

January 5, 2021

The Regular January meeting of the Danville City Council was held on January 5, 2021, 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, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9).

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

The Invocation was given by L.G. "Larry" Campbell, Jr., and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation: Human Trafficking Awareness Month
Presented to: Julissa Booth and Detra Betts, Haven of the Dan River Region.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Angela Williams, and Program Director Ms. Alexis, from Focus Point Mental Health. Ms. Williams noted they wanted to introduce a new program to the City of Danville called PEARLS, Programs to Encourage Active and Rewarding Lives. Ms. Williams explained the program and distributed flyers to Council. Mayor Jones thanked Ms. Williams and her staff.

Mayor Jones recognized Tommy Bennett, President of the Danville Branch of the NAACP, who noted they lost their oldest member, Mrs. Anna Thorpe, 112, who passed away on December 24th. Mr. Bennett thanked the various City Departments and Council Members who helped provide a birthday party for Ms. Thorpe on April 16th of last year. Mr. Bennett also noted the loss another member, Coach Dennis Saunders.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Budget Appropriation Items on the Consent Agenda. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 29, 2020. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Saunders **moved** for adoption of the following Consent Agenda Items:

Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 1, 2020. Draft copies of the Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Budget Amendment - Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for the Edward Byrne Memorial JAG Program in the Amount of \$29,787

An Ordinance entitled Ordinance No. 2020-12.09, Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenue for the 2020 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Program Award in the Amount of \$29,787 to be Used to Implement a Speed Trailer Project.

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Budget Amendment – Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Economic Development Incentive Funds in the Amount of \$1,269,875

An Ordinance entitled Ordinance No. 2020-12.10 Amending the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Three Commonwealth Opportunity Fund Grants from the Virginia Economic Development Partnership in the Amounts of \$275,000, \$150,000, and \$780,000 Respectively and One Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Grant from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission in the Amount of \$64,875 for a Total of \$1,269,875 as Economic Development Incentives for Taxable Capital Investments and Job Creation in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF REZONING 540 WOODLAWN DRIVE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding rezoning 540 Woodlawn Drive. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 22, 2020 and December 29, 2020. Mayor Jones recognized Bonnie Gosney, owner of the property who noted she was there to answer any questions. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01.01

REZONING 540 WOODLAWN DRIVE, PARCEL ID #72449, ALSO KNOWN AS GRID 817, BLOCK 1, PARCEL #9 OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, ZONING DISTRICT MAP, PARCEL ID #72474, ALSO KNOWN AS GRID 817, BLOCK 1, PARCEL #7 OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, ZONING DISTRICT MAP, AND PARCEL ID #72454, ALSO KNOWN AS GRID 818, BLOCK 2, PARCEL #1 FROM T-R THRESHOLD RESIDENTIAL TO SR-R SANDY RIVER RESIDENTIAL.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF REZONING 535 WOODLAWN DRIVE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding rezoning 535 Woodlawn Drive. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 22, 2020 and December 29, 2020. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01.02

REZONING 535 WOODLAWN DRIVE, PARCEL ID #72457, ALSO KNOWN AS GRID 818, BLOCK 2, PARCEL #2 FROM T-R THRESHOLD RESIDENTIAL TO SR-R SANDY RIVER RESIDENTIAL

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 280 PINEY FOREST ROAD

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 280 Piney Forest Road. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 22, 2020 and December 29, 2020. Mayor Jones recognized Jeff Bond of Solex Architecture, 641 Main Street, representing Jeff Smith, Danville Family Vet, owner of the property. They were looking to add a covered canopy to better serve their patrons, and were there to answer any questions. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01.03

GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION 2020-258 A WAIVER OF YARD REQUIREMENTS, SUBJECT TO THE PROHIBITION OF PARKING IN FRONT YARDS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.M, SECTION C.21, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, AT 280 PINEY FOREST ROAD (PARCEL ID#60550) ALSO KNOWN AS GRID 1706, BLOCK 2, PARCEL # 4.1 OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE ZONING DISTRICT MAP.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF ACCEPTING PARCEL #56289 ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01.01

ACCEPTING A GIFT OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE TO ALLOW FOR FLOOD CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS.

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

Council Member Whittle asked for more information on this item and Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson explained this was the outlet of the creek as it enters the Dan River on Riverside; it already had some flood control improvements, largely rocks to prevent erosion. Public Works has been in talks with the owner about expanding the flood control improvements and the owner has offered to donate the land to City to allow them to do that. In response to Mr. Whittle, Mr. Dodson noted he could not speak to the addition of a retention pond.

Council Member Vogler stated the flooding on Riverside the last several years has been a major concern to the citizens, they have had several issues with it and asked Mr. Dodson to explain what area this was. Mr. Dodson noted there were several creeks and tributaries that flow directly into the river, one was Apple Branch where this was located.

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

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

**BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021
BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING GRANT
FUNDS**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-01.04

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO ANTICIPATE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA FOR LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING EFFORTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,611 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted Council Members have tee shirts at their desks with the logo used during the All American City contest; they were available for sale to the public at the Welcome Center, along with other items related to the All American City contest. All the proceeds will be used for future All American City related events and potential applications. In response to Dr. Miller, Mr. Larking noted the funding was in place for the stoplight at the intersection of Updike Place and South Main Street. It was a large intersection and they have to obtain specially made mast arms and equipment, and it does take several months to order the appropriate materials to install the traffic signal. Staff was also studying the locations for additional crosswalks in the city.

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

Council Member Mayo wished everyone a Happy New Year and hoped everyone had a good

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Christmas. Mr. Mayo remembered Mrs. Thorpe stating she would be missed, and noted he had had an opportunity to work with Focus; they do good work with mental health services. Mr. Mayo asked for continued prayers for victims of the pandemic, encouraged citizens to follow guidelines and also to pray for the family of Dennis Saunders.

Vice Mayor Miller noted COVID was rampant in the community, hospital beds were overflowing and there were problems finding beds for non-COVID patients. Dr. Miller encouraged citizens to wash their hands and wear their masks. He has had one vaccine and had no problem with it, was looking forward to the second one and encouraged citizens to get their vaccine when they have the chance.

Council Member Saunders noted a Happy New Year to everyone stating the pandemic was hitting close to home for everyone. Mr. Saunders thanked Mr. Bennett for coming to Council to recognize Mrs. Thorpe, she will be missed and they will be praying for her. Mr. Saunders thanked the City Manager and Deputy City Manager for their leadership, trying to keep employees and citizens safe, and thanked the Vice Mayor for encouraging citizens to get the vaccine. He was looking forward to receiving the vaccine himself, and thanked the Mayor for his leadership.

Mayor Jones noted he spoke with Council Member Saunders, when it was their turn to receive the vaccine, they were willing to take their shots publicly to show citizens they were safe.

Council Member Vogler noted his agreement, when it was his time for the vaccine, he was happy to let citizens see him take the shot. Mr. Vogler noted he was pleased to note that Neighborhood Oriented Policing was a reality in Danville as of January 1st. It means the City was divided into sectors and each sector had the same officers in the same neighborhoods working to build a level of trust and respect between the officers and the residents. It has been very successful in other places. It was reported at the end of this last year, Danville had the lowest crime rate in thirty years, violent crime was down and crime across the board was down. Mr. Vogler thanked Chief Booth and the entire police department for the work they were doing.

Council Member Whittle noted he would like to echo what everyone else has said and would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Council Member Buckner wished everyone a Happy New Year, their thoughts went out to the family of Mrs. Thorpe, and noted when Mayor Jones and Council Member Saunders were getting their vaccines, if he was in the same group, he would be more than happy to do it on camera to show people it was safe. COVID numbers were on the rise, and he encouraged people to take precautions and get the vaccine when it was available to them. Mr. Buckner noted he had said this during his year-end summary, his three W's, wash your hands often, wear a mask and wait six feet apart; Mr. Buckner encouraged citizens to make 2021 the best year they have had.

Council Member Campbell wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted his agreement with what has been said. It was a dangerous time with the pandemic. Mr. Campbell noted he was one of Mrs. Thorpe's neighbors, she was a special lady and she will be missed.

Council Member Hood wished the City a Happy New Year and his thoughts went out to the Thorpe and Saunders families; he was thankful for Focus Point Mental Health for bringing the PEARLS program to the City. Mr. Hood thanked the citizens of Danville for staying resilient, staying in support of one another and encouraged them to stay safe, safely distanced and wearing masks. Mr. Hood noted two words for moving forward in 2021, Togetherness and Gratitude; Danville has shown a lot of that, and thanked the staff and city workers.

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Mayor Jones noted Mr. Buckner mentioned the three W's, Mayor Jones noted he had the three B's: be encouraged, be kind and be nice. Mayor Jones thanked the City Manager and Deputy City Manager for all their work, and noted his appreciation of all the city staff, council members, and the citizens in the community. Mayor Jones noted to Mr. Bennett, there was a lot of information that comes to Council and the NAACP, they need that information to be put together to help the citizens. Mayor Jones noted JaMall Dones had also passed away suddenly; his mother Sharon Dones formerly served on the School Board. He encouraged people to be kind, be nice and be encouraged.

ADJOURNED: 7:48 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK