

April 5, 2022

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on April 5, 2022, at 9:35 p.m. in Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. Council Members present were: James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo 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 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 Campbell, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on March 1, 2022 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

CONSIDERATION OF RELEASING EXISTING TAX LIENS ON PARCEL #21914 AND #22219

Council had no questions and agreed to put it on an upcoming business agenda.

DISCUSSION OF THE CITY MANAGER'S FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

City Manager Ken Larking noted he had a budget discussion with each Council Member and was going to review the five areas where staff recommended changes to the current recommended budget before they go forward with City Council's introductory budget to the public. Mr. Larking reviewed the Council's budget process and noted his appreciation to the core budget team who were in attendance to listen to any concerns Council may have, and thanked them for their diligence, hard work and long hours they put into the budget.

Mr. Larking noted the five areas he wanted to recommend included two airport projects; one was to delay the corporate hangar site preparation and instead, Transportation Director Marc Adelman recommended the City fund a Box Hangar; the cost of that would be paid for with debt. The City has a waiting list of people who want to be tenants in box hangars and they have someone willing to pay a lease sufficient enough for most of the cost of the debt. The other item for the Airport was a fuel farm expansion; the funding would come from an increase in the fuel flow fee. The revenue generated from that fee would be sufficient to cover the debt service to pay for that expansion. The reason for the expansion was there were a lot of weekends, and staff expects a lot more weekends in the future, where there was significant air traffic at the airport and sometimes they run out of fuel in the tank. They have to have tankers come in from Greensboro to meet the demand. If they expand the fuel farm, the FBO has the ability to make sure that anyone who was traveling to and from the Danville airport will have an opportunity to fill up their tank.

Mr. Larking stated the next item was to move up the design and construction of a splash pad at Ballou Park. It would be on Park Avenue side where the entrance to Ballou Park was located and West Main. It could accommodate eighty children at one time and the City would likely provide supervision as needed; staff will monitor the activity level to make sure it was safe. Mr. Vogler thanked the City Manager; Council was excited about the splashpads coming to Green Street and Third Avenue and what they will do for those neighborhoods. To have a larger one that was near

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multiple neighborhoods in an historic park in the City, citizens were really excited about it and was glad the City was able to get that in the budget. Mr. Larking explained this park will be funded with debt service.

Mr. Larking noted the next project was a traffic signal at the intersection of Memorial and Bishop, where Frank's was located. When the casino was opened, likely the best way for people to come from Greensboro would be US Business 29, which turns into Memorial, up Bishop and into the casino site. Staff feels having a traffic signal there will be warranted by a traffic signal analysis; the development agreement with Caesars says that any reasonable improvements that were necessary in order to support the site will be paid for by Caesars, and that was listed as a project. Procuring the materials and actual building can take some time, and they want to start this now.

The fifth item was related to having an Associate Planner funded in this budget, it was already an authorized position, but the funding has not been there for several years; it was eliminated during a tough budget year. The City has been experiencing major growth in the community which has put a strain on the planning division. They want to go ahead and fund that position so that it can be filled, to be able provide good customer service to the community.

Council had no questions for the City Manager and indicated they did not need another budget discussion at the next work session.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Director of Economic Development Corrie Bobe explained Jason Wells was the president of Kyocera SGS Tech Hub, which was located in the Cyber Park, and this Thursday was a signing day at the Gene Haas Center for Integrated Machining, and he wanted to invite Council. Over the past year they have had three interns that have participated in the Third Year Capstone Program. They have been so impressed by these three individuals that they were officially signing them on as full-time employees that day. Mr. Wells felt that was a great way, with Council, to celebrate the investments this region has made with the workforce training system as well as celebrate these individuals moving into full time employment. It will take place at 2:00 p.m. and hoped that Council would be able to participate; it will also be streamed on River City TV.

COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Mayor Miller noted they would do their employee evaluations at the next Council Meeting during a Closed Meeting.

CLOSED MEETING

At 9:53 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: discussion or consideration of the acquisition and/or disposition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely impact the bargaining position of the City as permitted by Subsection A(3) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, and more specifically to consider a discussion regarding the sale and/or potential purchase of a specific parcel of property for use by prospective industrial, commercial, and mixed use projects looking to locate in the City; and 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) of Section 2.2-

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3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider: an update on multiple prospective commercial, mixed use, and industrial projects considering locating within the City and/or locating within the region in cooperation with the City's regional partners.

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

Upon unanimous vote at 10:19 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 (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: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (9)
NAY: None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:20 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK