

October 4, 2022

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on September 6, 2022, at 8:01 p.m. in City 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, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Sherman M. Saunders was absent (1).

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 Vogler and **second** by Vice Mayor Miller, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on September 6, 2022 were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS

Appointment recommendations were postponed until the next work session.

CONSIDERATION OF RELEASING EXISTING LIENS ON PARCEL #20340

Council Member Buckner questioned the location of this item and Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson stated they were in the Monument-Berryman area. Council agreed to put this on an upcoming business agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE DANVILLE CITY CODE TO ADD SECTION 23-9.1 ENTITLED "UNPERMITTED CAMPING ON CITY PROPERTY."

Mr. Dodson explained the proposed item was to prohibit unpermitted camping on public places in the City. There was a meeting between staff of the City Attorney's office and the Police Department, and the Police brought to the City Attorney's attention a couple incidents where they found people sleeping in areas that were probably unsafe. When staff looked at the city code, it wasn't clear as to what could be done in that situation. They looked at what other localities were doing; Roanoke, Bristol and Pulaski very recently adopted similar language to what staff was putting forward tonight. It has been court tested, and staff thinks it was Constitutional. They did add a clause which says that the police will provide information to persons that they were asking not to sleep in public. They feel it was a good way to get information to people who might need it; police want to help and to be able to provide an answer if they have to ask someone to leave. Staff has prepared information listing shelters, camping areas, and programs such as emergency assistance through Social Services. They have that compiled, and were working on putting it into a format that was convenient for the police to have in their cars; that way, the City can provide proactive tools for the police while still showing compassion and helping people in need.

Mr. Whittle questioned if a group such as the boy scouts, or a revival was setting up tents, was that covered and Mr. Dodson noted that would be permitted. Mr. Whitfield stated when the Boy Scouts go out to Dan Daniel and camp, those things were provided for. Mr. Dodson noted they have included some exemptions such as sleeping in a car on private property and others.

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Council agreed to put this on an upcoming business meeting.

PROGRAM UPDATES

City Manager Ken Larking noted he appreciated Council Members who mentioned the utility workers who have been working over the past several days to get the power restored for citizens.

COMMUNICATIONS

Vice Mayor Miller noted at the Community Market last week, they heard some complaints from vendors that on Saturday mornings they cannot find a parking space; a lot of the area behind was tied up with people that live in the apartments and leave their cars and boats, parking in an area they shouldn't be parking. It restricts people from getting into the Community Market, and asked staff to look into that to see if they can limit parking at least on event days in that parking lot.

Mr. Vogler noted he heard a lot of positive comments about Danville Council Members and staff during VML.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:07 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK