

October 16, 2018

The Second Regular October meeting of the Danville City Council was held on October 16, 2018, 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., Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, Fred O. Shanks, III, Vice Mayor J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Adam J. Tomer was absent (1).

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.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Invocation was given by Council Member Fred O. Shanks, III; the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed.

Mayor Jones presided.

Mayor Jones asked the City Manager to discuss what has been going on in the community. City Manager Ken Larking explained late Thursday afternoon, staff knew a storm was coming, but didn't know it was going to be as impactful as it was. At approximately four o'clock, it hit the City and became apparent to many of staff it was going to be a lot worse than expected. The City was under a tornado watch, there was a lot of rain, water could be seen rising not only at City Hall, but other areas as well. Mr. Larking stated the employees got into action as quickly as they could to respond to the immediate emergency. Police and Fire responded to multiple calls, the E-911 Center was inundated with calls related to wind, trees down, flooding, and people trapped in cars. There were so many calls coming in, it overloaded the City's Verizon system, and tripped over to the County. Mr. Larking noted he cannot commend staff enough for the work they did in the heat of the moment. The City had extra personnel called in from all their emergency services; they were out on the roads, trying to serve the public as best they could. As things calmed down, and people started assessing the damage, the City noticed there were a lot of roads that were impassable because of trees or washed out completely. The City worked as quickly as it could to identify those places, and block them off so people wouldn't put themselves in further danger. Mr. Larking stated he could not say enough about how proud he was of the City employees during that time. From every department, whatever they could do to pitch in to make a difference, they were there and ready to do it; they are true public servants. As the events unfolded and the weather started getting nicer, the City continued to have roads blocked, trees on the ground, and places in the community that people couldn't get out of unless they went through the woods, over creeks and into other people's yards. The City was doing the best they could to deal with that. They received help from the National Guard, their State partners were willing to help, a lot of people came in asking if the City needed anything and the City was glad to have it. By Friday, there were 20,000 power outages, it got down to about 10,000 by Friday and continued to go down through the weekend. Right now, the City has 99% of customers restored; that being said, it means there are five hundred customers that don't have power and haven't had power since Thursday. If a citizen has power and you see your neighbor doesn't have power, please check in on them. Mr. Larking noted Public Works and Power and Light people worked sixteen hour days since the beginning; he was proud of his employees, every single one of them. Mr. Larking noted he was also proud of the City Council Members who have been the front line in a lot of ways for the constituents; they get all the calls, they have been handling them, letting staff know what they need to know, so they can go out and serve customers the best way they can. Mr. Larking noted as a team, they have done a great job. There will be things that the

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City can improve, they will take note of those things and will make improvements for the next event. This was a once in a lifetime occurrence for the community and the City is going to run into some things they never experienced before. Mr. Larking thanked cities from North Carolina, Harrisonburg, Salem, VA, Tarboro, NC, Wilson, NC, and Rocky Mount, NC; all those communities lent Danville its help so they could get power restored as quickly as possible. They are continuing to do that, all working sixteen hour shifts. Mr. Larking noted again how proud he is of his employees. Mayor Jones noted the City Manager and Deputy City Manager were on the forefront of this situation and thanked them.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Julie Brown from the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, who noted on behalf of the Institute and the Dan River Region Collaborative, she wanted to present to the City, the City of Danville's Work Ready Community Award.

Mayor Jones recognized Tommy Bennett who spoke on behalf of Mount Carmel Baptist Church to bring to the attention of citizens, the loss of the church.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Buckner **moved** for approval of the Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on September 4, 2018. Draft copies had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Budget Amendment – Amending the FY 2019 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Food Service Operations at W.W. Moore Jr., Detention Home in the Amount of \$62,867

An Ordinance entitled Ordinance No. 2018-10.01, presented for its First Reading on October 4, 2018, Amending the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Federal Grant in the Amount of Approximately \$62,867 to Aid the Food Service Operations at W. W. Moore, Jr. Detention Home and Appropriating Same.

Budget Amendment – Amending the FY 2019 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Grant to Provide for Electronic Monitoring and Outreach Detention Programs and Contracted Pro-Social Skills Group at W.W. Moore, Jr., Detention Home.

An Ordinance Entitled Ordinance No. 2018-10.02, presented for its First Reading on October 4, 2018, Amending the Fiscal Year 2019 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 and Contracted Pro-Social Skills Group for the City of Danville at the W. W. Moore Jr. Detention Home and Appropriating Same

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

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

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NEW BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF A FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH COMCAST

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Franchise Agreement with Comcast. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on October 9, 2018. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-10.03

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A NEGOTIATED CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH COMCAST OF CONNECTICUT-GEORGIA-MASSACHUSETTS-NEW HAMPSHIRE-NEW YORK-NORTH CAROLINA-VIRGINIA-VERMONT, LLC.

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

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

APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH COMCAST FOR EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENT ACCESS CHANNELS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-10.06

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH COMCAST OF CONNECTICUT-GEORGIA-MASSACHUSETTS- NEW HAMPSHIRE- NEW YORK-NORTH CAROLINA-VIRGINIA-VERMONT, LLC.

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

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

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING FREE BUS SERVICE IN THE CITY OF DANVILLE ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-10.07

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AUTHORIZING THE DANVILLE TRANSIT SYSTEM TO OFFER FREE BUS SERVICE ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2018.

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

Council Member Shanks noted he initially was not in support of the Motion, however, the Director of Transportation has assured Council the cost would be minimal, less than \$1,000. It will be an opportunity for a few citizens to get to the voting precinct without costing the City a substantial amount of money. Council has been assured that no political issues will be taken up on the route. Council Member Miller noted he was very much in favor of this, there are low turnouts during midterms and this will help. Council Member Campbell noted he served on the Transportation Advisory Committee, it was a unanimous decision of the Board members to pass this and send it to Council. Vice Mayor Vogler noted he strongly supported this. Council had a good discussion in work session, learned information on the logistics of how it would work and the cost will be about \$600. It is a great opportunity to make it a little easier for citizens to have access to their polling location.

Council Member Saunders noted his support and wanted to make sure the elderly and disabled will be accommodated, in that the registrar can have staff come to the bus for people to vote. He wants to make sure the bus can wait until people come out of the precinct with the information for the person to vote. Director of Transportation Marc Adelman stated they don't wait for people to leave the location; it would be inconsistent with their current policy with the reservation based operations. It would add a lot of time which would reduce the opportunity to transport other people. Mr. Saunders stated he was concerned the elderly and disabled may not take advantage of this because of scheduling. Mayor Jones asked Mr. Adelman, if this was approved tonight, to get information out to those on reserve a ride, that the City is unable to wait so they can find other alternatives. Mr. Adelman noted on the fixed route service, all the buses in the fleet are equipped with lifts so persons with disabilities can be transported. Mr. Adelman noted he thinks it will be challenging and constrain their ability to transport as many people as they possibly can, if they wait for multiple people. Mr. Saunders noted he supports the idea, but will support the motion when the elderly and disabled can be accommodated. Mr. Shanks noted he takes his parents to vote and it takes about 20 to 25 minutes; that is too long for a fixed route or reserve a ride to wait. Mr. Adelman noted on reserve a ride, the person can schedule the service to come back as soon as possible; the service is scheduled with software and they are trying to schedule service for hundreds of people in one day.

Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Adelman and his staff, for all they have done during the hurricane and for what he has done to provide the free bus service. Mr. Adelman stated he was very proud of the transit drivers, there were no accidents, they were driving during the storm and at four o'clock the next morning; they did a great job.

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

VOTE:	7-1-1
AYE:	Buckner, Campbell, Jones, Miller, Shanks, Vogler and Whittle (7)
NAY:	Saunders (1)
ABSENT:	Tomer (1)

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APPROVAL OF THE PERFORMANCE CONTRACT WITH DANVILLE-PITTSYLVANIA COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-10.08

APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 AND THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 PERFORMANCE CONTRACT FOR DANVILLE-PITTSYLVANIA COMMUNITY SERVICES

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

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

CREATION OF THE STAUNTON RIVER RIFA AND APPROVAL OF A COST AND REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT FOR THE STAUNTON RIVER RIFA

Creating the Staunton River RIFA and Adding Sections 2-410 through 2-419 to Chapter 2 of the Danville City Code.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-10.04

TO CREATE THE STAUNTON RIVER REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AUTHORITY AND TO ADD ARTICLE XX, ENTITLED "STAUNTON RIVER REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AUTHORITY", SECTIONS 2-410 THROUGH 2-419 TO CHAPTER 2, ENTITLED "ADMINISTRATION" TO THE CODE OF CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED.

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

Council Member Shanks noted he was proud of the City considering this item with Pittsylvania County and the other localities; today was a perfect example of cooperation between different localities. BGF made their announcement at the Cyber Park to bring sixty five jobs to the region with average salaries of \$75,000. The more the localities work together for things like inland ports or large industries in that region, the better they all are. Council Member Saunders noted his agreement with Mr. Shanks, today was another example of the progress the City is making; they are doing very well in partnership with Pittsylvania County. Mr. Saunders noted he very proud of the City and the region, and reminded citizens, the jobs are coming in. Sixty-five jobs, \$75,000 a year and Kyocera adding jobs at \$50,000 a year. Mr. Saunders encouraged young people to stay in school, get the skills and start making these \$50,000 or \$75,000 a year jobs.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1

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AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Jones, Miller, Saunders,
Shanks, Vogler and Whittle (8)
NAY: None
ABSENT: Tomer (1)

Approving and Authorizing the Form of the Staunton River RIFA Revenue Sharing Agreement.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-10.09

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE FORM OF THE STAUNTON RIVER COST AND REVENUE SHARING AGREEMENT AMONG THE COUNTY OF PITTSYLVANIA, VIRGINIA, THE TOWN OF HURT, VIRGINIA, THE TOWN OF ALTAVISTA, VIRGINIA, AND THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

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

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

DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO FLOOD AND WIND CONDITIONS AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE MICHAEL WITHIN THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ON OCTOBER 11, 2018

City Manager Ken Larking explained, *the City continues to be under a local state of emergency. While we have made a lot of progress in restoring our community back to some sense of normalcy, there are many customers, electric customers, who are still without power. In addition, there are several neighborhood roads that have compromising conditions including washouts and fallen trees. We feel confident that we've identified all those areas and put up safety precautions to alert the public. We continue to urge the public to be safe when venturing out. However, the majority of the City is safe for people to travel and resume normal activity. The purpose of keeping the State of Emergency in place is because we have several infrastructure issues that need to be corrected as soon as possible – including ones that may be compromised if even a moderate rain event occurs. The state of emergency allows the City to expedite purchasing of materials and hiring of contractors to get these repairs finished much sooner. For that reason, the state of emergency will remain in effect until Friday, October 26, at 5 p.m. We are a resilient community. I am proud of my co-workers for their tireless effort in getting Danville back up and running. I am also heartened by the stories of neighbors assisting neighbors and the patience many have shown as our dedicated employees and partners work to serve the public.*

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-10.10

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DECLARING A LOCAL EMERGENCY DUE TO FLOOD AND WIND CONDITIONS AS A RESULT OF HURRICANE MICHAEL WITHIN THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ON OCTOBER 11, 2018.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted he appreciated the opportunity earlier to show his appreciation of his fellow co-workers. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted he wanted to thank everyone who helped clear the roads and restore the power. Mr. Whitfield reminded Council and citizens that the next Council meeting will be moved from Tuesday, November 6, 2018 to Thursday, November 8, 2018 due to Election Day.

ROLL CALL

Council Member Buckner stated he was proud of the City employees, Police, Fire, Life Saving Crews and all those that came from out of town to help. He has seen neighbors helping neighbors, and there are many stories of people helping each other. It was a terrible thing the City had to experience but it was great to see people coming together to help others. Mr. Buckner noted the City lost a heck of man last week, Dr. Ed Polhamus passed away; he touched so many lives, and to his family, their hearts go out to them.

Council Member Campbell noted his agreement with what has been stated, Council Members have had many calls from citizens and commended all of Public Works, Public Safety and E-911. This was the worst catastrophe Danville has experienced, but the City came and worked together; there is still a long way to go, but wanted to praise everyone who helped out. To those who do not have power, it is coming. Mr. Campbell noted Dr. Polhamus loved the school system, served for many years and his prayers go out to his family; he was a good man.

Council Member Miller stated the City lost some people this week, three people died during the storm, and the City lost Greta Jones, the goddaughter of Council Member Saunders. Dr. Miller noted years ago, Dr. Ed Polhamus encouraged his daughter to play little league baseball and he appreciated what Dr. Polhamus did for her and his other children. He served on the School Board, was Chairman, and always had something good to say about education, and you could tell education and children were his primary interest; a great man was lost. Last Thursday, Mark Herring came to Danville for the Triad event about elder abuse. It was an important step for the community to become part of this effort. Dr. Miller noted he was proud of the resilience of the Danville citizens, and people helping each other during the storm.

Council Member Saunders noted to all the City employees and volunteers, they are doing a great job. There are many stories of people helping each other out, City employees going over and above what they are required to do; a special thanks to the City employees. Mr. Saunders encouraged citizens to pray for the members of the Mount Carmel Church community. Mayor Jones was everywhere, checking on people, trying to help out and thanked

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him for his work. Mr. Saunders stated he hopes Council can meet or have a special session or time at a meeting to critique this event, what the City learned, what it did right and what can be improved upon. Mr. Saunders noted his prayers for the family of Ed Polhamus, he was literally a gentleman and a scholar. He met him in 1979 when his wife started working at DCC. He invited him and his wife to his home for dinner to make them comfortable with the DCC community; he was a great person.

Council Member Shanks noted the City had eight storms this summer that were not normal, and that was disturbing; this one was a devastation he has not seen before in a short period of time. The Dan River had two peaks which is unusual. The first one was Friday morning at major flood stage because of rain in the area, the other peak was two or three days later. The response by City employees, Public Works, Public Safety and Utilities has been tremendous, working sixteen hour days and continuing to work. The City had help from out of town, was thankful for all employees and was proud of how the City handled the event. Mr. Shanks noted how thankful he was for all City employees, those in particular working the double shifts, and how proud he was of Mr. Larking, Jason Grey, Ric Drazenovich, Chief Booth and all the people that work in those departments. Mr. Shanks stated the City has 99% of citizens back on power, a lot of citizens have gone four or five days without power and Council appreciates their patience and understands their concerns. Last week Kyocera moved into their new building, and today there was an announcement of somebody else who will occupy that space at the Institute; things are looking good for the community. Mr. Shanks noted Dr. Ed Polhamus was a member of his church, he was a mathematician, statistician, a tremendous person, and dedicated church member. As a school board member, he worked on policy manuals that are the best manuals the system has ever had. Dr. Polhamus served the community, and he wanted to say thank you to him and his family, and his prayers are with the family.

Vice Mayor Vogler noted he also wanted to send his thoughts and prayers to the family of Ed Polhamus. He has known him for a number of years, going back to when Dr. Polhamus and his grandfather worked together at DCC, and some years after that when he played baseball at DCC, and the last several years working together with the City Council and School Board. He would see him at GW football games and other sporting events; he was huge advocate for education and this region. He will be missed. Mr. Vogler also noted his condolences to the families of the three drowning victims in the City. Many people are without power, but it could have been much worse. As Council Member Shanks mentioned, the City has had some unusual storms this year; this one was the worse, it came very fast and hard and was much worse than anyone anticipated. What they saw after the storm by Utility workers, Public Safety, Public Works, other City staff and citizens was incredible. Mr. Vogler noted neighbors helped each other and it speaks to who we are as Danvillians, we saw the best of the citizens in the community during the last several days. Danville is a great City, it is a strong City, it is a resilient City. He is proud of the City, the citizens, the City Manager and the Mayor and everyone who did everything they could these last several days. Mr. Vogler thanked Arnold Hendrix for his updates; the citizens appreciated them as well.

Council Member Whittle noted this has been frightening, depressing and people have lost their lives. Mr. Whittle encouraged citizens to check on their neighbors, stated lines are still down and to watch the roads. To the City staff, Public Works, Utilities, first responders, they have done a remarkable job; the City Manager and the Mayor have done a great job as well. When Mr. Whittle first ran for Council, he did not know a lot about the school board, Ed Polhamus would spend time talking to him about the school system; he had many good hours with him and enjoyed sharing what he was trying to do, with him.

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Mayor Jones noted he wanted to give City staff a standing ovation. (*Council stood and gave the City employees a standing ovation.*) Mayor Jones stated he appreciated all of Council's comments and thanked each Council Member for everything they have shared. Mayor Jones thanked the Tunstall students for being here, and noted BGF Industries will be paying \$75,000 starting salaries, and much more to come. To Tommy Bennett, he was at Mount Carmel and if people want to help them, they are meeting at Fisher Watkins Funeral Home every Sunday.

Mayor Jones stated, *last week, the City of Danville was hit with the devastation of strong winds and heavy flooding as a result of Hurricane Michael. This City Council voted him as Mayor on July 1st, a couple months ago. At that time, he had no idea what the City would experience in July and October. From July to October to where we currently are at now, as you have heard from many Council Members, we have had tropical storms, Florence, Michael and so many other things. Although many of our citizens were without power for days, and unfortunately, we continue to have citizens without power as I speak. We have been witnessing widespread compassion and heroism from neighbors helping neighbors. When Averett University lost their power, the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research provided meals for all the football players. When the street was washed out on Third Avenue West, there was no way in and no way out, the persons on the other side of Third Avenue West could not get in and could not get out. You heard the City Manager talk about employees and rescue workers walking between houses to get into Third Avenue West. The City Manager was very modest, I could not get out, and the City Manager came to meet me on Middleton Court and I had to walk through the bushes to meet the City Manager. The neighbors and the National Guard, the firefighters, went door to door making safety checks on residents in the community. Another incident, nineteen year old Christian Hankins carried a disabled man on his back through a flooded Lockett Drive all the way to his home to ensure he was safe. I have asked the City Manager today that going forward, we want to hear all of these acts of heroism. You heard Dr. Miller talk about what a great community this is. I can't wait for you all to read and see all of the wonderful acts that took place in this community. Someone reached out to me and their concern was, Mr. Mayor, why were you not on the news. I was everywhere, I was about the people and I was there for the people. When the news called me, I was there for them too. It is about our people. These are merely a few examples of Danville standing strong and partnering with one another for the greater good. School Board Member Ty'quan Graves is here and people call him wondering, what has been going on with Danville Public Schools. George Washington High School had eight feet of water in the tunnel. If by chance the power would have come on at George Washington High School, all of the electric, everything was under water. Imagine what would have happened at our high school if the power came on. We contacted the City workers and Jason Grey and his people met us at George Washington High School immediately and they made sure all those phases were off in case that power decided to come on. Many members of Danville Public Schools operations team having been working day in and day out, trying to get our schools safe so when our people return back to school, they will be safe. These are people in our community working hard to get things ready. I cannot express enough the gratitude for our City employees for working tirelessly and helping our community recover. The City Manager and Deputy City Manager were encouraging me and picking me up, and I'm trying to encourage them and they were encouraging me. You guys are amazing. In restoring our power, we have had partners come in from surrounding cities in Virginia and North Carolina, from Pike, Mount Airy, Harrisonburg, Salem and Martinsville and we will not forget your dedication. Lastly, I want to thank you, City Manager, you are going to hear it all the time. We have talked and been communicating, I guarantee, its been every fifteen or thirty minutes per day. We have taken every call, we have taken every comment, we have not shunned anyone and we have talked to everyone we possibly could that got through to us; the same thing with the*

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Deputy City Manager. And to the Council Members, we heard these stories tonight and I sincerely appreciate you all. The Council Members, you hear the stories, they haven't told you everything, that every call that they have received have not been as pleasant as you possibly think. But yet, we handled it, because we love the people in this community, and they respond to every call, every text message. I left the operations post, saw Council Member Campbell in church, I passed by him, he asked, how are things, what do we need to do, what do we do next. Because we care about this community. We thank all the citizens for understanding, we understand your frustration, and we thank you for being as calm as you possibly can. And I close with this, Council Member Saunders, you may not remember, but I'm sitting in this partly because of you, and it was the same thing with Dr. Polhamus. Years ago, we had an appointed school board, City Council appointed the School Board. Dr. Polhamus, Dr. Huckabee and myself, Helms Dobbins, we came before City Council, across the hall, and they drilled us on why we wanted to serve on the School Board. I got a call from Council Member Saunders later on that night and he shared some news. He said, you are being considered for the School Board. I don't know what I was thinking about, but I was later appointed to the School Board. From there, Dr. Polhamus and Dr. Huckabee and myself, we got together and met at the Pizza Hut at Ballou Park. Dr. Polhamus and Dr. Huckabee, we all shared our vision for our City, our School System and what our strengths were. As Council Member Shanks stated, Dr. Polhamus' strength was policies and numbers, Dr. Huckabee had something else and mine was the young people. We never crossed that line; we had a magnificent School Board, because we stayed in our lane. Everything you that you heard about Dr. Polhamus, there is so much more to it. When Mr. Shanks talked about policies, Dr. Polhamus would sit there all day because he loved it so much. To the family of Dr. Polhamus, he will surely be missed. When they went from an appointed School Board to the elected School Board, we had to put three names in the hat. Dr. Polhamus, Dr. Huckabee and Alonzo Jones; and whose name was pulled out of the hat to run for the next school board, me. So, Council Member Saunders, I don't know if I want to thank you or not. When Ty'quan came to me and asked me, give me some pointers for going on the School Board, one of the pointers I gave him, go find Dr. Polhamus and he did. He called him "Poppa P", he was a wise man. I want the citizens to know, I know you have heard a lot from Council tonight, but you needed to hear from Council tonight. When your Council spoke up tonight, we want our citizens to know that we love you, we are behind you, in front of you, beside you and we have been everywhere. And to all the workers in the City, I cannot say enough of how proud we are of them, I saw it for myself and I cannot wait to tell this story.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK