

January 4, 2022

The Regular January meeting of the Danville City Council was held on January 4, 2022, at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (6). James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Barry P. Mayo were absent (3); *Mr. Whittle entered the meeting at 7:02 pm.*

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

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by J. Lee Vogler, Jr., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Anthony Jones, Danville, who noted he felt called to preach in the City.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Miller and **second** by Council Member Whittle, Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 7, 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 Appointment Resolutions:

Resolution No. 2022-01.01 – Reappointing Sherman M. Saunders as a Member of the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority.

Resolution No. 2022-01.02 – Reappointing J. Lee Vogler, Jr., as a Member of the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority.

Resolution No. 2022-01.03 – Reappointing Gary P. Miller as an Alternate Member of the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING 125 JEFFERSON AVENUE FROM N-C NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL TO M-R, MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding rezoning 125 Jefferson Avenue. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 21, 2021 and December 28, 2021. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01.01

AN ORDINANCE REZONING 125 JEFFERSON AVENUE (PARCEL ID# 23123) FROM N-C NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT TO M-R, MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF VACATING A PORTION OF AN ALLEY ADJACENT TO 467 WEST MAIN STREET

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding vacation of a portion of an alley. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 28, 2021 and January 3, 2022. Mayor Jones recognized Isabelle Julian, 467 West Main Street, who thanked Council for considering her request. 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. 2022-01.02

AN ORDINANCE VACATING APPROXIMATELY 952 SQUARE FEET OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO 467 WEST MAIN STREET.

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING – CONSIDERATION OF VACATING A RIGHT OF WAY ADJACENT TO 200 OLD US 29 HIGHWAY

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding vacating a right of way. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 28, 2021 and January 3, 2022. Mayor Jones recognized Ryan Gatewood, LED Professionals, representing Hi & Dri Storage, the applicant. They were requesting the vacation as they own the property on either side, and the existing right of way bisects the two properties. They wish to combine those two, include the right of way and utilize the old roadbed as the entrance to their property. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01.03

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VACATING APPROXIMATELY 0.464 ACRES OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY ADJACENT TO 200 OLD US 29 HIGHWAY.

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

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

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM HUD, FROM HEALTHY HOMES, AND A LOCAL MATCH FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,634,769

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01.04

AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR GRANTS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF LEAD HAZARD CONTROL AND HEALTHY HOMES IN AN AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$1,634,769, AND A LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$145,231 TO BE PROVIDED BY UNSPENT CDBG FUNDS, FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$1,780,000 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME

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

Council Member Whittle questioned Director of Community Development Ken Gillie if any homes in Danville qualify to have lead abatement. Mr. Gillie noted they will; they will use the funding to assess one hundred homes, and they anticipate fixing approximately eighty-three of them with this first round. It was anticipated they will be able to get future funding to do additional houses, and staff believes there were more than one hundred houses in the City that suffer from lead. They were patterning this after the program in Roanoke who were in their fifth phase of funding. Once the City establishes the program, they will set guidelines on who can apply for the funding; it will probably be income based. They will then get a lead assessor to go out and determine whether the home has lead issues. Just because there was lead paint in the house doesn't necessarily mean there was an issue with it; there were ways to address it. If it was a problem, the City can use the funds to help remediate the problem in the house.

BUDGET AMENDMENT – CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR STATE OF GOOD REPAIR PROGRAM FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,493,298

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2022-01.05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR ROADWAY MAINTENANCE PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITHIN THE CITY AND TO BE FINANCED ANTICIPATING REVENUES FROM VIRGINIA

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) STATE OF GOOD REPAIR / PRIMARY EXTENSION FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,493,498

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

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking expressed his appreciation to the public for their patience as the Utilities Department worked to restore power. This particular storm had a lot of heavy snow, and there were a lot of scattered outages. With scattered outages throughout the system, crews had to go to multiple sites and there were only so many crew members. They got help from the City of Wilson, who sent ten linemen to the City to help restore power. They have been working 24/7 since the event, to get people's power restored. The Utility Director has indicated there were under one hundred customers currently without power in the system and they anticipated that everyone should be restored this evening. Mr. Larking expressed his appreciation to the City's lineman, working in sometimes very hazardous conditions restoring power as quickly as possible, in a safe manner.

Council Member Vogler thanked the lineman and all those working to get the power back on; he believes Danville does get their power back up as well or better than other places. Mr. Vogler questioned reporting outages, he has heard the website does not work properly a lot of the time, the outage map does not work a lot of the time and people have a hard time getting through on the phone. Mr. Vogler questioned when the last time was the City evaluated upgrading the system or looked for ways to improve the process to report power outages, was that something the City can look at. Mr. Larking explained the outage map had been out for a few weeks, he spoke to the IT director about it the day of the storm when people starting losing power; there was an update rolled out in the midst of that. The Director noted within the next few minutes, the outage map should be up and running. He had not checked to see if it worked better than the previous version, but staff will monitor that. If there was anything the City could do to improve the way customers can report, they will do their best to try and make things better.

In response to Council Member Saunders regarding trees and limbs falling, Mr. Larking explained that was the problem with this particular storm, the heavy snow created a lot of issues with limbs falling off trees and trees falling over. They had over sixty trees fall down throughout the City, several of them impacting lines. That was time consuming because if there was a tree on a line, Public Works cannot remove it until Utilities had a chance to make sure the line was de-energized and safe to work around. They have to take the time to cut the tree off the line and the crews have to come out and repair it. As far as infrastructure that makes bringing power to people possible, the City was in really good shape, they have a number of substations that have recently been completed as far as renovations or were on the list to be improved. The City was constantly doing what they could to try improving reliability and look into other options.

Mayor Jones commended Mark Aron, along with Arnold Hendrix, for letting the public know what was going on during the storm, the police officers working the accidents, and Public Works working around the clock; the teams were absolutely phenomenal. Mr. Larking encouraged citizens to sign up on the City's website for alerts to get information and status updates.

There were no communications from the City Clerk or City Attorney.

Vice Mayor Miller noted he has had several people ask him when they were going to start doing something at Schoolfield; he drove by there Saturday and they were moving dirt on the site. He has also been asked when they were going to start blowing up the finishing building. Mr. Larking

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explained he does not know if they have decided on how they were going to take down that building, there were various methods for doing that. Vice Mayor Miller noted a study out of Chapel Hill now shows that in as little as three months or as much as fifteen, people lose their antibodies from the COVID infection and can get COVID again. Even if people have had COVID, they need to get the vaccine.

Council Member Saunders congratulated Chairman Ingram, Vice Chairman Barksdale and members of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors.

Council Member Vogler noted how grateful he was to live in this City and serve on this City Council.

Council Member Whittle wished everyone a Happy New Year; they celebrated his mother's ninety-seventh birthday over the holidays.

Council Member Hood thanked the Utility Department, Public Works and the lineman from Wilson for working countless hours to restore power throughout the City. In 2021, they saw what can happen in Danville; in 2022 he sees the City continuously working together and continuing to improve.

Mayor Jones wished Mr. Whittle's mother a happy ninety-seventh birthday, and wished everyone a wonderful New Year.

ADJOURNED: 7:41 P.M.

APPROVED:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK