

January 21, 2025

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on January 21, 2025, at 7:27 p.m. in City 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, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Dr. Gary P. Miller was absent (1). *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.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Mayo, Minutes of the Special Work Session and Regular Work Session held on November 19, 2024, were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Assistant Director of Economic Development Kelvin Perry noted on January 30th, at 8:00 a.m. at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Economic Development was sponsoring a workshop called *Untapped Talent* to inform the business community of the potential talent opportunities for those that have intellectual disabilities, and how they can be integrated in the workforce. To date, there were about seventy people who have registered and they continue to get more people registering.

Mr. Perry noted beginning on March 17th, they were doing a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification training for all businesses within the City. This was a type of project management course to help businesses develop efficiencies, and doing things better to help their company. Participants will go through a four-month, one week per month course, to get the training necessary to employ that. Once they have completed the class, the individuals will receive their black belt certificate through Virginia Tech and will have the tools necessary to complete their project. Economic Development was helping to sponsor it by utilizing ARPA funding to help subsidize the cost. The cost to the business, because it was being subsidized, was \$3,000.

APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Jones noted the following Council Appointments:

Dan River Business Development	Reappoint Bryant Hood
Danville Development Council	Reappoint Bryant Hood
Employee Retirement System	Reappoint Sherman Saunders
MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization	Reappoint Lee Vogler
West Piedmont Planning District Commission	Reappoint Lee Vogler
Pittsylvania County Community Action Board	Reappoint Barry Mayo

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Mayor Jones stated the Committee on Appointments would consist of Vice Mayor Buckner, Lee Vogler and Bryant Hood.

Council Members had no objections to the appointment recommendations.

CLOSED MEETING

At 6:07 p.m., Vice Mayor Buckner **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 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 the City of Danville and 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 Hood and carried by the following vote:

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

Upon unanimous vote at 8:51 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Vice Mayor Buckner **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: 7-0-2

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AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Saunders, and Whittle (7)

NAY: None (0)

ABSENT: Miller, Vogler (2)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:52 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK