

September 21, 2021

The Second Regular September meeting of the Danville City Council was held on September 21, 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 J. Lee Vogler, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Proclamation: CROP Walk
Presented to: Sherri Tuck, Danville Area CROP Hunger Walk

Ms. Tuck thanked Council on behalf of the Crop Walk Committee for their continued support of the Danville Area CROP Walk. Ms. Tuck invited everyone to join them on October 3, 2021 at Ballou Park.

Proclamation: National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week
Presented to: Dr. Antonio Hairston

Dr. Hairston thanked Council for the Proclamation and noted 20% of Danville citizens have low literacy skills and about 6,113 do not have their high school diplomas. Danville Public Schools was committed to do their part to provide services and skills to the citizens so they can be productive members of society and gain meaningful employment. Dr. Hairston gave a brief review of their programs and outreach to these citizens. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Angela Hairston stated they wanted to send a message that it was never too late to get that high school diploma; there were always opportunities to earn it and move to the next level.

SOVAH Update: Alan Larson, CEO SOVAH Danville

Mr. Larson gave an update to Council noting SOVAH has added over twenty two providers to the community, made almost \$5M in capital investments to the hospital and the community practices they manage, paid almost \$80M to 1,100 employees in payroll and benefits, \$27M in uncompensated services to the community and paid \$11.7M in taxes. They have tried to do their part and provide resources to the community over the years and 2020 was another successful year. Despite challenges, they had significant sponsorships to Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Boys and Girls Club and others. This hospital was ranked nationally by Medicare, out of five total stars, they have now grown to three stars and recognized by the federal government as providing good quality care to the community. Mr. Larson noted they were forty nurses short from where they were at the beginning of this year. COVID numbers have started to decline the last few weeks; the hospital had twenty one COVID patients in the hospital today which was about 20% of their census. With the limited resources they were facing these days, the patients that come with COVID were taking the spots of other people they could be taking care of. They would plead with the community and leaders to encourage citizens to get their vaccinations. All the COVID patients in the ICU were not vaccinated. Council Members thanked Mr. Larson and staff of the hospital.

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Proclamation: Constitution Week
Presented to: Dawn Davis, Regent, Dorothea Henry Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution

Ms. Davis noted the Dorothea Henry Chapter of the DAR was founded March 4, 1894, one of the oldest chapters in the nation. Ms. Davis noted the Constitution was very important, and she wanted everyone to learn about it; Galileo, GW, Tunstall and Dan River have some of the very best students. The Good Citizenship contest they have had, the students were fantastic; this year there was only a one point difference between the student who won. Ms. Davis explained she wanted history to be a part of their future and the Constitution was freedom and equality for all.

Virginia Cooperative Extension: Daniel Hale, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Introduction of New City of Danville Extension Agent

Mr. Hale noted they have filled the Horticulturist Extension Agent position left vacant when Stuart Sutphin retired, and introduced Corey Riedel. Mr. Riedel noted he received his Bachelor's degree from Virginia Tech in Horticulture and was finishing his Masters in Entomology. He was in the Army for eight years and his role was to provide the City with any kind of horticultural or agricultural assistance they needed, and invited citizens to call his office if they need assistance with anything. Mr. Riedel noted he would like to work on finding ways to increase food production in the City with urban farming, put out more community gardens so people can grow their own, and have access to healthy food, and creating demonstration gardens across the City where he plants some plants to give people an idea of what will grow well here and how to do it. He would also like to do some educational programming with the youth and senior citizens in Danville. Mr. Riedel's office number was 434-799-6558. Council welcomed Mr. Riedel to the community.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Kenny Lewis, co-chair of Vote Yes for DPS, who noted he and Karl Stauber, co-chair the Vote Yes for DPS campaign, wanted to thank City Council for their support. It was a huge step for the City to get this passed. Citizens have to vote twice, first for the 1% sales tax and then vote so they can get the money immediately. Mayor Jones recognized Kenny Lewis, Jr. and commended him for putting on the Ribs Rhythm and Blues Jazz Festival, and for the work he put into that. Mr. Lewis noted this event was something he wanted to bring to the City, there were a lot of good artists, with people from inside and outside the City supporting it.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Budget Items on the Consent Agenda. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on September 14, 2021. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on August 17, 2021. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Amending the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for a State Department of Aviation Grant to Promote Aviation Awareness at the Danville Regional Airport

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An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2021-09.04, Amending the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for a State Department of Aviation Grant for the Purpose of Providing Funding to Promote Aviation Awareness at the Danville Regional Airport in the Amount of \$7,500 and for the Local Share in the Amount of \$7,500 to be Provided by the General Fund Support of Grants for a Total Appropriation of \$15,000 and Appropriating Same.

Amending the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Virginia Commission of the Arts Grant

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2021-09.05, Amending the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for a Virginia Commission for the Arts Grant in the Amount of \$4,500 and Local Share in the Amount of \$5,000 for a Total of \$9,500.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Economic Development Incentives in the Amount of \$660,000

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2021-09.06, Amending the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for One Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Grant from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission in the Amount of \$330,000 and One Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund Loan from the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission in the Amount of \$330,000 for a Total of \$660,000 as Economic Development Incentives for Taxable Capital Investments and Job Creation in the Commonwealth of Virginia

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

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL RESULTS AS OF AUGUST 31, 2021

Director of Finance Michael Adkins gave the General Fund results through August 31, 2021 representing two months of the new fiscal year complete and just under 17%. Revenues received through August were \$12.7M, about \$40,000 more than last year. Some of the State aid was late coming; the City receives about \$700,000 per quarter for law enforcement support and that was received in September. If that had been received in August, the City would have about \$750,000 more for the first two months of this fiscal year compared to last year. Increases were pretty much located in two areas, the first was Property Taxes. The City was between tax billing cycles so they were mainly collecting delinquent taxes, and the delinquent real estate taxes were about \$100,000 over last year at this point and already at 33% of budget. The other area was Local Taxes; Sales Tax continues to perform strongly, averaging about \$900,000 per month, bringing the City up to about \$1.8M at the end of August or 17.5% of budget. Prior to taxes being collected on on-line sales, the City was receiving about \$700,000 to \$750,000 per month. Meals Tax was averaging about \$800,000 per month; pre-COVID that amount was about \$700,000 per month, at the end of August they were at \$1.6M or 19% of budget. Lodging Tax was averaging about \$170,000 per month and was currently at \$350,000, a little over 23% of budget. All other Revenues, state and federal assistance, were on track with expectations.

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Under Expenditures, the City was just under \$21M through the end of the August, that was a slight increase of \$71,000 and nearly flat when compared to last year. Departmental Spending was at 15% of budget and about 2% behind the 17% mark; that was expected as they go through the year. In summary, Fiscal Year 2022 was off to a strong start. For Fiscal Year 2021, last month he reported that they anticipated an increase to the Unreserved Fund Balance of about \$725,000. At that time, staff was using estimates for the final month of sales tax, meals tax and lodging as those were received on a lag basis. The City has received those, all three came in ahead of expected and it looks like the City will be adding just over \$1M to the Unassigned Fund Balance for Fiscal Year 2021. That will bring the City from \$33M to \$34M. The City's policy requires 20% of revenues, which would be \$23M, so the City will be \$10M or \$11M over that. Mr. Adkins explained the City's audit was undergoing now, and expected them to complete the external audit of the City's financials sometime in November. He has tentatively scheduled Brown Edwards to be at Council on December 7th to present the audit statements.

Mr. Adkins noted with regard to the City's fund balance policy, if the 1% sales tax passes, the City hopefully will be able to issue those bonds to do school improvements; it was a large number. One of the strategies to offset that would be to enhance the City's fund balance policy. While it was very strong right now, to offset the additional borrowing, the City should look at raising the fund balance policy which they can do based on the amount in reserve. Also, the reason why it was so important for citizens to vote yes on the 1% sales tax and the bond part, it enables the City to access those funds immediately so the City can accomplish many capital improvements all at once. If that did not pass, the City would be limited to pay as they go; they would have to accumulate a year's worth of that one percent sales tax and then appropriate it for spending. It would be a much longer process; in an environment where construction costs were increasing, it would end up costing more in the long run and a much longer time period to get those things accomplished. Interest rates were at an all-time low for borrowing so it was a good time to do so.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE GRANT AGREEMENT BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE, RIVER DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AND THE IDA

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09.02

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A THIRD AMENDMENT TO THE GRANT AGREEMENT BY AND AMONG, THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, RIVER DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT, LLC, AND THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo 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 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A REAL ESTATE PURCHASE OPTION AGREEMENT FOR ACREE'S WAREHOUSE AND 317 & 319 CRAGHEAD STREET

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

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RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09.03

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A REAL ESTATE PURCHASE OPTION AGREEMENT FOR ACREE'S WAREHOUSE AND 317 & 319 CRAGHEAD STREET BY AND BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AND RIVER DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT, LLC, WITH THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA JOINING IN SAID AGREEMENT TO EVIDENCE ITS CONSENT AND AGREEMENT TO CERTAIN RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE REAL ESTATE PURCHASE OPTION AGREEMENT, INCLUDING THE FORM OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY ATTACHED HERETO.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo 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 APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE IDA, RIVER DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT AND THE CITY OF DANVILLE

Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09.04

APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AND RIVER DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT, LLC, WITH THE CITY OF DANVILLE VIRGINIA JOINING IN SAID LEASE TO EVIDENCE ITS CONSENT AND AGREEMENT TO CERTAIN RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT

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

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

APPROVING RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR PROJECT FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2027 AND 2028

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING RICHMOND BOULEVARD PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09.05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING RICHMOND BOULEVARD PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

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

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Council Member Buckner noted he wanted to thank City staff for following up on this item; it was brought to his attention last year by Union Church. It was great to see the City and citizens working together to make things happen.

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

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURE 1816 ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE OVER APPLE BRANCH

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09.06

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING REPLACEMENT OF STRUCTURE 1816 ON RIVERSIDE DRIVE OVER APPLE BRANCH

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo 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 APPROVING RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND FISCAL YEAR 2024

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE ENDORSING CONSTRUCTION OF KEMPER ROAD SIDEWALKS PHASE 2

Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09.07

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING CONSTRUCTION OF KEMPER ROAD SIDEWALKS PHASE 2.

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

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

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CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT PINEY FOREST ROAD AND ARNETT BOULEVARD

Vice Mayor Miller **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09.08

A RESOLUTION FOR THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ENDORSING CONSTRUCTION OF PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT PINEY FOREST ROAD AND ARNETT BOULEVARD.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Mayo.

Council Member Vogler noted with regard to the items tonight, he serves as the Chairman of the Metropolitan Planning Organization which was involved in the traffic studies and transportation for the region. Piney Forest was something the committee has been working on with citizens for the last year or so. Citizens will hear about improvements over the next few years coming to Piney Forest with regard to traffic and pedestrian safety.

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

CONSIDERATION OF CANCELING THE OCTOBER 5, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09.09

CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021 AND SCHEDULING A SPECIAL MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2021.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Mayo and 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 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE DMV HIGHWAY SAFETY SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT – ALCOHOL GRANT PROGRAM

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-09.07

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AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES HIGHWAY SAFETY SELECTIVE ENFORCEMENT – ALCOHOL GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,570 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 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR VIRGINIA DMV HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE ENFORCEMENT – SPEED GRANT PROGRAM

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-09.08

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 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.

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR VIRGINIA DMV HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE ENFORCEMENT – OCCUPANT PROTECTION GRANT - \$5,250

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-09.09

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 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 OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR OLDER AMERICAN ACT GRANT FUNDS

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-09.10

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 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.

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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 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-09.11

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$102,200 AND A LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,800 FOR EQUIPMENT UPGRADES TO THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SHELTER FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$140,000, 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 that Agenda Items C and D, all four transportation projects were items that were brought to City Council by citizens, or to the staff by City Council members. While it takes many months to get to the point where City Council can adopt them and move forward with these projects, it was important to note how these particular items can go forward. It takes time to study the particular issues, to get the funding and put on the agenda. If a citizen drives down Highway 86 or South Main Street from North Carolina, there was work being done at the Dollar General, the intersection of Updike and South Main. This area was studied and did warrant a traffic signal, City Council budgeted the funds for it and now construction was underway. The City was waiting for some of the mast arms to come, and anticipated in the first quarter of next year that traffic intersection signalization project will be done.

Council Member Campbell noted the citizens have been asking for a red light at Arnett Boulevard and questioned if that was in the plan for the future. Mr. Larking noted he believed it was studied in the past and it did not meet the warrants for a traffic signal. There were other things the City could look at to see if there were different improvements that could be made. The City wants to be very consistent in the way they put in traffic control devices; if not done correctly it can create more problems than they solve.

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

Council Member Campbell noted he appreciated the City Manager, Deputy City Manager and all the City staff for their work, and also the Council. In reference to Caesars coming to Danville, he hopes his comments were in order as prosperity was in Danville and major prosperity was coming. He hopes Danville doesn't lose its character, lose what makes it so special, or lose the quality of life. He hopes that prosperity was shared in all areas of the community.

Council Member Hood commended Mayor Jones and Board of Supervisors Chairman Bob Warren, along with City Manager Ken Larking and Pittsylvania County Administrator David Smitherman for an outstanding panel discussion of the state of the region, hosted virtually by the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor had said, "We remain in

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unprecedented times with COVID 19, but since the State of the Region address a year ago, we have made great strides. We still have work to do and that was exactly what we were doing, working for a better future.” Mr. Hood noted he appreciated that.

Council Member Mayo noted he echoed what was said earlier regarding COVID. Nurses were overworked and some don't want to be nurses anymore. It has taken a toll on so many, it was seen in the community and throughout the nation. Listening to Dr. Miller, it was affecting the kids now. Mr. Mayo asked the citizens to please get the vaccination now, it will only help.

Vice Mayor Miller gave a shout out to Tommy Bennett of the NAACP, he was already talking about a vaccine clinic coming up soon; Dr. Miller encouraged citizens to get their vaccine, and do it for their family. Dr. Miller also gave a shout out to Barry Mayo who got married this weekend. Chris Daniel passed away recently, he was an educator, he taught underprivileged people to read, and was a voter advocate. The American Heart Association Walk was this weekend in Angler's Park and encouraged citizens to sign up to help raise money for research.

Councilman Saunders asked all the citizens to support the healthcare workers. If they have any concerns, let the hospital staff that can address their concern know, and not just someone else to cause problems. Mr. Saunders noted his agreement with Dr. Miller, Chris Daniel was a good man and he will be missed.

Councilman Vogler noted a little over a week ago there was the Ribs, Rhythm and Blues festival; the Mayor attended and it was the first year he wasn't able to; he was representing the City at the Rock Festival. He has received many comments and messages from people all over the country complimenting Danville and its citizens during the festival. Mr. Vogler stated they have amazing people in Danville and thanked each and every citizen on how they responded to a lot of outside people. Mr. Vogler thanked all the Council Members for the work they put in, each member contributes to the City in different ways, and thanked Mr. Buckner because he doesn't like talking about the things he does, was involved with and the great work he does. He does a lot of great things for this City, wanted to give him a shout out and say the was a darn good Council Member.

Mayor Jones noted he does not recall having this many announcements and special recognitions; they heard about hunger and the CROP Walk, the National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week, Constitution Week, Mr. Larson presented about SOVAH and they met the new person from the Extension Office. Danville's Director of Economic Development Corrie Bobe has been recognized as one of the five hundred power list award winners in Economic Development. Mayor Jones stated a lot of times people ask him why does he give so many accolades and so much encouragement. When you wake up, you try to make a difference in someone's life, tell them to be encouraged, it's not easy, and thank people for what they were doing. Mayor Jones thanked Council for what they do, and congratulated Mr. Mayo on his marriage.

ADJOURNED: 8:33 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK