

January 3, 2019

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on January 3, 2019 at 7:57 p.m. in the Conference Room located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. Council Members present were: James B. Buckner, L. G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, Fred O. Shanks, III, Adam J. Tomer, Vice Mayor J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9).

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

Vice Mayor Vogler presided.

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Saunders and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes from the Regular Work Session held on November 8, 2018, Special Joint Work Session held on November 13, 2018 and Regular Work Session held on November 20, 2018 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

PROGRAM UPDATE

City Manager Ken Larking noted there was a packet of information at Council Member's seats regarding the upcoming Legislative Agenda from Virginia First Cities and the Virginia Municipal League. Mr. Larking explained each year VML has a VML day and this year it is on January 24, 2019 in Richmond; it is an opportunity to speak to the legislators. Mr. Campbell questioned if there were any issues that the City would need to follow. Mr. Larking stated he has not seen anything come up that was any different from what was seen in previous years. The one thing that did come up was a report on Annexation that was asked for in 2016, was completed recently and there may be some legislation associated with annexation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Director of Economic Development Telly Tucker thanked Council for their support on the PRA matter. The feedback they received from the PRA group was they had never quite had a reception like that in any of their other locations as far as the Governor being there, the sense of community they felt and the support that was coming from the region. Essel Propak also thanked Council; they were sorry they couldn't hold the actual event they wanted, to announce their expansion, due to the snow. Mr. Tomer questioned on the sale of the building, what profit is the City getting out of that and Mr. Tucker noted none, the City is recovering the amount they owe. The previous tenant paid through March, the sale price was \$6M and the City owes about \$5.9M. The reason why there wasn't more was because when Telvista did their last expansion, they pulled equity out, reinvested it and refinanced it so they could do some of the improvements. The \$6M that was borrowed was from the Bank, and the City did an additional \$1M loan for equipment. The loan the IDA had will be paid off, some of the equipment in the building has to be removed, and they are trying to find some buyers for it.

COMMUNICATION

Mr. Larking thanked Council Members for their support while his wife was having surgery. He felt a lot of support not only from Council but from City staff as well. Mr. Reynolds made sure everything ran smoothly, and he didn't have any doubt that would happen.

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Mr. Buckner asked if there were any updates on positions in the Fire Department. Mr. Larking explained the multi-year financial plan made recommendations to look at staffing levels in the Fire Department. As they look at any changes the City needs to make to the levels of employment anywhere in the City, they will do it through attrition. No decision has been made on any of it yet, but he has implemented a hiring freeze for firefighters until they can get through that decision making process. There have been more vacancies than expected which has put some stress on their ability to adequately staff the department without using as much overtime. He is working with HR and Chief Eagle to come up with a way to hire a certain number of firefighters. They also have some part time and back up that could easily be made full time should a vacancy occur. They are addressing the issue on an administrative level while leaving open the ability and flexibility to make changes to staffing levels that won't create a need to do a layoff.

Mr. Tomer noted using part time firefighters to fill the hole, have they gone through the training that the City has paid for and Mr. Larking noted they have, it creates a pool of hires. Mr. Tomer noted the City is paying people to train and become part time. They go through training and wonder how long they will be part time when there are localities in the general area to go to, already trained at the City's expense. Mr. Larking noted that is something they will have to look at. Mr. Tomer stated he heard the City had eleven go through training and were told the City would only keep two. Mr. Tomer noted he has issues with that, the City is paying to train these people and then may be sending them to other places and wasting money. Mr. Larking stated he would look at that from that perspective, but he is not sure that information is accurate. Mr. Shanks questioned if the process of determining the next step with regard to staffing isn't more than two months away and Mr. Larking stated it shouldn't be. Staff is hoping to get it done in two or three months maximum; they are still working on the fine details on the scope of work on that.

The City Clerk reminded Council their statements of Statements of Economic Interest were on their desk and are due back by February 1, 2019.

Mr. Saunders noted with respect to Reverend Bridgeforth's comments on potholes, he does not know what the City can do, but potholes are a problem and he is getting a lot of complaints. Mr. Larking explained the Director of Public Works is going to work on a public information piece with River City TV to inform the public on potholes and how to report them. As far as the City's liability, unless the City is negligent in their duty, they are not liable. Until they know that they exist, they don't know to repair them.

Vice Mayor Vogler noted with the VDOT detour, are eighteen wheelers adding stress to City streets, is VDOT aware of this and will this speed up the City's normal schedule on repaving roads because of the increased heavy traffic. Mr. Larking noted he had discussed this with the Director of Public Works, but it is hard to quantify. The City does get state revenue to help pay for the maintenance of streets and that is what they are using to fix potholes and the streets. Mr. Larking noted they can ask VDOT about it.

Mayor Jones thanked the Vice Mayor for filling in for him while he met with Delegate Marshall.

CLOSED MEETING

At 8:20 p.m., Council Member Miller **moved** that this meeting of the City Council of Danville, Virginia be recessed and that Council immediately reconvene in a Closed Meeting for the following purposes: discussion or consideration of the acquisition and/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

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of Virginia, 1950, as amended, more specifically to consider both the acquisition of a specific parcel or parcels of real property as well as the disposition of a specific parcel or parcels of real property; and to consider an Economic Development discussion and update concerning 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 the location of a prospective new business or industry to the area and expansion of an existing business or industry.

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

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

Upon unanimous vote at 8:42 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Council Member Miller **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 Whittle and carried by the following vote:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:44 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/ Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/ Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK