

June 17, 2025

The Second Regular June meeting of the Danville City Council was held on June 17, 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, Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Absent: Barry Mayo (1)

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

Mayor Jones presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member J. Lee Vogler, Jr. gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by the Interns from City of Danville Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Presentation: Update on 4-H Club
Presented by: Terrance Draper, 4-H Extension Agent

Mr. Draper gave Council a brief update on the 4-H Club, explaining that in a couple of days, the 4-H camp will start with 27 children attending. The Teen Club has been participating in local community events including the recent ladybug release. Mr. Draper thanked Virginia Tech and Virginia State for giving the teens a chance to compete in STEM activities. Any parents interested in programs can contact Mr. Draper at 434-799-6558 or email at terranced901@vt.edu.

Presentation: Bee City USA
Presented by: Lisa Wintrode, The Garden Club of Danville

Ms. Wintrode explained they were promoting the Bee City USA initiative and asked that Council vote for it at their next meeting. This program recognizes and supports communities committed to keeping pollinators like bees, bats, butterflies, birds, and other animals that play a vital role in keeping up the biodiversity and increasing pollinator habits.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Budget Appropriation Items. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on June 10, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

Consideration of Approval of Minutes from Regular Council Meeting held on May 20, 2025.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenues from Casino Gaming Taxes to Fund Reimbursement to Danville Utilities

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2025-06.13, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenues from the Casino Gaming Taxes to Fund

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a Reimbursement to Danville Utilities an Appropriation in the Amount of \$5,250,000 and Appropriating the Same.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Land and Water Conservation Grant.

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2025-06.14, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenue from Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation – Land and Water Conservation Fund in the Amount of \$625,964 and to Provide for the Local Share in the Amount of \$625,964 for a total of \$1,251,928 and Appropriating the Same.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Mayo (1)

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE BUDGET, CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS PLAN, AND BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE

Approving the Budgets of the Various Funds of the City of Danville for Fiscal Year 2026

Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06.13

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BUDGETS OF THE VARIOUS FUNDS OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Buckner and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Mayo (1)

Fiscal Year 2026 Capital and Special Projects Plan for the City of Danville, Virginia

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06.14

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 CAPITAL AND SPECIAL PROJECTS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Mayo (1)

Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2026

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06.12

BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Mayo (1)

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF THE GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS AS OF MAY 31, 2025

City of Danville Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins provided a financial update for the General Fund as of May 31, 2025, marking the 11th month of the fiscal year and 92% of the year completed. Revenues were \$152M, right on target at 92% of the budget. Mr. Adkins noted he was going to take this opportunity to update Council on where they were today since there were only two weeks left of this fiscal year; this information was current as of today. Real estate tax collections were nearly 100%, they need about \$1,500 more and believed the City will receive that tomorrow. Delinquent real estate taxes were under budget; they had budgeted \$1.1M and will receive about \$1M, about \$100,000 under budget. That will be made up by delinquent personal property tax collections which will be about \$100,000 over budget. Current year Personal Property and Business Tangible Property Tax collections will exceed the budget by approximately \$400,000. Local consumer-driven taxes were performing well this year and looked like they will exceed budget; they budgeted \$13M for this year and expect \$13.5M, about \$500,000 over for sales tax. Meals Tax will also exceed budget; it was budgeted at \$12M and was expecting \$700,000 more as the year closes. Business licenses did very well; the budget was \$7.6M and it looked like it will exceed that by about \$750,000. The driving force for that was a lot of construction companies doing work in the City over the last twelve months. Some of that may disappear in the next year, but that was taken into consideration for the budget for next year. Lodging taxes remain on target at \$3.5M for the year. The bank stock tax will be under budget; the budget was about \$1M and they will be about \$150,000 under budget. The budget for Interest and investment income was increased to provide the retirees a bonus, about \$725,000 and the City will be on target by the end of June. Casino taxes were outperforming budgeted expectations; earlier tonight, Council approved an additional appropriation of some of that additional casino tax money, but Mr. Adkins noted he believed they will still exceed the adjusted budget by about \$500,000 at the end of June.

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On the Expenditure side, as of May 31st, the City had spent 89% of the budget, about three percentage points behind through this year. Mr. Adkins stated he did not see anything of concern, they have been watching group health insurance which was unpredictable at times, but those claims still remain slightly below budget at this point in the year. Also, Departmental spending continued to be under budget as well. The next financial report will be in August; they will take the month of July to start closing the books for the year. The auditors have completed their preliminary field work and will be returning in September to close out the year with the City.

CONSIDERATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2026 PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Public Transportation Funding. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on June 3, 2025, and June 10, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Vogler **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06.15

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION BY THE CITY TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF RAIL AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANTS FOR OPERATING AND CAPITAL COSTS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026.

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Buckner and carried by the following vote:

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Mayo (1)

CONSIDERATION OF THE AUTHORIZATION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION FUND FOR \$1,000,000

Council Member Campbell **moved** for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-06.16

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – PLANNING DIVISION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION FUND AND THE CITY TO MATCH THE BALANCE OF THE “FIVE FORKS PROJECT” TO ELIMINATE BLIGHT.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Mayo (1)

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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. 2025-06.17

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

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones,
Miller, Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Mayo (1)

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR A GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION MARKETING LEVERAGE PROGRAM

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-06.15

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION MARKETING LEVERAGE PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$60,000 FOR A TOTAL GRANT OF \$90,000 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Council Member Vogler thanked Parks and Recreation for providing a wonderful children's festival this past weekend. It was fantastic to see so many young people and families out enjoying themselves. Mr. Vogler wished everyone a great rest of the week and looked forward to a great summer.

Council Member Campbell stated that it was exciting to see so many people at the children's festival, and stated that Council Member Hood and his wife's White on White event was impressive. Rev Campbell noted he was thankful for Danville, they have a good quality of life, they can enhance that, and stated he couldn't wait to see the other parks completed, it was going to be an exciting place to live. The atmosphere in the community was great and he was proud of the direction they were going in.

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Council Member Hood stated he wanted to advocate for one person in each household to learn CPR; it was something vital to each home. All communities throughout the City have special needs and all communities were unique, but the great part was they all work together as one city. If they continue to understand the needs of different areas and that some areas may need a little more attention than others, then it was a family working together. Mr. Hood encouraged citizens to follow the City website, danvilleva.gov for vital information about all things throughout the City. The Bee City initiative was a great thing and thanked them for coming out today.

Council Member Miller commented on how great his vegetable garden was when pollinated by bees; they need to protect the bees. Dr. Miller welcomed the interns from Economic Development and Tourism, and noted he went to the Juneteenth celebration in Sharswood, about 15 miles east of Gretna. It was a great celebration and well worth seeing. The concerts at Caesar's have started and there were a lot of great concerts going on this summer. Dr. Miller thanked everyone who went out and voted.

Council Member Saunders commented on the importance of Juneteenth celebrations and that it was nice to see bees that did not sting. Mr. Saunders noted this was the last Council meeting of the fiscal year, it was a great year, and an excellent financial report from Mr. Adkins.

Mayor Jones asked the bees for the Bee City Initiative to please stand up and thanked them for being in attendance tonight and speaking about their cause. Mayor Jones thanked Mr. Draper for giving an update on the 4-H club; it was nice to see his excitement and enthusiasm for the program and looked forward to speaking with him about skeet shooting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK