

November 1, 2022

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on November 1, 2022, at 8:01 p.m. in the Conference Room located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. Council Members present were: James B. Buckner, Bryant Hood, Barry P. Mayo, Vice Mayor Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (7). L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr. and Mayor Alonzo Jones were absent (2). Mr. Buckner left the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

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

Vice Mayor Miller presided.

MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Buckner and **second** by Council Member Whittle, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on October 4, 2022 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

CONSIDERATION OF SUBMITTING AN ENTERPRISE ZONE AMENDMENT APPLICATION FOR CITY ENTERPRISE ZONE #1

Economic Development Project Manager Kelvin Perry explained this item was to make an adjustment to the City's Enterprise Zone Program. The State allows them to make adjustments once a year, from the time they made the last adjustment. This particular adjustment will be expanding the zone to cover the bowling alley which has made significant capital investments. The current zone, as it stands now, took into account hotels along Riverside Drive, they were just moving that part across the street where there was some additional capital investment being made by a couple of companies along that corridor. They were also including Peyton Sellars which was on Eastwood Drive, to put them in the zone as well; they were looking at making significant capital investment. Council Member Whittle questioned if the zone had to run contiguously and Mr. Perry noted it should be contiguous; the program does allow them to have two or three non-contiguous portions.

Council Members agreed to put this on an upcoming business agenda.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Danville Department of Transportation
Presented by: Marc Adelman, Director of Transportation

Vice Mayor Miller complimented Mr. Adelman on the Civil Air Patrol event the previous week and Mr. Adelman noted they had attendees from as far away as Alaska and Florida; they came from all over the country.

Mr. Adelman began review of his Power Point Presentation, *Danville City Council, Transportation Services Update*, (a copy of which has been retained in Laserfiche, in the City Clerk's folder, *Presentations to Council*.)

November 1, 2022

Mr. Adelman reviewed the cover of Transit's new Route and Schedule Guide which was distributed yesterday for the first time to the public, and noted he would be speaking about their new expanded fixed-route bus service, new bus stop signs with text messaging service, and bus tracking capabilities using QR codes. They were also replacing their automated scheduling software and included a new mobile app that a customer can use to pay for trips with a credit card. Transit has new signs that were being produced; they were unique in that when standing at a bus stop, the passenger will be able to text the sign number to 24541 and receive a text message that identifies the estimated arrival time of that bus at that particular bus stop. The bottom of the sign shows a QR code which can be scanned and it will send back a text showing the route served by the bus, and estimated arrival times. If the customer clicks the link, it will take them to the bus locator system where they can track their bus.

Mr. Adelman noted another new project was Ecolane which was to replace their automated scheduling software system. It included a new mobile app similar to what was used to schedule a trip with Uber. Customers will also be able to go on line to a web portal, schedule a ride from their home, and pay for it; the customer will receive a text notification when the bus was on the way and an estimated time of arrival. Mr. Adelman noted they just received bids last week to renovate the Transfer Center. They will be constructing a bathroom for employee use only, and will also provide an electric service data connection to put in a smart TV so passengers at the transfer center will have use of it. They were also looking at the possibility of putting a vehicle locator on the screen and a message board.

Mr. Adelman discussed bus replacement issues noting it would be one of the biggest challenges over the next few years. Last year the state changed the bus replacement policy for buses that Danville Transit uses in fixed route service by requiring vehicles to remain in the fleet for seven years with 200,000 accumulated miles versus five years and 150,000 miles. The state allowed Danville Transit to expand the fixed route bus fleet by adding two buses to improve spare bus capabilities. However, due to COVID related issues, the bus manufacturer declared this summer that events beyond their reasonable control prevent them from providing buses at the state contract price. The bus manufacturer requested a significant price increase for vehicles linked to the state contract and the state accepted their proposed fee arrangement. Mr. Adelman explained the 15 passenger bus price has increased from \$109,023, to \$174,131. For the fixed route buses, the 28 passenger bus, the price increased from \$152,087 to \$234,000, a 54% increase. Buses that took approximately eight months to produce are now expected to take approximately eighteen months to produce. Only four of the nine buses the City was scheduled to receive over the last two years will be delivered. Mr. Adelman reviewed the schedule of when the fixed route buses that were currently in service would be replaced. Passenger demand was also increasing, with an increased demand from the Institute's training program for defense manufacturing. That program was supposed to quadruple over the next year, going from 250 trainees to 1,000 trainees; they were using Danville Transit for transport.

Mr. Adelman reviewed projects at the Airport beginning with the crosswind runway; it was rehabilitated and the Airport Commission was very grateful to City Council for approving funding to do this work. That runway had been in such bad condition that a pick-up truck with a fod boss attached to it would be dragged along the runway every month to remove the debris because the pavement was breaking up. Mr. Adelman discussed the drainage system for the runway, the cost to repair it, and noted they have made a grant request to the State for \$85,000 to sealcoat the shoulders; hopefully the grant will be approved this month by the state.

Mr. Adelman explained the main lobby area of the terminal has been renovated with new lighting and furniture, and a new door so the FBO can go back and forth between two areas to interact

November 1, 2022

with customers. New storage areas were constructed, a new FBO manager office and new counters. One of the conference rooms was renovated to become a pilot's lounge. Mr. Adelman discussed hallway improvements which included new ceiling tiles, drywall, flooring, lighting and artwork; Deputy City Manager Earl Reynolds suggested the artwork images be regional and representative of the entire area. The kitchen has also been renovated and the bathrooms located on the south side of the terminal building were currently being expanded. The automatic gates have been widened to improve bus access to the terminal ramp area. The pilot's lounge has been expanded with four recliners for the pilots, with new ceiling tiles and light fixtures. Amanda Paez suggested that the shower curtain in the pilot's shower have the logo of the Danville Regional Airport. The sliding glass doors have been replaced on the Airport Drive entrance and Mr. Adelman explained that the canopy on the Airside where the aircraft park, will have a number of modifications, including new pier columns for the canopy. Funds were appropriated to rehabilitate the South Ramp to 5'10 by 425', with thirteen inches of concrete; the FAA approved funding for Phase I, almost \$2M. The subcontractor will be coming in December to rubbilize thirteen inches of concrete; all that concrete has to be turned into small pieces of stone so it can be paved over; Phase II will include paving.

Council Member Vogler requested this presentation be included at the next Council business meeting and Mr. Larking noted it would. Council Member Whittle questioned bringing in a small commercial jet, a twenty seven passenger to go to Atlanta or Newark, and Mr. Adelman stated the Airport Commission had a retreat recently and Telly Tucker was a guest speaker. One of the questions was about commercial service and Mr. Tucker confirmed when he was in Northern Virginia, when their economic development group was trying to recruit commercial air service, they had to put up a lot of money to do that. It was thousands of dollars an hour to operate a jet and they will not come unless the revenue was guaranteed; it was a huge commitment and would be more than \$1M. Mr. Adelman noted one of the challenges of attracting a commercial airline to Danville was the fact that Danville was surrounded by commercial air service opportunities in Raleigh, Greensboro and Charlotte, and they offer low fares. The other issue was the TSA requirements, would the terminal building meet the current security requirements. Council Members thanked Mr. Adelman for his presentation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Project Manager Kelvin Perry noted last Friday, the US Treasury Department awarded \$5B in New Market Tax Credits, and the City of Danville was awarded \$30M. This past Saturday was the Schoolfield Master Plan event for the community with over 500 residents attending. It was an opportunity to see what the future potential would be for the Schoolfield area. They listened to resident feedback, will be working with them and hopefully presenting a final plan to Council and the community as to what that would look like going forward. Beginning on January 1, the City will begin the demolition process at 231 Main Street, formally Lou's Antiques; that process will probably take about six to eight weeks to complete. Once that was done, the City will repair a culvert, and the area will be a greenfield until they find a development project to go in that particular space. All merchants have been notified and were aware of the schedule, and the City will continue to work with them to keep disruption to a minimum.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Whittle questioned when he could get his \$.04 on the \$100 reduction on the table and put on the agenda. Mr. Vogler noted reducing a rate was done during the budget, a rate can't be changed in the middle of the budget year. Mr. Larking stated they would need to find out what was legal from the City Attorney's office, and there was also the challenge of what to do about

November 1, 2022

the lost revenue; the budget was balanced under the current tax rate. Mr. Larking stated making a decision of this magnitude, he would recommend being very thoughtful through that process. Mr. Whittle stated it would be paid for with the raised assessments the City was doing right now. Vice Mayor Miller stated this should be done during budget time, and the City does not receive any casino money until 2025; that cannot be spent now. It can't be done now because the City would have to cut services in the middle of the stream to do it; the City would be giving away money they don't have. Mr. Vogler noted he was happy to talk about tax cuts, but didn't think it should be done in the middle of the fiscal year, it should be done during budget. Mr. Vogler noted he would like the City Manager to present that to Council during the budget process, a budget that staff puts together and what a budget would look like if this happened; Council can discuss it then.

CLOSED MEETING

At 9:14 p.m., Council Member Vogler **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 specific parcels 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 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider: an update on multiple prospective commercial, mixed use, hospitality, and industrial projects considering locating within the City and/or locating within the region in cooperation with the City's regional partners; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the City regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as permitted by Subsection (A)(8) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended and more specifically to consider: City Employee-Management relations.

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

VOTE: 7-0-2
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Mayo, Miller
Saunders, Vogler and Whittle (7)
NAY: None
ABSENT: Campbell and Jones (2)

Upon unanimous vote at 10:39 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Council Member Vogler **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;

November 1, 2022

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 Mayo and carried by the following vote:

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:40 P.M.

APPROVED:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK