

January 7, 2025

The Regular January meeting of the Danville City Council was held on January 7, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: Vice Mayor James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell, Jr., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry P. Mayo, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9). *Mr. Whittle entered the meeting at 7:03 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 L.G. "Larry" Campbell, Jr. gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon Motion by Council Member Vogler and second by Council Member Hood, the Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on November 7, 2024, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO ALLOW WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT THIRTEEN LOCATIONS

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Special Use Permits at Thirteen Locations for Danville Public Schools. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 24, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Mayor Jones recognized Walter Lucas, Director of Capital Improvement for Danville Public Schools, who stated DPS was asking for these special use permits to make all signs uniform, district wide. No one further desired to be heard, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 26356 – 280 Christopher Lane.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.01

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 26356 (280 CHRISTOPHER LANE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,

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NAY: Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
None (0)

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 26370 – 220 Cleveland Street and 228 Cleveland Street.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.02

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 26370 (220 CLEVELAND STREET AND 228 CLEVELAND STREET) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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

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

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 74769 – 1540 Halifax Road.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.03

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 74769 (1540 HALIFAX ROAD) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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

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

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 60160 – 1400 West Main Street.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.04

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER

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OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 60160 (1400 WEST MAIN STREET) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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

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

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 26346 – 155 Mountain View Avenue

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.05

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 26346 (155 MOUNTAIN VIEW AVENUE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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)

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 59935 – 825 Piney Forest Road

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.06

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 59935 (825 PINEY FOREST ROAD) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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

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

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 59920 – 300 Apollo Avenue and 500 Apollo Avenue.

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Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.07

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 59920 (300 APOLLO AVENUE AND 500 APOLLO AVENUE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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

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

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 59898 – 1070 South Main Street.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.08

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 59898 (1070 SOUTH MAIN STREET) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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)

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 59949 – 811 Northmont Boulevard and 121 Gloucester Avenue.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.09

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 59949 (811 NORTHMONT BOULEVARD AND 121 GLOUCESTER AVENUE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,

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NAY: Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
 None (0)

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 04958 – 1005 North Main Street.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.10

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 04958 (1005 NORTH MAIN STREET) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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)

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 59914 – 614 Audubon Drive.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.11

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 59914 (614 AUDUBON DRIVE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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)

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 59856 – 661 Park Avenue.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.12

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER

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OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 59856 (661 PARK AVENUE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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)

Consideration of Granting a Special Use Permit filed by Danville Public Schools to Allow Waiver of Maximum Sign Area at Parcel 26422 – 1215 Industrial Avenue.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.13

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00522, FILED BY DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM SIGN AREA AT PARCEL 26422 (1215 INDUSTRIAL AVENUE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.I. SECTION C ITEM 25.

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)

CONSIDERATION OF A REZONING APPLICATION FILED BY YASSINE MOUSSADDIK TO REZONE 1819 NORTH MAIN STREET

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Rezoning Application at 1819 North Main Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 24, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Mayor Jones recognized Yassine Moussaddik, owner of 1819 North Main Street, who stated he purchased the property as a commercial property and was unaware that it was zoned residential. It was built as a commercial building as well as the surrounding buildings. Mr. Moussaddik passed out pictures of the property showing the building, surrounding buildings, and the parking lot that was showing commercial use. He planned to use the property for a small convenience store or smoke shop.

Mayor Jones asked Division Director of Planning Renee Burton to come to the podium. Council Member Vogler stated that fifty-one notices were sent out to surrounding property owners and only one opposition was sent back. There was a unanimous denial from the Planning Commission, did they give a reason why, and Ms. Burton stated there were multiple inconsistencies with the Comprehensive Plan and the surrounding neighborhood. Mr. Vogler stated the building has been vacant for at least twenty years, was there another plan for it if this was not passed, and Ms. Burton stated that under its current classification, someone would have to demo the property and build a residential home. Mr. Vogler stated he understood being

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consistent and going by the books, but seeing a property being vacant for this long, having someone want to revitalize it only to be shot down, and then not having any future prospects and becoming an eye sore, makes him lean toward voting yes. Mayor Jones noted his agreement that this property was on the verge of being blighted. Council Member Campbell asked Ms. Burton what she was referring to as “inconsistent”, and she stated that all surrounding properties with the exception of one were residential use; it was rezoned in 2004 with the city-wide rezoning. No one further desired to be heard, and the public hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.14

AN ORDINANCE REZONING FROM OT-R OLD TOWN RESIDENTIAL TO N-CC “CONDITIONAL” NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL PARCEL ID 04540 (1819 NORTH MAIN STREET).

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FILED BY PATTERSON’S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES LLC TO ALLOW A GROUP HOME AT 145 SHERWOOD DRIVE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 145 Sherwood Drive. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 24, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Mayor Jones recognized Mrs. Patterson who stated she was requesting a special use permit waiver to operate a group home that will be licensed through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. No one further desired to be heard, and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.15

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00597, FILED BY PATTERSON’S RESIDENTIAL SERVICES, LLC, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A GROUP HOME AT PARCEL 01953 (145 SHERWOOD DRIVE) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.E. SECTION C ITEM 9.

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

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

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CONSIDERATION OF A REZONING APPLICATION FILED BY RICHARD & JANE HOLBROOK TO REZONE 924 ARNETT BOULEVARD

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Rezoning Application at 924 Arnett Boulevard. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 24, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Mayor Jones recognized Richard Holbrook who stated the building was originally a laundromat back in the 1970's. The rezoning done in 2004 moved it back to residential, and they were asking Council to consider rezoning for commercial use. No one further desired to be heard, and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.16

AN ORDINANCE REZONING FROM OT-R OLD TOWN RESIDENTIAL TO HR-CC "CONDITIONAL" HIGHWAY RETAIL COMMERCIAL PARCEL ID 00319 (924 ARNETT BOULEVARD).

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)

CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FILED BY GARRETT SHIFFLETT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM DENSITY AT 553 LYNN STREET.

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 553 Lynn Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 24, 2024, and December 31, 2024.

Mayor Jones recognized Austin Bond, who appeared on behalf of Mr. Garrett, and stated this was their next project and will complete the block. No one further desired to be heard, and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01.17

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24- 00598, FILED BY GARRETT SHIFFLETT, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF MAXIMUM DENSITY AT PARCEL 21670 (553 LYNN STREET) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.L. SECTION C ITEM 13.

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

VOTE: 9-0

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

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A MORAL OBLIGATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AND THE VIRGINIA SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AUTHORITY

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-01.02

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A MORAL OBLIGATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AND THE VIRGINIA SMALL BUSINESS FINANCING AUTHORITY.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

No citizens signed up to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking asked Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Corrie Bobe, to come to the podium to speak about the postcards at Council seats. Ms. Bobe explained that staff had mailed these postcards out to every small business in the City Danville. Over the past year, they have built a robust series of workshops to support their SWaM business community and wanted to further expand who they were reaching out to. The first workshop for the small and large businesses was on January 30th; it was called "Untapped Talent". It was an inclusive hiring event to help local business owners learn how to hire traditionally underserved and under-utilized communities such as veterans, seniors, those who were previously incarcerated or those with developmental or intellectual disabilities. Ms. Bobe noted the annual Enterprise Zone Workshop will be held in January or February, so businesses located within the Enterprise Zone footprint can understand what grants were available by rights, and what they can apply for this coming year. The remainder of the year they will continue to have procurement fairs where they will help teach the business community how they can become SWaM certified, what financial resources were available and will connect with the larger business community to see what contracts were available that the small businesses can bid on. They also offer financial literacy workshops, and all these were free of charge. Anyone interested in additional information or would like to sign up for workshops can go to www.discoverdanville.com.

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Member Campbell came to the podium to address Council on issues that were of concern to him. Rev Campbell commended Ms. Bobe and her team for the work they do and thanked the

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City Manager for his efficiency. Rev Campbell discussed the 1992 gun buyback program, and how this program could save lives from kids playing with guns. Rev Campbell stated he was asking Council for a sign to be developed, of a picture of a gun, with a line drawn across and words underneath such as "Don't Waste Your Life".

Council Member Campbell noted he would like to make a **Motion** that Council will look at this and come up with something along with the gang prevention program, that they could place signs around the City, dealing with the consciousness in a subliminal way to make people aware to not pick up the gun. He was willing to take the remainder of his campaign funds to put this in action. Mayor Jones asked for a second on the Motion that had been placed on the floor.

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

Rev Campbell noted he has not spoken out publicly regarding the Culture Restaurant incident; it was disturbing to him what happened in reference to the shooting. Council Member Vogler thanked him for speaking on this issue, being vigilant about pursuing it, and asked if what they were voting on tonight would be handed to the City Manager and then brought back to Council. Rev Campbell noted regarding kids possibly picking up a gun and playing with it, they needed something visual to deal with the subconscious. Council Member Saunders noted Rev Campbell had stated they collected fifty guns in 1992, does he anticipate collecting that many on this particular round, and Rev Campbell noted before, it was only one day, he would like to see something in place permanently where a person could go to the police department any time and there would be no repercussions. Dr. Miller questioned if they could look at putting at the bottom of the sign something like, "call this number to turn in a gun."

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)

Rev Campbell noted he contacted the City Manager and told him he was going to speak about prosperity being shared in the community. He was asking that the City develop a disparity study; a disparity study examines whether there were differences between the percentage of dollars that minorities, women and veteran owned businesses receive, and prime contracts and subcontracts, during a particular time.

Council Member Campbell put a **Motion** on the floor that a disparity study be done. The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Hood.

City Manager Ken Larking suggested Council give staff time to study what a disparity study was so that Council knows what they were voting on. He has participated in programs through the Southern Cities Economic Inclusion and others where the topic itself was somewhat controversial. Mr. Vogler noted he would like further discussion in a work session as he did not know what was in the study, what it would cost and was a little hesitant to vote on something without all the information.

Council Member Miller put an **Amended Motion** on the floor to let staff gather the necessary information regarding what the study entails, cost, and what exactly Council would be voting on.

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The Amended Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Vogler.

Rev Campbell asked Mr. Larking to restate his reasons why he was not interested in doing this. Mr. Larking stated he was not suggesting the City do or not do it, but based on his limited knowledge of participating in meetings where this topic has been brought up, he thought it would be wise for Council Members to have a better idea of what a disparity study entails. He believed it could be quite expensive and it would be worth everyone's while to at least understand it first before voting on it. Rev Campbell noted there was over \$50M in reserves and expectations of \$36M coming in every year from Caesars. The cost factor of the study didn't stand with him.

Council Member Saunders noted he appreciated Rev Campbell's passion; it was important that Council does this together. Council Member Saunders called for the question.

The **Amended 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)

Council Member Campbell stated there was a need for a Minority Diversity Department in city hall. In talking with the City Manager, he understood a grant was received for the City, that there will be a facility in City Hall to deal with business education programs, demographics, market development, grants and small business start-ups. Mr. Larking explained the postcard that was shared by Ms. Bobe was a snapshot of some of the things happening in City Hall. Recently, the city was awarded grant funds to be part of the International City County Manager's Associations' Economic Mobility and Opportunity Program. As part of that program, the Assistant Director of Economic Development and he have participated in meetings with cohort members from across the country to discuss ways to improve the economic outlook for historically disadvantaged members of their communities. The City wrote a strategic plan for Economic Mobility and Opportunity that was shared with Council, which will be used as a work plan for the newly created Economic Mobility and Opportunity Manager position. The person with that responsibility will report to the City Manager's office and coordinate governmental and non-governmental efforts to reduce poverty and increase economic opportunity.

The City was also part of the National League of Cities Southern Cities Economic Inclusion Program. Since being a part of that program, in April of 2024, the Purchasing Division has a Vendor Relations Coordinator position and they have led and participated in a dozen outreach events and sessions to increase the number of SWaM and minority, women business enterprise vendors for the City. Being a part of that program, one of the recommendations was that the City needed to do a better job keeping that data so they can track progress and try to do better. The City was keeping that data now and could provide information going forward.

Council Member Hood noted his confidence in the nine members of Council working together and moving forward. Mr. Hood spoke about working with minority contractors and this showed people Council was serious about this, and working on it. Council has always been able to come together to work on finding solutions. Mr. Hood talked about violent crime, his experience having his home shot at 100 times several years ago, and the recklessness of gun crime.

Council Member Mayo spoke about sustainability, opportunities, and entrepreneurship in the City of Danville. Danville was growing and he had all the confidence in the world that they can find

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solutions to get things done. Mr. Mayo commented on the holiday basketball tournament and the success of another great year.

Council Member Miller noted the water plant in Richmond flooded and asked about Danville's plan if something similar happened. Mr. Larking stated the City has a three-day supply of water at any given time if the water plant had to be shut down. Dr. Miller spoke about the ribbon cutting at Tractor Supply on White Oak Mountain and the need for having a store like that near so many farms in Pittsylvania County. Dr. Miller noted respiratory illnesses were affecting hospitals with overcrowding and encouraged citizens to get their vaccinations.

Council Member Saunders thanked Rev Campbell for voicing his concerns. Looking at reasons for certain behaviors and students in the school system on free lunches, how it relates to poverty and how poverty and crime are related. Mr. Saunders asked about Danville having a shortage of public defenders, and Mr. Whitfield stated he was unaware of that issue but would not be surprised if that was the case. Mr. Saunders congratulated the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors and new Chair.

Council Member Vogler thanked everyone for their participation in the holiday light show; the Kiwanis Club received the most votes this year. The money raised at this event helped all the organizations within the community. Mr. Vogler wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mayor Jones commented on Council Member Campbell's engagement. Tonight was very impactful and thanked everyone for what they do for the City.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK