

May 20, 2025

The Second Regular May meeting of the Danville City Council was held on May 20, 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 P. Mayo, Dr. 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 W. Clarke Whitfield Jr., and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi.

Mayor Jones presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice Mayor James B. Buckner gave the Invocation followed by Abigail Crisfield, an Outstanding Seventh Grader from Westwood Middle School, who led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 May 13, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of the following Consent Agenda items:

Consideration of Approval of Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on April 15, 2025.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for the Comprehensive Services Act

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.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for the Victim Witness Grant Program

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.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Shield Grant in the Amount of \$15,381

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.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a CIT Marcus Alert Co-Response Grant in the Amount of \$100,000

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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.

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)

OLD BUSINESS

Consideration of the Fiscal Year 2026 Danville Public Schools Budget

Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of 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.

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)

Consideration of Fee Changes Effective July 1, 2025

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of 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.

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

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, and Whittle (8)
NAY: Vogler (1)

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF THE GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS AS OF APRIL 30, 2025.

Michael Adkins, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Danville, gave a brief overview of the General Fund financials as of April 30, 2025; that was ten months of the fiscal year or 83%

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complete. Total Revenues were just over \$124M, or 76% of budget. The reason the City was not at 83% of the budget was because Personal Property and Real Estate taxes were not received evenly throughout the year. Those bills went out earlier this month and they will see that revenue coming during May and June. Also, state casino taxes were paid quarterly and there was a lag between when it was earned and when it shows in the financials. Sales tax was \$11.5M or 88.5% of budget; they had seen a small dip in Sales tax collections for April and May, about \$100,000 less than those months last year; they should still exceed the budget by about \$500,000 by the end of June. Business Licenses have done well this year, collecting \$8M so far, that was 106% of budget, and anticipates they will exceed budget by about \$650,000 at the end of this year. Mr. Adkins noted the number of licenses was about the same as last year, around 2,500 at the end of April, for the first ten months of the year. Meals tax was also doing well, they have received \$10.8M or 89.5% of budget and should exceed budget by about \$700,000 at the end of June. Casino tax, both the direct payment and the state tax looks like it will exceed budget as well; the current budget was \$25.7M and as of April they have earned \$23.6M. Mr. Adkins noted items that were under budget or close to budget included Lodging tax which was at \$2.9M at the end of April, that was 83.4% of budget and on target for the fiscal year. May and June were typically the City's strong months and hoped that will hold true for this year. One line item Mr. Adkins noted he knew would be under budget was bank stock tax; this was a tax collected from the local banks based on the amount of deposits they have throughout the year. The City has not collected that revenue but have billed it. The budget was \$1.1M and it looked like they will collect about \$950,000, about \$150,000 or so under budget; this will be offset by the other items mentioned earlier. Other local, state and federal incomes were coming in as anticipated and he had no concerns at this point.

On the Expenditure side, Departmental Spending at the end of April was at 76% of budget. Non Departmental Expenses, primarily debt service and group health insurance were something they know ahead of time and budget that accurately; that was fully spent at this point and at 100% of budget. Group health insurance was still trending under budget, currently at 80% expended at the end of April. Mr. Adkins noted looking at fund balance, the City started the year with about \$51M in the Unassigned Fund Balance, and they appropriated about \$7.6M for a few significant development projects. That brought it down to \$43.4M to start off the year. For fiscal year 2026, the recommended budget was going to require a minimum of \$46M in fund balance, so there were some gains to be made there. There were several revenue streams that were going to come in over budget and believed Departmental Spending will still be under budget at the end of June; that will help contribute enough to meet that minimum and hopefully provide a little buffer over the minimum they need going into the next fiscal year.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Laura Horton, 158 Smith Street, spoke to Council about the sanitation refuge collection fee increase. Specifically asked if the City has ever completed a time loss study on the amount of unproductive or lost time on empty containers left on the street.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communications from the City Manager, Deputy City Manager, City Attorney, or City Clerk.

Council Member Mayo commented that it was great to see everyone in chambers and congratulations to Dr. Hairston and her staff on a great budget. Speaking of the next school year,

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Mr. Mayo stated he would like to see how they may be able to help parents who were struggling with getting their children to school, and make a better school year for all.

Council Member Miller stated the school board and superintendent did an outstanding job and encouraged them to keep up the good work. Dr. Miller noted Lisa Merriweather sent hats to Council for the mobile museum set up at the Sutherlin Museum; it celebrates Virginians and the nation over the last 250 years, and this Friday the Ballou Park splash pad will open.

Council Member Vogler wished the City Attorney a Happy Birthday and congratulated all the students, teachers, and staff who just went through SOL's in the past week. Mr. Vogler invited everyone to Bonner Middle School Thursday through Saturday for the Jodie Carroll dance recital.

Council Member Whittle stated to the school board how important it was for the trade school agenda to get pushed so that young people can get into advanced manufacturing. Mr. Whittle asked about a tipping fee and the City Manager stated that it went to all refuge fees.

Vice Mayor Buckner wished the City Attorney a Happy Birthday.

Council Member Campbell wished the City Attorney a Happy Birthday and noted that Festival in the Park was an outstanding event.

Council Member Hood gave a shout out to the school board for a great budget. The excitement that was going into learning was amazing. Congratulations to the college students that have graduated, and to the DPS students who will be graduating soon. Mr. Hood commented on the Accelerated Training for Defense Manufacturing oversight hearing that was online from the Navy that praised Danville on their program.

Mayor Jones invited Dr. Powell, the new president of Averett University, to come to the podium. Dr. Powell briefly spoke about how impressed he and his wife were on their initial visit to Danville, all the business and industry, what was being done near the river and all the people they met could not be more welcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK