

January 2, 2025

The Inaugural Meeting of the Danville City Council was held on January 2, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building. The following Council Members were present: James B. Buckner, L. G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Bryant Hood, Alonzo L. Jones, Barry P. Mayo, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9). *Dr. Miller entered the meeting at 12:02 p.m.*

Staff Members present were: City Manager Ken Larking, City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield Jr., Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

City Clerk Susan DeMasi called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone in attendance and introduced Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson who gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

PRESENTATION OF ELECTION CERTIFICATES

Ms. DeMasi noted the Certificates of Election had been placed at the seats of the recently re-elected Council Members.

OATHS OF OFFICE

Ms. DeMasi administered the Oath of Office to L.G. "Larry" Campbell, Jr., Barry P. Mayo, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J. Whittle.

ELECTION OF MAYOR

The next order of business was the election of Mayor for a two-year term commencing January 2, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026. Ms. DeMasi turned the floor over to City Attorney Clarke Whitfield to conduct the elections. Mr. Whitfield congratulated the five re-elected Council Members, and explained the Mayor and Vice Mayor elected today will serve for a two year term until December 31, 2026. Nominations do not require a second, and opened the floor for nominations for Mayor.

Council Member Campbell nominated Alonzo L. Jones for Mayor.

Council Member Saunders noted that anyone who was leading without any followers, are just taking a walk. Mayor Jones was leading, Council was walking with him.

There were no further nominations for Mayor and the nominations were closed.

Council Members voting for Mr. Jones were: Mr. Buckner, Rev. Campbell, Mr. Hood, Mr. Jones, Mr. Mayo, Dr. Miller, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Vogler and Mr. Whittle.

Alonzo L. Jones was elected to serve as Mayor for a two-year term commencing January 2, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026.

ELECTION OF VICE MAYOR

Mr. Whitfield opened the floor for nominations for Vice Mayor for a two-year term commencing January 2, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026.

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Council Member Vogler nominated James B. Buckner for Vice Mayor. Mr. Vogler noted, having worked closely with Mr. Buckner in both community and professional settings, he has witnessed firsthand his unwavering commitment to the people of Danville, his leadership abilities and his deep passion for the betterment of the City. He was a respected member of the community, known for his integrity, collaborative spirit and his ability to inspire those around him. Whether advocating for local businesses, volunteering at community events or working to improve public services, he has always put the interests of Danville first. His dedication to public service combined with his experience in both business and civic leadership, positions him as an excellent candidate to serve as Vice Mayor. Throughout his career, Mr. Buckner has demonstrated strong communication and problem-solving skills, qualities that will serve him well in this role. His approach to leadership was one of inclusivity, actively listening to diverse voices within the community and working to find solutions that benefit all residents. He understands the challenges facing the City and his vision for the future was one of growth, innovation and unity. Additionally, James has earned the respect of his peers, local organizations and citizens alike, thanks to his approachable demeanor and his ability to work with people of all backgrounds to find solutions to achieve common goals. His leadership was not defined by personal gain but by his sincere desire to make Danville a better place for all. It was for these reasons and many more, that Mr. Vogler stated he strongly supported James Buckner for the position of Vice Mayor, noting he was confident that his leadership will help continue the momentum of progress in Danville. He was certain Mr. Buckner will serve with the same dedication and excellence that he has shown throughout his life. Mr. Vogler noted he has been honored to serve with him on this Council and will be honored to serve with him as the next Vice Mayor, and strongly encouraged his colleagues to support him for Vice Mayor.

There were no further nominations for Vice Mayor and the nominations were closed.

Council Members voting for Mr. Buckner were: Mr. Buckner, Rev. Campbell, Mr. Hood, Mr. Jones, Mr. Mayo, Dr. Miller, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Vogler and Mr. Whittle.

James B. Buckner was elected to serve as Vice Mayor for a two-year term commencing January 2, 2025, and ending December 31, 2026.

DRAWING FOR COUNCIL SEATING

The last item of business conducted by Ms. DeMasi and Mr. Whitfield was the drawing for Council Seating. Following the drawing, there was a brief recess while the Mayor, Vice Mayor and Members of Council assumed their respective seats.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted his congratulations to all the newly re-elected Council Members and congratulations to the Mayor and Vice Mayor.

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield congratulated all the re-elected Council Members, congratulations to the Mayor for his re-election and Mr. Buckner for his election to Vice Mayor.

Vice Mayor Buckner thanked his colleagues on Council for their vote of confidence, and to his wife Jessica and son Elijah for being here, his brother and his daughter as well.

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Council Member Campbell noted he was thankful to everyone who gave him their vote of confidence to serve another four years; this will be his fifth term serving, and stated his congratulations to the Mayor and Vice Mayor. They have a good team.

Council Member Hood congratulated the re-elected Council Members and the Mayor and newly elected Vice Mayor Buckner. Mr. Hood thanked Dr. Miller for his service, and for the citizens for having trust in the Council

Council Member Mayo noted it was a great privilege to serve on Council, would like to thank everyone for coming out and thanked his wife for her support. Mr. Mayo congratulated the Council Members on being re-elected, thanked Dr. Miller for serving, and thanked the Mayor, he was a true leader.

Dr. Miller noted he has served on Council for a number of years, and this year was a tough election for Council members with all the national and state elections going on at the same time. The re-elected Council Members did an outstanding job, and Mayor Jones was a great leader.

Council Member Saunders noted it was a pleasure to serve on this body with the other Council members, while serving the City; he appreciated everyone's support. Mr. Saunders thanked the citizens for re-electing him, he was proud to serve on Council.

Council Member Vogler noted he was thankful to his fellow Council Members, and to the citizens of Danville for giving him this fourth term; he can remember being sworn in for the first time twelve years ago. The Council Members were blessed to do this job, and he was blessed to have his family here, his parents and his extended family; it was an honor to be able to do this. Mr. Vogler congratulated the Mayor and Vice Mayor on their election.

Council Member Whittle congratulated the Mayor and Vice Mayor, and everyone who ran this year. It was long, tough race, and noted his appreciation of his brother, of Anne, and City staff.

Mayor Jones recognized the family members and friends of the Council Members, noting he wanted to thank them for their support. Mayor Jones reviewed the Council's strategic goals: supporting education, continuing to grow Danville, continuing to reduce violent crime, and partnerships. In the past, Council Members sat down with the Superintendent and her staff to see how Council can help them. Mayor Jones noted he was going to be taking on that role with the City Manager and Police Chief Chris Wiles. What he, the City Manager and the Chief want to do, was to see how they can align themselves with Danville Public Schools. They want to support Dr. Hairston and the School Board, to make sure the students were safe, make sure the faculty and staff were safe, and make sure the community was safe. Some of the suggestions were to do community engagement in the school system, as it was done in the Police Department.

Mayor Jones noted all the great things happening in Danville; the City has announced many jobs that will come to the community from Microporous, and they were excited about Caesars. There were a lot of ambassadors in the City that support what the City was doing. Dr. Hairston said it very well, it was going to be one of the most impactful years they have ever seen. Mayor Jones noted he wanted to start this off by giving the helmet and shovel he received for the Microporous groundbreaking to one of the City's ambassadors, who support Danville and stand with the City. Mayor Jones presented them to Tammy Wright-Warren and her husband Craig Warren; Mayor Jones thanked them for all that they do to support the City.

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Mayor Jones thanked Council for electing him as Mayor, and thanked Mr. Vogler who served as his Vice Mayor his first term, thanked Dr. Miller for serving as his Vice Mayor his second term and now Mr. Buckner will serve as his next Vice Mayor.

The Meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK