

April 15, 2025

The Second Regular April meeting of the Danville City Council was held on April 15, 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: James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry P. Mayo, Dr. Gary P. Miller, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Absent: Sherman M. Saunders (1). *Mr. Whittle entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.*

Staff Members present were: Deputy City Manager Earl B. Reynolds, Jr., City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield Jr., and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi. City Manager Ken Larking was absent.

Mayor Jones presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Dr. Gary P. Miller 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 April 8, 2025. 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 March 18, 2025.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Grant Funds from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development.

An Ordinance Entitled Ordinance No. 2025-04.01, An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Projects to be or being Undertaken to Improve the Danville Community Financed with Community Development Block Grant, Home Investment Partnership Funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Estimated Program Income for a Total Appropriation of \$1,186,687.

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

Council Member Whittle asked for further clarification on the amount of money for salaries and Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins stated this related to funding received from HUD, appropriating the money from them. Some of the funding goes towards positions and salaries for programs in Community Development. Deputy City Manager Earl Reynolds explained that HUD funds primarily support the Housing Division including inspections, and staff and does provide for grants to some of the local non-profits.

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

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

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NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF THE GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS AS OF MARCH 31, 2025.

Chief Financial Officer Micheal Adkins gave a brief overview of the General Fund financials as of March 31, 2025, which was 75% of the fiscal year complete. Revenues have accumulated at \$107.5M or 65% of budget. The reason they were not at 75% of budget was because there were two revenue streams that were received in arrears. The largest item which was not received equally throughout the year was property taxes. Real Estate and Personal Property taxes for the upcoming billing cycle will be mailed at the beginning of next month. Customers will see a decrease in personal property taxes, unless they had a change in vehicles, as Council lowered that tax rate from \$3.60 to \$3.45 per hundred; that went into effect January 1, 2025. This billing will be the first billing cycle with that new rate. Sales tax received at this point was at \$10.5M or 81% of budget, running slightly ahead; meals tax was at \$9.6M or 79% of budget, lodging tax was at \$2.6M or 75% of budget and on target for the fiscal year. They have just completed the month of March which was when most business licenses were issued and have received 98% or \$7.5M. Some of the larger entities choose to pay quarterly, so there will be additional funds coming in through the remaining months of this fiscal year. Mr. Adkins noted he does expect to exceed the budget for business licenses by \$150,000 to \$200,000 for this year. The end of March marked about 50 additional business licenses compared to last March. Federal and local revenues have been coming in on time and there were no issues or concerns there.

On the Expenditure side, they were currently at 76% of the budget expended. Departmental spending was at 68% at the end of March, trailing budget; last year at this time they were at 69%. The reason they were at 76% of budget was because several items have been completely expended including transfers for capital projects; they have transferred all the money marked for capital projects out of the General Fund and into the Capital Projects Fund. Nondepartmental spending, including debt service, has been 100% expended; debt service payments were made in September and March each year. Group health insurance was still trending under budget at 65%. Mr. Adkins, noted as a reminder, the City ended the last fiscal year with \$51M in unassigned fund balance. Some of that was appropriated through this year for the purchase of land for residential development and Dan River Falls. With the new budget coming in, the new minimum will be around \$46M and he does anticipate with some revenue coming in over budget and some expenditures coming in under budget, they should be able to add a buffer to that, and easily meet the minimum for next year.

CONSIDERATION OF A MORAL OBLIGATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DANVILLE AND THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04.02

RESOLUTION APPROVING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, IN DISCHARGING ITS GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES UNDER VIRGINIA LAW, INCLUDING AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A SUPPORT AGREEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH A LOAN TO BE OBTAINED BY SUCH AUTHORITY TO FUND CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF A PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO REGION AND REVITALIZATION COMMISSION FOR THE MOUNT CROSS ROAD BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04.03

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO REGION AND REVITALIZATION COMMISSION (TRRC) PERFORMANCE AGREEMENTS FOR THE MOUNT CROSS ROAD BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING THE VIRGINIA COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY AGREEMENT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04.04

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AND THE VIRGINIA PACE AUTHORITY.

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

Council Member Whittle asked for more information on this item and Assistant Director of Economic Development Kelvin Perry explained the CPACE program was already in place. Developers can use this to help mitigate any types of environmental concerns in which they can get gap funding for. The City offers this as a service, but it was managed by VA CPACE.

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

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

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CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER TO PARTICIPATE IN A SMART THERMOSTAT PROGRAM

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04.05

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. (AMP) FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY ENERGY SAVINGS SMART THERMOSTAT PROGRAM.

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

Council Member Vogler asked Director of Utilities Jason Grey to share with citizens what this program was and how they can get involved. Mr. Grey explained the program, working through customer-owned smart thermostats such as Nest and Honeywell, would allow the City to work with a third party to include residential customers in a peak shaving program. This was a benefit to the end customer who owned the thermostat as well as to the system. The customer will receive a \$55 rebate and be entered into a \$250 raffle with whoever participated that year. It was a good incentive for citizens who have smart thermostats which were great to manage their energy consumption; it was something the City had been looking forward to doing for quite a while.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTING THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL SAFETY ACTION PLAN

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04.06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE ADOPTING THE SAFE STREETS FOR ALL SAFETY ACTION PLAN.

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

Council Member Vogler stated he was part of the working group on this; they received a lot of great feedback from citizens which was important because no one was going to know the needs of a neighborhood or corridor than the people who were there everyday and experiencing it. That feedback was vital to crafting this plan and things that will hopefully be implemented in the years ahead. Citizens can google Safe Streets 4 All Danville and find out the information.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,

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Miller, Vogler, and Whittle (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Saunders (1)

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR A GRANT AND LOAN FROM THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO REGION AND REVITALIZATION COMMISSION.

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and **second** by Council Member Mayo, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04.02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A VIRGINIA TOBACCO REGION AND REVITALIZATION COMMISSION \$750,000 GRANT AND \$750,000 LOAN TO ASSIST WITH THE CITY'S MOUNT CROSS ROAD BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS PROGRAM.

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Miller and **second** by Council Member Mayo, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04.03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUES FROM THE CASINO GAMING TAXES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO FUND A ONE-YEAR UTILITY CUSTOMER CREDIT

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Vogler and **second** by Vice Mayor Buckner an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04.04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO FUND A ONE-YEAR UTILITY CUSTOMER CREDIT USING EXCESS CASINO GAMING TAXES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400,000 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

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**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE TO FUND THE CITY RESIDENTIAL HVAC/INSULATION PROJECT**

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Campbell and **second** by Vice Mayor Buckner, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04.05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUES FROM CASINO GAMING TAXES TO FUND A CITY RESIDENTIAL HVAC/INSULATION PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Council Member Vogler wished everyone a fantastic Easter and Easter weekend with their families and friends.

Council Member Whittle noted the Chamber had a fantastic event this morning with Microporous who will be at the Megasite; it was quite informative.

Vice Mayor Buckner noted the City lost one of their largest supporters with the passing of Linwood Duncan and commended the work he did throughout his lifetime. Mr. Buckner noted everyone was invited to the Old West Porchfest on April 26th from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm with food, art, and music along Chestnut Street. This event was free to attend and encouraged citizens to come out and support the Old West End.

Council Member Campbell spoke about his concern with the government beginning to slash incentives and some being faced with a crisis; some was money that in the past would be used to go to food banks. Now the food banks were basically empty; he does not have the solution and has spoken with several pastors if there was some kind of way they could unify efforts. Danville was a great city, it was compassionate with a good quality of life, but wished they could look at this more closely and come up with some type of solution.

Council Member Hood spoke about the Chamber's annual meeting, the theme was a Year of Growth, Thrive in '25, it was a great event with Microporous. Mr. Hood noted there were a lot of resources out there the public needs to be aware of how to access; there were homeless and feeding programs out there. The West Piedmont Housing Coalition had a meeting today and they advocate for safe, quality, and affordable housing for those in need. Mr. Hood noted My Brother's Crossing's pilot project will be providing backpacks for those who were shelter challenged.

Council Member Mayo noted his agreement with Rev Campbell on what was happening with food shortages and how they can come together to help the citizens who were in need. Mr. Mayo asked citizens to keep everyone who has lost someone in prayer and sending out a special prayer to those families mentioned tonight. Mr. Mayo noted he attended the second class of graduates from the IDDU program through the Police Department, and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

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Council Member Miller noted he recently read an article that said 25%-30% of the food in this country was thrown away; so much food was wasted. Dr. Miller congratulated the Danville Utilities Department; the American Public Power Association Engineering and Operation awarded the City Platinum Status for System Reliability Safety Workforce Development and system improvement. Dr. Miller noted he thought today was the best Chamber meeting that he went too; the panel was outstanding.

Mayor Jones recognized Virginia Organizing and thanked them for the work they do in the community, and thanked Dr. Miller for his prayers for the community and for those who are dealing with different difficult issues. Mayor Jones noted he visited several churches over the weekend and thanked those churches for the warm welcomes they received and wished everyone a wonderful Easter.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK