DANVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 4, 2021

#1....THE REGULAR MEETING of the City Council of the City of Danville was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Rickey Williams, Jr. at the Robert E. Jones Municipal Building, 17 W. Main Street, Danville, Illinois.

THE ROLL CALL was answered by Mayor Rickey Williams, Jr., Vice Mayor Bob Iverson, Aldermen Brenda Brown, Michael O’Kane, Sherry Pickering, James Poshard, Michael Puhr, Rick Strebing, Aaron Troglia, Robert Williams, and Darren York. Absent were Aldermen R.J. Davis, Dan Duncheon, Eve Ludwig, and Sharon McMahon. A quorum was present. Mayor Williams stated Alderman Ludwig was excused due to illness.

Staff Members Present: City Clerk Lisa Monson, City Comptroller Ashlyn Massey, City Engineer Sam Cole, Corporation Counsel James Simon, Construction & Maintenance Manager David Ruwe, Assistant Information Technology Administrator Aaron Weaver, Information Technology Administrator Agnel DSilva, Human Relations Administrator Sandra Finch, Police Chief Chris Yates, Public Transportation Director Lisa Beith, and Public Works Director Carl Carpenter.

There were seventeen audience members and three news media in attendance.

#2....INVOCATION was given by Alderman Brenda Brown, followed by
#3....THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE led by Alderman Strebing.

#4....THE MINUTES
Mayor Williams announced there were no minutes to approve.

#5....THE AGENDA for the evening was presented. Alderman Brown moved for approval as presented, seconded by Vice Mayor Iverson. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

#6....MAYOR’S REPORT
#6-A...Proclamations – None
#6-B...Board/Committee Appointments
Mayor Williams announced the appointment of Vice-Mayor Bob Iverson as Chairman, Alderman Brenda Brown, and Alderman Sherri Pickering to the 2021 Credentials Committee. Alderman Puhr moved to concur, seconded by Alderman Strebing. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered. Mayor Williams explained to the audience the purpose of the Credentials Committee is to verify that each of the newly elected officials Mayor Williams announced the appointment of Vice-Mayor Bob Iverson as Chairman, Alderman Brenda Brown, and Alderman Sherri Pickering to the 2021 Credentials Committee. Alderman Puhr moved to concur, seconded by Alderman Strebing. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered. Mayor Williams explained to the audience that the purpose of the Credentials Committee is to verify that each of the newly elected officials are eligible and qualified to serve on the Danville City Council. The Committee will review the following two documents: 1) a document from the City stating the elected official does not owe the City any money; and 2) a document from the Danville Election Commission that certifies the elected official as the winner of the election.

#6-C...Reports of Boards, Agencies, Commissions – None
#6-D...Items of Information
Mayor Williams announced some of the pastors and churches in the community have organized a community celebration tomorrow night [May 5, 2021] as part of the “National Day of Fasting and Prayer” that will be a 6:00 p.m. at Lincoln Park.

#7....PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, AUDIENCE COMMENTS
[Public input was received by e-mail and submitted to the City Clerk’s office prior to the meeting. Mayor Williams read the public comments per Council rules and time limits.]
Clerk Monson stated the following comment was received April 20, 2021 at 5:23 p.m. after the 4:30 p.m. deadline to be read at the April 20, 2021 City Council meeting.
Christopher Hansen of Urbana comments followed up to comments given at the April 6, 2021 City Council meeting in regards to his concern with the City of Danville’s appointment of Corporation Counsel Simon. He stated he attempted to urge caution in regards to any advice or information provided by the new City Attorney. That warning was founded from numerous instances of unscrupulous behavior, many of which are documented by the Illinois Attorney General and the courts. His comments included concern that Mr. Simon retaliated with false and misleading claims about his own character and Mayor Williams censoring his comments from the April 6, 2021 meeting. Mr. Hansen’s comments stated he submitted a few dozen FOIA requests to the City of Urbana in the last couple of years and not “thousands upon thousands of FOIA” there was nothing "defamatory and legally chargeable" about his public input.

Corporation Counsel Simon addressed the comment and stated it is unfortunate Mr. Hansen continues to engage, not only about me, but others in the community in which he lives where his goal is defamatory character assassination. I will tell you there is no question that the comments he has made about me and others is defamatory. He has called me unethical, which for an attorney is tantamount for crime. There is no evidence of any unethical conduct in his 44 years of practice of law. He has called me corrupt, which is a crime. Any false imputation of a crime is defamation be it slander or written form which is defamation. He does not have much more to add, but if you really are interested in Mr. Hansen, he recommends tuning in to the February 22, 2021 City Council meeting at Urbana and listening to Audrey Ishii who provides excellent summation from where Mr. Hansen and his followers come. It is a brilliant explanation of how flawed Mr. Hansen is and that his sole goal is to harass people. He has nothing better in his life to do.

#8....ZONING PETITIONS – None

#9....PAYROLL
Mayor Williams presented the Payrolls, having been published, posted, and distributed, for run of April 23, 2021, of $547,808.47, and for run of April 30, 2021, of $70,867.48. Alderman Pickering moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Vice Mayor Iverson. There being no questions or discussion, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen Troglia, Pickering O’Kane, Iverson, Strebing, Puhr, Brown, Poshard, York, Williams
Nays: None
Absent: Aldermen Davis, Duncheon, Ludwig, McMahon

Motion carried 10 to 0 with 4 absent.

#10...SCHEDULE OF VOUCHERS PAYABLE
Mayor Williams presented the Schedule of Vouchers Payable, having been published, posted, and distributed for run of April 27, 2021, of $1,233,978.08, and for run of May 4, 2021, of $404,627.90. Alderman Pickering moved to dispense with the readings and asked for approval as presented, seconded by Alderman Strebing. After all questions were addressed, the roll call vote being:
Ayes: Aldermen Pickering O’Kane, Iverson, Strebing, Puhr, Brown, Poshard, York, Williams
Nays: None
Abstention: Alderman Troglia
Absent: Aldermen Davis, Duncheon, Ludwig, McMahon
Motion carried 9 to 0 with 4 absent and 1 abstention.

#11...PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT
#11-A...Items of Information
- Chairman Puhr announced the next Public Works Committee meeting will take place by videoconference on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
- Alderman Pickering stated last week there was a fire in her neighborhood and it brought to her attention how many homes we have in the City that have been burnt and are condemned, but they are not on the demolition list and one big concern is the house on [924] N. Gilbert St., north of Goodwill is an eyesore on a main street and is a safety hazard. She asked why the City is not getting some of these houses torn down. Mayor Williams stated there are a couple of reasons #1 sometimes the City has to take people to court and depending upon how much of the structure is left because they might say it is remediable. Another reason is the City has a separate demolition list for the burned structures. Director Carpenter stated there is a legal process that has to be followed and some of it could be due to insurance company and then we have to hold back some of that money to be reimbursed for demolition costs. He also stated there is a process for any structure we tear down that does not belong to the City. Some of the structures have been on the demolition list for two years. Alderman Pickering questioned if there is anything the City can do when the burned structure is a safety hazard such as the one at 924 N. Gilbert St. and Mayor Williams responded it would have to create an imminent danger to life or property. Corporation Counsel Simon stated the first and simplest way is to get the owner's consent, as someone owns every piece of property. He developed a protocol to ramp up efforts on the demolitions, which Mayor Williams is reviewing. The second way is called "fast track demolition", which is a statutory process, but it is a very rigorous process and the time frame is relatively short, but the City has to be very careful to enter a property without an administrative warrant or some reason to be on the property immediately. We have to be cognizant of the constitutional rights of property owners. Finally, the City could go to court to get a demolition order, which is a long-term process.
- Alderman Williams requested a demolition list and Mayor Williams responded he gave a demolition list to the media a couple of months ago and it was shared in the Commercial-News newspaper and Vermilion County First/Neuhoff Media Broadcasting. The list he shared was demolitions he knows we can address and there are others in transit.

#12...PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT
#12-A... In Chairman McMahon's absence, Vice Chairman Brown presented the City Clerk's Report of Licenses. Alderman Pickering moved to dispense with the report and asked for approval, seconded by Vice Mayor Iverson. The report being:

BUSINESS LICENSES:

TOBACCO DEALERS:
- Dale's Place – 1217 E Fairchild St
- Danville Grocery & Deli – 1814 E Main St
- Danville Liquors – 1816 E Main St
- Danville Marathon – 3401 E Main St
- Dollar General Store #2944 – 1405 N Bowman Ave
- Dollar General Store #12709 – 300 W Fairchild St
- Dollar General Store #1878 – 100 N Griffin St
- Dollar General Store #4394 – 3353 N Vermilion St
AMBULANCE:
Arrow Ambulance LLC, Carle Arrow Ambulance – 210 E. University Ave., Champaign IL

#12-B... Items of Information
[The next Public Services Committee meeting will take place by videoconference on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.]

#13... ITEMS OF INFORMATION
#13-A... COVID-19 Update and Discussion on Pandemic
Mayor Williams encouraged everyone to get vaccinated as there are many clinics in the community. He reminded those who have received the vaccine does not mean you can discontinue taking precautions. He asked everyone to continue to be safe, social distance and use proper handwashing. He also stated there are still COVID relief funds available for local businesses and funds available for housing for citizens.

Other Items of Information
Alderman Puhr asked if there is any update on the casino and Mayor Williams responded he has no update, but as soon as he receives it, he will share with the Council and media.

#13-B... Honor Outgoing Aldermen
Mayor Williams stated he planned to honor the outgoing Aldermen, but none are in attendance this evening. He asked everyone to continue praying for Alderman Davis as he has had some health issues.

#14... CLOSED SESSION was not needed.

#15... ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 6:26 p.m. following a motion by Alderman Strebing and a second by Alderman Poshard. On the voice vote, all ayes, no nays; the motion so ordered.

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Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk

I, Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk of the City of Danville, Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the regular meeting held May 4, 2021, as the same appears on the records of the City now in my custody and keeping.

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Lisa K. Monson, City Clerk

Approved: 05/18/21
Posted Publicly: 05/19/21