

May 6, 2025

The First Regular May meeting of the Danville City Council was held on May 6, 2025, at 7:00 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, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry Mayo, Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9).

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

Mayor Jones presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Sherman M. Saunders gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: 2025 American Planning Association Sustainability Community Award
Presented by: Renee Burton, City of Danville Division Director of Planning

Ms. Burton presented Council with the 2025 American Planning Association Sustainability Community Award, noting the City's application received a perfect score. Ms. Burton stated that staff was proud of this achievement, proud of their community for the development of the plan, and proud of their home.

Proclamation: Make Danville Shine Month
Presented to: Dana Kern, Housing and Redevelopment Specialist, Community Development

Mayor Jones read the proclamation for Make Danville Shine Month and encouraged all citizens to come together to clean up, paint up, and fix up Danville. Ms. Kerns stated the official kickoff was this past Saturday at the community market. Public Works will be waiving some fees for bulk debris, and they had T-shirts left over available on a first-come serve basis.

Presentation: Mayor's 2025 Educator of the Year Award
Presented by: Mayor Alonzo Jones

Mayor Jones asked Dr. Angela Hairston, Superintendent of Danville Public Schools, and her husband to come to the podium. Mayor Jones wished Dr. Hairston a very happy birthday and presented her with the Mayor's 2025 Educator of the Year Award. Mayor Jones discussed the accomplishments that Dr. Hairston and her staff have achieved over the years, and Council members thanked Dr. Hairston for her work.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Budget Items on the Consent Agenda. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 29, 2025. No one present desired to be heard.

Council Member Campbell **moved** for adoption of the following Consent Agenda items:

A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on April 1, 2025.

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B. Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Grant and Loan from the Virginia Tobacco Region and Revitalization Commission.

Ordinance No. 2025-04.02, An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide for a Virginia Tobacco Region and Revitalization Commission \$750,000 Grant and \$750,000 Loan to Assist with the City's Mount Cross Road Battery Energy Storage System.

C. Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide Support to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program.

Ordinance No. 2025-04.03, An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenues from the Casino Gaming Taxes to Provide Support to Neighbors Helping Neighbors in the Amount of \$200,000 and Appropriating the Same.

D. Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Fund a One-Year Utility Customer Credit

Ordinance No. 2025-04.04, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Fund a One-Year Utility Customer Credit Using Excess Casino Gaming Taxes in an Amount not to Exceed \$2,400,000 and Appropriating Same.

E. Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Fund the City Residential HVAC/Insulation Project

Ordinance No. 2025-04.05, An Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenues from Casino Gaming Taxes to Fund a City Residential HVAC/Insulation Project in the Amount of \$500,000 and Appropriating Same.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Saunders.

Council Member Whittle asked that Item D be pulled for discussion.

Council Member Campbell **Amended his Motion** to approve items A, B, C, and E. The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Saunders and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

Mr. Whittle noted he would like to see if the Utility Rate increase goes through before they vote on Consent Agenda Item D. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield noted they would need to Amend the Agenda to move Consent Item D to New Business as Item M. Mr. Whittle made a **Motion** to Move Consent Agenda Item D to New Business Item M; the Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Vogler and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

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APPOINTMENTS

Consideration of Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of Appointment Resolutions entitled:

Resolution No. 2025-05.01 - A Resolution Appointing Lucius Chandler to Fill an Unexpired Term on the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Resolution No. 2025-05.02 - A Resolution Appointing Barry Mayo to fill An Unexpired Term on the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

Resolution No. 2025-05.03 - A Resolution Appointing Kristen Barker to the Danville Development Authority for a Term Ending November 20, 2025.

Resolution No. 2025-05.04 - A Resolution Appointing James Bebeau to the Danville Development Authority for a Term Ending November 20, 2026.

Resolution No. 2025-05.05 - A Resolution Appointing John Laramore to the Danville Development Authority for a Term Ending November 20, 2026.

Resolution No. 2025-05.06 - A Resolution Appointing Philip Hall to the Danville Development Authority for a Term Ending November 20, 2026.

Resolution No. 2025-05.07 - A Resolution Appointing Robert Woodall to the Danville Development Authority for a Term Ending November 20, 2026.

Resolution No. 2025-05.08 - A Resolution Appointing Russell Reynolds to the Danville Development Authority for a Term Ending November 20, 2028.

Resolution No. 2025-05.09 - A Resolution Appointing T. Neal Morris to the Danville Development Authority for a Term Ending November 20, 2028.

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

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FILED BY KARE PARTNERS, LLC AT PARCEL 77074 (119 CANE CREEK BOULEVARD)

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 119 Cane Creek Boulevard. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 22, 2025, and April 29, 2025.

Mayor Jones recognized Jennifer Lon, who noted she oversees real estate for Kare Partners, and Alexandria Jones, Regional Manager, who spoke to Council about why Kare Partners would like

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to come into Danville to begin services for special needs children. Flyers were provided to Council, and Ms. Jones reviewed the different services their company provided. No one further desired to be heard, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.01

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ25- 00160, FILED BY KARE PARTNERS, LLC, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW USES BY RIGHT AND BY SPECIAL USE PERMIT IN THE HR-C HIGHWAY RETAIL COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT (CHILD THERAPEUTIC DAY SUPPORT SERVICES) AT PARCEL 77074 (119 CANE CREEK BOULEVARD) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.O., SECTION C., ITEM 15.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Campbell.

Council Member Saunders asked if there was an age limit for services, and Ms. Jones stated for rehab services, OT, PT, and speech therapy, that would go from 18 months to the age of 18. The ABA services were for ages 2 – 10 in clinic and 2 – 12 in home. All services are billed through Medicaid and other insurances. They were currently working with Mr. Townes about providing transportation to and from services; parents were responsible for dropping off and picking up their children. All services were one-on-one without a cap on services; it depends on growth. Council Member Vogler stated this was straightforward because it was a needed service. This company has been providing services for almost 20 years with 20 locations.

After further questions and discussion, Council Member Saunders moved to **Amend the Motion** to include the condition that Kare Partners meet with the school system, DPCS, and other agencies that provide services to the community. The **Motion was seconded** by Council Member Campbell and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FILED BY CHRISTINE FUSTON TO ALLOW A CHILD DAY CARE CENTER AT 1218 WEST MAIN STREET.

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 1218 West Main Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 22, 2025, and April 29, 2025.

Mayor Jones recognized Christine Fuston who spoke to Council about opening a 24/7 child care center, that gives full time, part time as well as drop in options for parents who do not work flexible work hours. It would be for children between 6 to 13 years, with a safe place to go. No one further desired to be heard, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.02

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AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ25- 00164 FILED BY CHRISTINE FUSTON TO ALLOW A CHILD DAY CARE CENTER AT PARCEL 51471 (1218 WEST MAIN STREET) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.M., SECTION C., ITEM 6.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Buckner.

Council Member Vogler noted he thought this was absolutely needed and a great location. In response to Council Member Mayo, Ms. Fuston noted it would be a 24-hour facility.

The **Motion** was carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

CONSIDERATION OF REZONING APPLICATION FILED BY BLACKSTONE BUILDING GROUP LLC TO REZONE PARCEL 78585 (VANDOLA ROAD).

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Rezoning Application at Parcel 78585 (Vandola Road). Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 22, 2025, and April 29, 2025.

Mayor Jones recognized Rick Byers from Blackstone Building Group, the developer, who noted he was there to answer any questions. The project was approved last summer under a Master Plan; subsequently, several months later, there were some items that came up including water issues on Vandola Road. They have come to a 50/50 agreement with the Utility Department for a water main extension. Phase 1 has not changed but because it was a mixed-use development there were some different structure sizes and lot widths. They have also added a daycare which will come before Council in the next month. They were advised by Planning to resubmit this under four different rezonings because there doesn't seem to be a Master Plan with an overlay district that would capture all the nuances of this mixed-use development. No one further desired to be heard, and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.03

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING REZONING APPLICATION PZ25-00194 FILED BY BLACKSTONE BUILDING GROUP LLC TO REZONE PARCEL 78585 (VANDOLA ROAD) FROM S-R SUBURBAN RESIDENTIAL TO A-R ATTACHED RESIDENTIAL.

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

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

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CONSIDERATION OF ADJUSTING UTILITY RATES FOR UTILITY SERVICES

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Adjusting Utility Rates. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 29, 2025, and May 3, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Item Failed due to lack of Motion.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.04

AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING UTILITY RATES FOR UTILITY SERVICES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

CONSIDERATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 DANVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUDGET

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Danville Public Schools Budget. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 29, 2025.

Mayor Jones recognized Ty'quan Graves, Chair of the Danville Public School Board, who thanked the Mayor for recognizing the Superintendent as Educator of the Year, appreciation for Council for their ongoing support of Danville Public Schools, and consideration of this year's budget. Mr. Graves noted they were deeply grateful that Council continued to put the students first and ensure that education remains a top priority in the City. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Vogler and **second** by Council Member Mayo, a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05.10

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BUDGET OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF FEE CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Fee Changes. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on April 29, 2025 and May 6, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and **second** by Council Member Mayo, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.05

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND ESTABLISHING AND INCREASING CERTAIN FEES OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

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CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF DANVILLE IDA LEASE REVENUE BONDS

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-05.11

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING A PLAN TO FINANCE CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF A LEASE REVENUE BOND BY THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

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

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
NAY: None (0)

CONSIDERATION OF REPEALING AND REORDAINING CHAPTER 23.1 ENTITLED "NOISE" OF THE DANVILLE CITY CODE

Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.06

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REORDAINING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 23.1, ENTITLED "NOISE", OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Buckner.

Council Member Campbell asked the City Manager to explain to the citizens how this agenda item came about and how it would be measured. City Manager Ken Larking asked Assistant City Attorney Ryan Dodson and Police Chief Chris Wiles to come forward. Mr. Dodson stated this noise ordinance was still largely what was currently in place. The few changes they were making included amending the definition of a motor vehicle as there have been some instances of off-road motor vehicles creating noise; that was currently not covered by what was in the Code. They have also expanded "quiet areas;" there were stricter rules in place and they added hospitals and retirement facilities to those that currently exist for schools. As far as how to measure it, it was not based off a decibel reading using equipment; that can create issues where calibration was concerned. It was based off whether or not it can be heard off of the property. If music or loud noises were heard off the property after 10:00 pm, and 11:00 pm on Friday and Saturday; it would be a Class 2 misdemeanor and can be fined. Council Member Vogler noted this was based off feedback from citizens where issues came up and the police department's hands were tied because of the ordinances on the books. Vice Mayor Buckner wanted citizens to know that this does not affect music venues and other permit approved concerts or activities.

The **Motion** was carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)

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NAY: None (0)

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT**

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Campbell and **second** by Council Member Mayo, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY APPROPRIATING COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT FUNDS AND PROVIDING LOCAL MATCHING FUNDS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$5,709,442 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE FOR THE VICTIM WITNESS GRANT PROGRAM**

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and **second** by Council Member Whittle, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.08

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A GRANT FROM THE STATE FOR A VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$177,083, WITH A LOCAL MATCH OF \$1,250 FOR A TOTAL OF \$178,333 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE FOR A SHIELD GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,381**

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and **second** by Council Member Mayo, an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.09

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES–BJA FISCAL YEAR 2024 BYRNE/JAG PROGRAM BALLISTIC SHIELD GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,381 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE FOR A CIT MARCUS ALERT CO-RESPONSE GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$100,000**

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and **second** by Council Member Whittle, an Ordinance entitled:

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ORDINANCE NO. 2025-05.10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES – FY 2025 CIT/MARCUS ALERT GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO FUND A ONE-YEAR UTILITY CUSTOMER CREDIT

ITEM NOT CONSIDERED AS CONSENT AGENDA ITEM D FAILED.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-04.04

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO FUND A ONE-YEAR UTILITY CUSTOMER CREDIT USING EXCESS CASINO GAMING TAXES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,400,000 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, or City Clerk. City Attorney Clarke Whitfield thanked Vice Mayor Buckner for presenting the Law Day Proclamation and representing the City.

Council Member Miller spoke about the graduation at the IALR for defense manufacturing, and the event this past weekend at Gentry Farms. Dr. Miller wished all the mothers a Happy Mother's Day.

Council Member Saunders thanked everyone for their conversation tonight and stated to the City Manager that later he would like some type of report to show how Danville was growing, and the areas of the City that were growing.

Council Member Vogler reminded everyone that the utility increase was not coming because there was no vote. Mr. Vogler gave a shout out to the Danville Middle School baseball team for making the playoffs.

Council Member Whittle noted the precision machinery program at the IALR was wonderful.

Vice Mayor Buckner thanked the City Attorney for the recognition of presenting the Law Day proclamation to a packed house of people, it was an absolute honor to do so. Mr. Buckner noted the Make Danville Shine event was great and it was good to see the City involved in events like that.

Council Member Campbell expressed concern for the future regarding food banks and the crisis coming for the people in the community. Rev Campbell hoped to find a way to address this and similar issues to help those in the community.

Council Member Hood spoke about the past week's events that happened throughout Danville, and congratulated Ms. Hood on the launch of her magazine. Mr. Hood noted he attended the

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graduation ceremony for advanced manufacturing held at the Institute earlier that morning; it was amazing to see what was happening daily in Danville. Mr. Hood gave a shout out to DHRA resident services for the continuum of care for those unhoused and the success stories that are starting to emerge from this program.

Mayor Jones noted it was Teacher's Appreciation Week and thanked all the teachers in the school system. This coming week God's Storehouse will be having their Stamp Out Hunger program and asked citizens to please donate or provide any assistance if they were able. Mayor Jones thanked all the school board members for the work they do and for working so well with Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK