

April 6, 2021

The Regular April meeting of the Danville City Council was held on April 6, 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, 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 (8). L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr. 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**

The Invocation was given by Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Andrew Snead, a student at Longwood University and Thomas Nichols from Troop #452.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Proclamation: Sexual Assault Awareness Month  
Presented to: Julissa Booth, Marilyn Waller and Detra Betts,  
Haven of the Dan River Region.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS**

Mayor Jones recognized Cassandra Butler, Program Manager for Educate and Vaccinate, who noted they were in Virginia for outreach efforts to help get Virginia vaccinated, focusing on underserved communities. They were going door to door, working with Tommy Bennett, visiting a number of communities, attending community events, going to the YMCA, God's Storehouse, and area churches. When they go door to door, they educate citizens about COVID, the vaccine and answer questions. They will register citizens for the vaccination, can offer transportation if needed and were working on a mobile clinic. Mr. Larking noted their area has moved into Phase 2 which means anyone, eighteen or over was able to get a vaccine. Ms. Butler noted citizens can call to register at 1-833-577-1919, and businesses and organizations can call that number as well. Citizens can also call the NAACP office at 773-790-2622 for more information. Mr. Buckner suggested putting an insert in the City's utility bills with this information. Mr. Larking noted citizens can go the City's website at [www.danvilleva.gov/coronavirus](http://www.danvilleva.gov/coronavirus) to sign up for the vaccines as well. Council Members thanked Ms. Butler and her team for their work in Danville.

Mayor Jones recognized Lewis Garnett, 607 Fairhaven Circle who commented on a bill the City of Danville sent to their insurance company over a year ago. The bill was for \$212,533.98 for the violation of his constitutional rights. He has called the City Manager four or five times and never received a phone call back to discuss the matter, so he came to council this evening.

### **MEETING MINUTES**

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Saunders, Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on March 2, 2021, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of the following Resolutions:

April 6, 2021

**Resolution No. 2021-04.01** - Reappointing Gladys D. Webb to the Southern Area Agency on Aging.

**Resolution No. 2021-04.02** – Appointing Andre Bethea to the Southern Area Agency on Aging.

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

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING - GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT 1560 HALIFAX ROAD**

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 1560 Halifax Road. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on March 23, 2021 and March 30, 2021. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04.01**

GRANTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO APPLICATION 2021-25 FOR AGRICULTURE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.B, SECTION C.1. OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, AT 1560 HALIFAX ROAD, PARCEL ID#74777.

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

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

#### **CONSIDERATION OF REFINANCING INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BONDS**

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

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04.03**

APPROVING A PLAN TO FINANCE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR VARIOUS GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES AND REFINANCE CERTAIN OUTSTANDING INDEBTEDNESS THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF LEASE REVENUE OBLIGATIONS BY THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

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

April 6, 2021

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

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF A MORAL OBLIGATION FOR 500 STINSON DRIVE**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-04.04**

AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING EXECUTION OF A MORAL OBLIGATION AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AND AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK AND TRUST COMPANY, A VIRGINIA BANKING CORPORATION.

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

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

**BUDGET AMENDMENT - CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR ADDITIONAL STATE AVIATION FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,178,023 AND THE LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$310,639**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04.02**

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL STATE AVIATION FUNDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPLETING DESIGN SERVICES TO RENOVATE THE AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING, FOR CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES TO WIDEN TAXIWAY H AND COMPLETE FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS TO SUPPORT FUTURE CORPORATE, AND T-HANGAR BUILDING DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,178,023 PLUS LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$310,639.

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 FUNDS RELATED TO PROJECT IMAGINE WORK FORCE READINESS PROGRAM**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04.03**

April 6, 2021

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FOR A U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$488,595 AND LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79,983 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$568,578 TO BE USED TO FUND SUPPORT STAFF, AND OTHER EXPENDITURES RELATING TO THE PROJECT IMAGINE WORK FORCE READINESS PROGRAM

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

Mayor Jones thanked Robert David for the great work he was doing in the City.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO PROVIDE A SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-04.04**

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR CONTRIBUTION FROM COMMUNITY NON-PROFIT PARTNERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,341 AND A TRANSFER FROM UNRESERVED FUND BALANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$131,193 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$203,534 TO PROVIDE A SUMMER YOUTH JOBS PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

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

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted he was proud to say that in February, he had nominated Assistant City Attorney Alan Spencer to become a member of the Board of the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia. He was elected last Friday to the Board and will be representing Danville and Southside Virginia.

Vice Mayor Miller noted he ran into a friend of his from Greensboro who told him he can't wait for the casino in Danville to open; a lot of people from Greensboro and Charlottesville will be traveling to Danville. Dr. Miller stated, about four years ago, many people signed a petition he had circulated, to renovate the Emergency Room at Danville SOVAH. The hospital serves a large area, and this year will start the \$12M renovation to the Emergency Room.

Council Member Saunders noted today, several Council Members were present for the announcement on the expansion at the Emergency Room in Danville, it was a wonderful announcement and congratulations on that accomplishment. Mr. Saunders thanked the City Attorney for the work he does, to Mr. Bennett for what he continues to do, and congratulations to Robert David for his work.

Council Member Vogler thanked the Mayor for making sure citizens heard the information regarding the vaccine. Mr. Vogler noted he and members of Council were very excited to hear about the

April 6, 2021

Youth Jobs Program and cannot wait to see that up and running. Small businesses, particularly, have been trying to survive the pandemic; there were a number of things this Council has wanted to address. Staff was putting together a comprehensive reform of a lot of outdated policies and regulations, and thanked the City Manager and staff for doing this.

Council Member Whittle encouraged citizens to go get their vaccines.

Council Member Buckner noted 33% of residents have gotten vaccinated, but the City can do better than that and encouraged all citizens to get vaccinated. Mr. Buckner recognized Thomas Nichols from Troop 452 who led the Pledge of Allegiance, he was here tonight fulfilling a badge requirement for the Boy Scouts, working toward getting his Eagle Scout.

Council Member Hood commented on the number of events that have been going on in the community. He visited a pop-up bazaar Saturday with young entrepreneurs and also visited Compassion Church for their Easter event. On the same day, Changing Lives Outreach Ministries gave away one hundred meals. There was a new business on Memorial called the Drop Box, this week they are feeding students that come by. There was a group from the Green Street area called Our Community and on Sunday they did an Easter Egg Hunt/Cookout, and the Thornton's partnered with the Danville Police Department and gave away one thousand Easter baskets; all this happened in little over a week showing the involvement of people that want to engage.

Council Member Mayo noted Danville was on the move, moving forward, putting things together. Mr. Mayo commented on the teamwork of Council and staff, serving the City, and he felt proud about serving Danville. Mr. Mayo thanked Mr. Bennett for what he has been doing in the community, and encouraged citizens to get their vaccines.

Mayor Jones noted the City Manager told Council this area was in a new Phase where young people now can get the COVID vaccine. Council has also allocated funds to the Summer Youth Jobs Program, but was discouraged to hear about the shooting that occurred this week. Mayor Jones noted that was not who Danville was, there were programs going on in the community and they were working too hard to move the community forward, to go backwards. They wanted to have a safe community and will continue to go forward. This City cares about their young people and thanked Drew and Thomas for attending, and thanked the City staff and Council for what they do.

ADJOURNED: 8:08 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC  
CITY CLERK