

August 4, 2020

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on August 4, 2020 at 8:08 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. Council Members present were: James B. Buckner, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry P. Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, and J. Lee Vogler, Jr. (6). Samuel A. Kushner and Madison J.R. Whittle were absent (2). L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr. was present but not yet sworn in (1).

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

Mayor Jones presided.

## **MINUTES**

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Mayo, Minutes of the Special Work Session held on July 2, 2020 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

## **WORK SESSION ITEMS**

### **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING AN ACCESS LICENSE ON CITY OWNED PROPERTY**

Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson and Division Director of Public Works Administration Barry Doebert were present to answer questions on this agenda item. Council had no questions on this matter and agreed to put this on an upcoming business agenda.

### **CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF A PURCHASE CONTRACT AND ACTUAL PURCHASE OF PARCEL #60450**

Director of Utilities Jason Grey was present to answer any questions. Council did not have any questions for Mr. Grey and agreed to put this item on an upcoming business agenda.

## **PROGRAM UPDATE**

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield reviewed Freedom of Information Act requests and acceptable charges for those requests. Mr. Whitfield also discussed confidentiality statements for Council Members regarding discussions held in closed meetings. Mr. Whitfield noted the form he provided Council basically says as a member of Council, they participate in closed meetings, they will abide by the terms of the agreement, promise to maintain confidentiality and if they break it, there would be consequences. By straw poll, Council agreed to sign a confidentiality agreement at least twice a year.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Vogler noted he would like the City to look into reimplementation of the Youth Jobs Program.

Mayor Jones questioned the City Attorney about negative posts to the City's social media pages.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Economic Development Director Corrie Bobe noted the Southern Economic Development Council has announced the City of Danville, Pittsylvania County and the Southern Virginia Regional

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Alliance were winners of their 2020 CETA awards. This was focused on the collaborative efforts between these three entities and helping with business attraction.

Ms. Bobe explained at the Southern Virginia Mega Site at Berry Hill, staff was working toward the certification of the mega site using a company called Quest. As part of the certification, they need to address one impediment, the 69Kv line that runs across the graded pad; they have plans to relocate that line. Speaking with AEP, the cost will be \$5M to relocate that into the right of way. Pittsylvania County has submitted a request to the Tobacco Commission to use up to \$5M of their Southside allocation as part of a loan in order to reallocate this immediately, instead of waiting for a tenant to come on site. They have requested the City of Danville to support 50% of that liability; this was located in a park that was shared 50/50 with the City and County with revenues and costs. This request to the Tobacco Commission was over a ten year period, zero percent, for \$5M; it will be considered at the September Board meeting, and if approved, staff would like to move forward with the relocation of that line. Should a customer come onboard in that ten year period, AEP does have a revenue credit program which equals to about a \$1M credit for each megawatt. It would have to be at least a 5 megawatt user to receive that funding back.

### **CLOSED MEETING**

At 8:28 p.m., Vice Mayor Miller **moved** that this meeting of the City Council of the City of Danville, Virginia be recessed and that Council immediately reconvene in a Closed Meeting for the following purposes: an Economic Development discussion and update concerning a 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) Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider an Economic Development update regarding multiple unannounced projects considering locating in the City or region in which the City was a participant in the project.

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

VOTE: 6-0-3  
AYE: Buckner, Jones, Mayo, Miller,  
Saunders, and Vogler (6)  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Campbell, Kushner, and Whittle (3)

Upon unanimous vote at 8:42 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Vice Mayor 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

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(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 Buckner and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 6-0-3  
AYE: Buckner, Jones, Mayo, Miller,  
Saunders, and Vogler (6)  
NAY: None  
ABSENT: Campbell, Kushner, and Whittle (3)

ADJOURNED: 8:43 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC  
CITY CLERK