

February 4, 2025

The Regular February meeting of the Danville City Council was held on February 4, 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 7:01 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 Dr. Gary P. Miller gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon Motion by Vice Mayor Buckner and second by Council Member Whittle, the Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on January 7, 2025, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Consideration of Appointments to Boards and Commissions.

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

Resolution No. 2025-02.01 - A Resolution Reappointing Bryant Hood to the Dan River Business Development Board.

Resolution No. 2025-02.02 - A Resolution Reappointing Bryant Hood to the Danville Development Council.

Resolution No. 2025-02.03 - A Resolution Reappointing Sherman M. Saunders to the Employee Retirement Systems Board.

Resolution No. 2025-02.04 - A Resolution Reappointing J Lee Vogler to the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

Resolution No. 2025-02.05 - A Resolution Reappointing J Lee Vogler to the West Piedmont Planning District Commission.

Resolution No. 2025-02.06 - A Resolution Reappointing Barry Mayo to the Pittsylvania County Community Action Board.

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)

February 4, 2025

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION TO ALLOW ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS AT PARCELS 00499 AND 00500 (ASPEN STREET)

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at Aspen Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 25, 2025, and January 28, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02.01

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ24-00611, FILED BY MACD LENDING, LLC, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW AN ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL DWELLING AT PARCELS 00499 AND 00500 (ASPEN STREET) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.E., SECTION C, ITEM 1.

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 AMENDING AND ADOPTING CHANGES TO THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (C-PACE) FINANCING PROGRAM

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Changes to the C-PACE Program. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 21, 2025, and January 28, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-02.02

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REORDAINING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 10.5, ENTITLED "COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (C-PACE) FINANCING PROGRAM", OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Buckner.

Council Member Whittle asked for clarification on this agenda item and Assistant Director of Economic Development, Kelvin Perry, stated this change was being made due to changes in the state program; the City needs to adopt those changes.

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

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

February 4, 2025

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

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF PARCEL #59921 TO THE DANVILLE SCHOOL BOARD

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Transfer of Ownership of Parcel #59921. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 28, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02.07

A RESOLUTION DECLARING CITY-OWNED PARCEL #59921 PINEY FOREST ROAD TO BE SURPLUS TO THE NEEDS OF THE CITY AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONVEY SUCH PROPERTY TO THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE.

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 THE RELEASE OF CITY HELD LIENS ON FIVE PROPERTIES TO FACILITATE THEIR DONATION TO THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02.08

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF CITY-HELD LIENS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCELS #01542, #03684, #04560, #24020, AND #25759, TO FACILITATE THEIR DONATION TO THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.

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

Vice Mayor Buckner noted the reason for doing this was the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority sees a need, and by the City releasing these liens, it will allow the DRHA to get these properties into the hands of developers, to turn them into tax producing properties for the City. Council Member Campbell asked if these had liens for unpaid taxes, and Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson stated these lots were currently owned by an elderly person who lives in Washington, D.C., who really does not have any other assets. Four out of the five properties have had demolitions on houses that were on the lots, as well as grass cuttings and trash pick up. The property owner has agreed to donate the properties to the DRHA, and Council can vote to release the liens on the properties. Several people have already expressed interest in two of the properties.

February 4, 2025

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

VOTE: 7-0-2
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)
ABSTAIN: Hood and Jones (2)

I, Bryant Hood, do hereby state that I have a conflict of interest regarding the Consideration of a Resolution Considering the Release of City Held Liens on Five Properties to Facilitate their Donation to the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, listed on the agenda under New Business Item D. Therefore, pursuant to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-3112, I must abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Witness my signature this 4th day of February, 2025.

s/Bryant Hood

I, Alonzo L. Jones, do hereby state that I have a conflict of interest regarding the Consideration of a Resolution Considering the Release of City Held Liens on Five Properties to Facilitate their Donation to the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, listed on the agenda under New Business Item D. Therefore, pursuant to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-3112, I must abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Witness my signature this 4th day of February, 2025.

s/Alonzo L. Jones

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION GRANTING AN EASEMENT TO LUMOS NETWORKS FOR INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CABLE FIBER

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02.09

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO CONVEY AN EASEMENT ACROSS PARCEL #76311 ON SOUTH BOSTON ROAD TO ALLOW FOR THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CABLE FIBER.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Buckner 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 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S ACCEPTANCE OF REAL PROPERTY FROM THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

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

February 4, 2025

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02.10

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF REAL PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS PARCEL #05002 LOCATED ON LOCUST LANE AND PARCEL #56948 LOCATED ON BISHOP AVENUE FROM THE DANVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY TO FACILITATE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.

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

VOTE: 7-0-2
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)
ABSTAIN: Hood and Jones (2)

I, Bryant Hood, do hereby state that I have a conflict of interest regarding the Consideration of a Resolution Considering Approving and Authorizing the City's Acceptance of Real Property from the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, listed on the Agenda as New Business Item F. Therefore, pursuant to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-3112, I must abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Witness my signature this 4th day of February, 2025.

s/Bryant Hood

I, Alonzo L. Jones, do hereby state that I have a conflict of interest regarding the Consideration of a Resolution Considering Approving and Authorizing the City's Acceptance of Real Property from the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority, listed on the Agenda as New Business Item F. Therefore, pursuant to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-3112, I must abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Witness my signature this 4th day of February, 2025.

s/Alonzo L. Jones

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION PETITIONING VDOT TO TRANSFER THREE PARCELS TO THE CITY

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02.11

A RESOLUTION PETITIONING THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD TO TRANSFER CERTAIN SURPLUS REAL PROPERTY TO THE CITY OF DANVILLE.

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

Council Member Whittle asked for clarification and Mr. Dodson explained when VDOT takes land to do infrastructure improvements, sometimes they have leftover land. There was a process for petitioning and the goal was to transfer the property back to the City and eventually get it on the tax rolls. One of the properties was part of the parking lot next to the Gingerbread House, near

February 4, 2025

where the bridge improvements were done. One was on Ida Street where some power lines from Dominion used to run through there and the third one was off Franklin Turnpike. None of these properties were taxable at the moment, but if they were transferred back to City, they can do something with them.

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)

CONSIDERATION OF DESIGNATING REVITALIZATION AREAS IN THE CITY OF DANVILLE

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02.12

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING U.S. CENSUS TRACTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9,10, 11, 12, 13.01, 13.02, AND 14 AS REVITALIZATION AREAS.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Buckner.

Council Member Whittle asked for clarification and Division Director of Housing Susan McCulloch explained the revitalization areas help those developers that were trying to apply for Virginia Housing funds, do so. If the properties were not in qualified census tracts, then Virginia Housing asks that the locality establish revitalization areas. This will help several active projects receive funding; it would be used for larger projects, either adaptive reuse, new construction, or mixed use.

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)

CONSIDERATION OF A MORAL OBLIGATION TO THE VIRGINIA SMALL BUSINESS FINANCE AUTHORITY

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02.13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA APPROVING SUPPORT AGREEMENT.

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

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

February 4, 2025

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Petrina Carter who spoke to Council regarding the poverty rate in the City.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield expressed his condolences on the passing of Council Member Campbell's mother.

Council Member Mayo expressed condolences to the Campbell family. Mr. Mayo noted he had the opportunity to speak to the committee in Richmond about the City's Charter, along with the City Attorney, Assistant City Attorney and Mary Franklin. It was a great opportunity to speak on behalf of Danville.

Council Member Miller gave a shout out to Kim Norris who was a teacher of the year in North Carolina last year; the fifty teachers of the year were invited by the NCAA to the National Championship game. Dr. Miller noted the Salvation Army does an amazing job offering a variety of programs and assistance for individuals, and encouraged citizens to go and get their flu shots.

Council Member Vogler expressed condolences to the Campbell family and noted his concern for utility rate increases; he will not be voting for any rate increases. Mr. Vogler stated baseball season was right around the corner and he will be available at the middle schools this Friday afternoon to speak to any students interested. Mr. Vogler stated that Dr. Miller has put in paperwork to run for the House of Delegates; good luck to all of those running this year.

Council Member Whittle expressed his condolences to the Campbell family.

Vice Mayor Buckner expressed condolences to the Campbell family, and invited everyone out to Luck's Boxing Gym (372 N Main Street) this Saturday at 2:00 pm, first bell at 2:30 pm, for a fundraiser to raise money for children who want to come to the gym, but the families cannot afford equipment. There will be a \$10 donation for spectators, but citizens can give whatever they want.

Council Member Campbell thanked everyone for the love shown to him and the Campbell family during their time of grief, and thanked the City Manager for the report regarding crime rates. Rev Campbell noted he still feels like there was more that can be done to reduce crime. The utility situation was very concerning, he looked forward to future discussions, and was not in favor of a utility increase.

Council Member Hood expressed his condolences to the Campbell family, and gave a shout out to Reverend Ferrell at the warming center for all that he does, and to Ms. Carter for her diligence and commitment to the community. Mr. Hood thanked the City Manager for providing the disparity information, and noted the lower euthanasia rates at the shelter. Mr. Hood explained how minorities and small businesses can contact the City or go on the website to access information on how to bid on jobs.

February 4, 2025

Mayor Jones thanked Reverend Ferrell for the work that he, his family, and church have been doing to feed and house the individuals in the community who have needed help, and stated Council Member Campbell's comments made at his mother's homecoming were beautiful as was the ceremony at Bible Way. Mayor Jones noted that young people at Bible Way were going out into the community and mentoring other young people.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK