

September 1, 2020

The Regular September meeting of the Danville City Council was held on September 1, 2020, 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, Samuel A. Kushner, Barry P. Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders and J. Lee Vogler, Jr., (8) Madison J.R. Whittle 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

Mayor Jones asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Danville Fireman Greg Thomas, community members Dr. Thomas Sweezer and Pastor Jasper Watkins, and the families dealing with these losses. This was followed by the Invocation given by L.G. "Larry" Campbell, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Vice Mayor Chad Martin from Martinsville.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Police Chief Scott Booth introduced Dr. Roberto and Dr. Rachel Santos from Radford University, noting the Santos' were partners with the Danville Police Department; they wanted to come tonight to recognize the robust partnership they have developed over the last year and a half. They have been instrumental in the crime reduction in Danville. The Santos' helped the City develop a model called Stratified Policing, which they innovated in the early 2000's. This has been a great foundation for the City, starting back in 2019 when they restructured the department, and it has given the City great results. Dr. Roberto Santos noted they have worked with a lot of police departments throughout the United States, and it has been a pleasure to work with Chief Booth and the men and women of the Danville Police Department; the outcome has been phenomenal. They enjoyed the partnership and looked forward to a lasting partnership in the years to come. Dr. Rachel Santos noted they were from Radford University's Center for Police Policy and Research. They wanted to partner with agencies in Southwest Virginia and were lucky to meet to Chief Booth. They were in the middle of the partnership and were starting a new level to look at repeat incidences of domestic violence; that was a yearlong project.

Mayor Jones thanked the Santos' for their partnership. Council Members thanked Chief Booth and the Danville Police Department, and they have the full support of Council. Dr. Roberto Santos noted they have been working with the Chief on Stratified Policing, a comprehensive approach which incorporates community policing, offender focus, and place based police strategies; these were all evidence based strategies that they know work. The current project focuses on repeat domestic violence issues, and trying to minimize the impact of domestic violence using as many partners as they can. Dr. Rachel Santos explained in Radford they have a third grant they are working on, partnering with about thirteen agencies from across the country, including Danville, and they were looking at developing a framework for infusing community policing and engagement into a police department at every level. Dr. Roberto Santos noted they choose certain police departments they believe can contribute to the body of knowledge on this topic; they wanted to partner with Danville, because of the work they were doing. Chief Booth thanked the Mayor and members of Council for their continued support; it was appreciated.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

City Council did not receive any comments through its online portal or phone line prior to the deadline.

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Mayor Jones recognized Shannon Hair, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Development, and Executive Director of the Educational Foundation at Danville Community College, who thanked the City Manager, Ken Larking, and Director of Finance, Michael Adkins, in supporting a request to help the citizens of Danville regarding scholarships at DCC, who have been impacted by COVID. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the DCC Educational Foundation, he would like to thank them. Mr. Hair thanked Council for their time and support for all that was going on in the community.

Mayor Jones recognized Tommy Bennett, President of the Danville Branch of the NAACP who noted that a lot of people come before Council with complaints, he was there to thank the City Council, Mayor, City Manager, Deputy City Manager and the Chief of Police. He was so proud that Danville was moving forward. Mr. Bennett stated they were having an event on September 26th on the field at Westmoreland with a health fair, food giveaways and programs in the City represented. Mr. Bennett thanked Council again for all they were doing.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of the following Consent Agenda items:

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on August 4, 2020. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds of the City of Danville, Virginia

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2020-08.03 Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds of the City of Danville, Virginia, in the Maximum Aggregate Principal Amount of \$16,000,000 to Finance the Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of Various Capital Projects.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR TOYOTA USA GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09.01

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM THE TOYOTA USA GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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

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BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR DMV ALCOHOL GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,222

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09.02

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES HIGHWAY SAFETY SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT – ALCOHOL GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,222 AND APPROPRIATING SAME

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE DMV OCCUPANT PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM - \$5,250

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Campbell and **second** by Council Member Kushner, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09.03

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT – OCCUPANT PROTECTION GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,250 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR DMV SPEED GRANT PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,100

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09.04

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT – SPEED GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$9,100 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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

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BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR CSA FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,780,388

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09.05

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY APPROPRIATING COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT FUNDS AND PROVIDING LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$4,780,388 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION AIRPORT MAINTENANCE FUNDS

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Kushner and **second** by Council Member Saunders, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09.06

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR STATE DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION MAINTENANCE GRANT FUNDS RELATED TO THE MAINTENANCE OF CERTAIN AIRPORT PROPERTIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,208 AND FOR THE LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,552 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$87,760 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR TITLE III-B OLDER AMERICAN ACT GRANT FUNDS FOR SENIOR CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09.07

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING CERTAIN REVENUES TO PROVIDE FOR TITLE III-B GRANT FUNDS AND LOCAL SHARE FOR SENIOR CITIZEN TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME

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

CITY CODE – AMENDING DANVILLE CITY CODE TO ADD THE LOCAL LEGENDS BANNER DISPLAY PROGRAM

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

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ORDINANCE NO. 2020-09.08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 35 ENTITLED "STREETS AND SIDEWALKS" OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, 1986, AS AMENDED BY ADDING A SECTION 35-17.1 ENTITLED "LOCAL LEGENDS BANNER DISPLAY PROGRAM."

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT OF TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION GRANT FUNDS FOR THE SOUTHERN VIRGINIA MULTI-MODAL PARK

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-09.01

AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 VIRGINIA TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION SOUTHSIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

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

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

APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AN INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION GRANT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-09.02

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE DANVILLE OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION FUND AND FOR THE CITY TO FUND THE BALANCE OF THE "RIVER DISTRICT PROJECT."

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Jones, Kushner,
Mayo, Miller, Saunders and Vogler (8)

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NAY: None
ABSENT: Whittle (1)

APPROVING A CASINO RESORT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-09.03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE VIRGINIA FORMALLY APPROVING A CASINO RESORT DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG THE CITY OF DANVILLE, THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, CAESARS VIRGINIA, LLC, AND CAESARS ENTERTAINMENT, INC.

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

VOTE: 7-0-1-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Jones, Kushner,
Mayo, Miller, and Saunders (7)
NAY: None
ABSENT: Whittle (1)
ABSTAIN: Vogler (1)

STATEMENT OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., do hereby state that I have a conflict of interest regarding the consideration of a Resolution formally approving the Casino and Resort Development Agreement by and among the City of Danville, the Industrial Development Authority, Caesars Virginia LLC and Caesars Entertainment, Inc., to be located at 1100 West Main Street listed on the agenda as New Business Agenda Item K. 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 2nd day of September, 2020.

s/J. Lee Vogler, Jr.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted for several weeks, the City had alerted residents who were subject to disconnection due to delinquent balances on their utilities, that the City would be resuming disconnections starting on September 1. He received a call from the Mayor the day before, stating community organizations throughout Danville had been trying to help customers gather the funds necessary to help pay their delinquent balances. They asked the Mayor for more time to collect those requests and work with the City. Based on that, Mr. Larking contacted staff members and asked whether it was possible to delay a few weeks to allow residents to remove those delinquent balances and was told it wouldn't be problem. From the very beginning it has been a huge concern of his and his staff, and City Council, that there were many members of the community who were accumulating large balances; they have worked through a number of ways to mitigate that. Early on, the City set aside a portion of the CARES Act funding to help customers with their delinquent balances, if they qualified, demonstrating that they had a COVID related issue. They have extended that to some of the businesses as well. Community organizations stepping up to help the customers

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was great; any assistance that anyone was willing to provide was a help. Mr. Larking explained the City does have an equal payment plan and the plan has been changed so that people with a past balance could sign up for that. Mr. Larking thanked the employees in the Charles Harris Financial Center and Michael Adkins; the next few weeks will be a lot of work for them. Mr. Larking noted his email was klarking@danvilleva.gov and his number was 799-5100.

Mr. Larking noted at the last meeting, he had been excited because the City had an event where members of the community were going to give their presentation for the All-America City application. Mr. Larking stated he attended the event at the Ballou Park Center to watch the announcement of all the winners. It was great to watch the people who worked hard to get the City named an All-America City. Mr. Larking congratulated all those people who worked on this effort.

Vice Mayor Miller noted attitudes have changed about Danville, no one in Danville had gone out and bragged about their City, so the ceremony at Ballou Park for the All-America City was a great event. Dr. Miller noted Dr. Bill Sweezer passed away last week, he was a great physician and his passing will leave a huge hole in Danville.

Council Member Saunders noted Dr. Sweezer will be missed; he was a member of the Rare Breed Motorcycle Club and to be a member of that club you had to ride to California and back. Mr. Saunders asked that citizens pray for him and his family, and for the Danville firefighter and his family members. Mr. Saunders thanked Tommy Bennett for his remarks this evening; Danville was a great City. Mr. Saunders reminded citizens they have until September 30th to get their Census forms in; each person who does not fill out the Census form costs the City \$2,000. Mr. Saunders thanked the City Manager and staff for all they do.

Council Member Vogler offered his condolences and prayers for Dr. Sweezer and his family, and prayers for Greg Thomas and the Danville Fire Department, they will be missed. Mr. Vogler discussed the Staunton River RIFA that he, Mr. Saunders and Mr. Campbell serve on and the agenda item just passed that related to that; it was a wonderful partnership with Hurt and Pittsylvania County bringing jobs to the region. Danville was now an All-America City, it was a wonderful event to receive the recognition, and it was something they were all proud of.

Council Member Buckner asked citizens to continue to pray for Dr. Sweezer, his friends and family, and also for Greg Thomas, the Danville Firefighter and his family. Mr. Buckner noted Mr. Saunders and Mayor Jones had stated that the state, the nation and the world were watching Danville right now; that has never been truer. Mr. Buckner encouraged everyone to speak well of the City, many people have been working hard to make this City a great place and to continue to move it in the right direction.

Council Member Campbell noted his agreement with Mr. Buckner and encouraged people to speak positively about the City. Mr. Campbell noted they were praying for all those that lost loved ones and their families. Danville was an All-America City, and this Thursday they would be recognizing Sherman Saunders at an event, and it was well deserved.

Council Member Kushner noted he has spoken in the past about the necessity of everyone needing to wear masks in public places and was pleased that more people were wearing masks in stores than were a month ago. There were still citizens that were not wearing masks, and some may not be wearing masks because they were not readily available to them. It would be helpful for those people to know whether and where those masks can be obtained at no cost, and asked the City Manager to get the word out.

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Council Member Mayo noted his agreement with other Council Members to pray for Dr. Sweezer, Greg Thomas and the entire City. The City was going through a situation they have never seen before and everyone was impacted by it, but they will get through it; he was proud of what was going on in Danville. This past Friday, they had a Unity Matters event which was a huge success, held on Grant Street by Bibleway Cathedral, and were looking forward to another one next year. Mr. Mayo noted the All-America City event was a joy to watch and to see everyone celebrate.

City Manager Ken Larking noted citizens can go to the City's website: www.danvilleva.gov and at the top there was a "stay informed" button, citizens can click on that button, put in some information and stay informed on what was going on in the City. Mr. Larking noted they will make sure they put out some information through social media and the public information office to let people know how they can obtain a mask.

Mayor Jones thanked Chad Martin for being at the meeting this evening, and also thanked Tommy Bennett. Mayor Jones noted Thursday night at 6:00 p.m. at High Street was the event for Sherman Saunders. Mr. Saunders has given so much to the Danville community, he loves this City and people will hear this on Thursday night. Mayor Jones stated people were mourning for those that passed away this week, it was a process, and encouraged citizens to be kind to others as they do not know what others are going through.

The meeting adjourned at: 8:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK