

December 17, 2024

The Second December meeting of the Danville City Council was held on December 17, 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 P. Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9). Mr. Mayo and Mr. Whittle entered the meeting at 7:02 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.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Budget Items on the Consent Agenda. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 10, 2024. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

Consideration of Approval of Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on November 19, 2024.
Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for USDA Grant Funds for Food Services at W. W. Moore, Jr. Detention Home

Ordinance No. 2024-12.17, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Federal Grant in the Amount of Approximately \$70,489 to aid the Food Service Operations at W. W. Moore, Jr. Detention Home and Appropriating Same.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Funding Appropriation

Ordinance No. 2024-12.18, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Grant from the Department of Juvenile Justice in the Amount of \$86,999 and a Local Share of \$39,830, for a Total Appropriation of \$126,829, to Provide for the Electronic Monitoring and Outreach Detention Programs, Online Intervention Programs, and Pro- Social Skills Programs for the City of Danville at the W. W. Moore Jr. Detention Home and Appropriating Same.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide Funds for Renovations at Dan River Falls

Ordinance No. 2024-12.19, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide Funding from Unassigned General Fund Balance and Operating Funds for Renovations at the Dan River Falls Building for City Offices in the Amount of \$5,600,000 and Appropriating Same.

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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)

APPOINTMENTS

Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of the following Appointment Resolutions:

Resolution No. 2024-12.04 - A Resolution Reappointing Lawrence Meder to the Building Code Board of Appeals.

Resolution No. 2024-12.05 - A Resolution Reappointing Samuel Thomas to the Building Code Board of Appeals.

Resolution No. 2024-12.06 - A Resolution Reappointing Lonnie Jones to the Building Code Board of Appeals.

Resolution No. 2024-12.07 - A Resolution Reappointing Lenard Lackey to the Employee Retirement System Board.

Resolution No. 2024-12.08 - A Resolution Reappointing Michelle Vaden to the Fair Housing Board.

Resolution No. 2024-12.09 - A Resolution Reappointing Kalil Khan to the Planning Commission.

Resolution No. 2024-12.10 - A Resolution Appointing Sylvester Townes to the Planning Commission.

Resolution No. 2024-12.11 - A Resolution Appointing James Bebeau to the Industrial Development Authority.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2024

Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins gave a brief presentation of the General Fund Financials as of November 30, 2024, which was 42% of the fiscal year complete. Revenues collected through that point were \$53.7M, 1/3 of budget, and represented an increase of \$1.8M over last year at this time. About \$800,000 of that increase was timing; the State Aid to Localities, which was public safety funding from the State, was received in November this year, where last year it was received in December. The other \$1M increase was primarily local consumer taxes, Sales, Meals and Business Licenses. Sales tax collected was \$5.8M, 45% of budget, and an increase of about \$565,000 over last year. Meals tax was \$5.2M, 43% of budget, and \$120,000 over last year. Business licenses were \$1M, and 14% of budget; most business licenses were collected in March,

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however, at this point it was still an increase of about \$150,000 over last year. Lodging taxes were \$1.5M, 44% of budget, and \$52,000 over last year. As of today, the City has collected \$10.7M of real estate taxes, which was just a little above 50% of budget and where they expected to be at the end of this month. Personal property taxes were on track as well, and State and Federal revenues were tracking well. As far as Expenditures, Departmental expenditures were at 39% of budget, trailing budget, which was normal and good to see, and Group Health Insurance was performing exactly to budget expectations. Next month will be 50% through the fiscal year and there will be more to share then, and Brown Edwards will be at the next meeting to discuss the Fiscal 2024 audit results. Council Member Campbell asked how much was in reserves to date, and Mr. Adkins stated that Fiscal 24 ended with \$51M in reserves.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Corrie Bobe, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, noted that communities across Virginia were able to apply for the Top Projects Award through the Virginia Economic Developers Association. It was based 40% on the creativity of the submission, it has to be a video no more than sixty seconds long, and the remainder of 60% was based on the community impact of the project. Staff thought it was timely to submit the Caesars Virginia product in consideration for the Top Projects Award; staff did a parody of Vegas Vacation as their submission. This can be viewed on the Economic Development's social media page to watch. Out of all of the communities, Danville came home with the Greatest of All Time, the G.O.A.T. trophy for the impact, not only in jobs, but the larger impact that Caesars has made, utilizing a blighted historic district and also contributing to so many charitable organizations throughout the community. Ms. Bobe noted they wanted to officially present the G.O.A.T. trophy to Council.

CONSIDERATION OF A FIXED BASE OPERATOR LEASE AGREEMENT

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding the FBO Lease Agreement. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 10, 2024. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12.12

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT FOR FACILITIES AT THE DANVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT TO AVERETT UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE FIXED BASED OPERATOR SERVICES.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Miller and carried by the following vote:

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

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING DANVILLE CITY CODE CHAPTER 37

Council Member Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-12.20

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 37, ENTITLED "TAXATION" ARTICLE XI, ENTITLED "PARTIAL EXEMPTION OF REAL ESTATE TAXES FOR CERTAIN REAL ESTATE," TO ADD A NEW SECTION 37-169.1 ENTITLED, "MULTIFAMILY/COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES", TO THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo.

Council Member Whittle asked to be brought up to speed on this item and City Manager Ken Larking explained that a few months ago Council adopted some revisions to this chapter of the City Code pertaining to abatement of real estate taxes; this expands that ability. This will be for historic properties, mainly, that were fifty years old or older. It helps to provide an incentive for the owners of those properties to reinvest at least 25% of the total value into those properties. It was also cleaning up some language in other parts of the Code.

Council Member Campbell questioned if this was specific areas of the City or the entire City and Mr. Larking stated in this case it was opening it up to the entire City.

The **Motion** was carried by the following vote:

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

Vice Mayor Miller announced, on Steve Heatherly's behalf, that for the second year in a row, the Hospital had received the National Safety (Leapfrog) Award. Also, everyone was invited to the open house of the newly renovated Emergency Room tomorrow night from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

No visitors signed up to speak.

Mayor Jones asked for a Motion to Adjourn, Council Member Vogler **moved** to adjourn, the Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Campbell and carried by the following vote:

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

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK