointees as permitted by Subsection (A)(1) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider the City Manager's contract; 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 discussion regarding the potential purchase of a specific parcels 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 Whittle and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

Upon unanimous vote at 8:49 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 Buckner and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, and Whittle (8)

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NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Vogler (1)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:51 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK