

August 5, 2025

The Regular August meeting of the Danville City Council was held on August 5, 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: Vice Mayor James B. Buckner, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry Mayo, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). J. Lee Vogler, Jr., was absent: (1).

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

Mayor Jones stated: Before we begin tonight's meeting, I wanted to take a moment on behalf of myself, all the members of City Council, City Manager, Deputy City Manager, our Attorney, our Clerk and our City Staff to thank the community for the outpouring of support they all have shown following the tragic attack on our colleague and our friend Council Member Lee Vogler. The outpouring of love, thoughts, and prayers for Lee and his family has been truly heartwarming. The love, the prayers, the kind messages have all meant so much to Lee's family and to all of us who work closely with him. We have always been a tightknit Council, and these past few days have reminded each of us just how strong the bond was between this Council and the community. We feel it; we feel the hurt, but we are so grateful to each and every last one of you all who have supported Council and the family. I will ask you to continue to keep Lee and his family in your prayers in the days ahead. He has a long road of recovery, but he is very strong, and he is not walking it alone. Again, we want to thank you for lifting us up. Your support truly means the world to us. We speak to his mother, Rhonda, and wife, Blair, each and every day and they too want to send their same sentiments. His mother has set up a Facebook page under Rhonda McCubbins Vogler entitled "Cards for Lee" if you want to send cards of support for Lee.

Invocation by Vice Mayor Buckner.

Vice Mayor Buckner gave the Invocation, noting, Gracious God, we come before you tonight with heavy hearts but steadfast faith. We thank you for the opportunity to serve this community and we ask for your wisdom and guidance in all that we do. Tonight, we especially lift up our friend, our brother, our colleague, Council Member Lee Vogler. We pray for healing, strength and peace for him and his family. Surround him with your comfort and care. Bless our City, O Lord, its leaders, its residents, and all those who work for the good of Danville. May we lead with compassion, act with integrity and seek unity in all things. In your name we pray. Amen.

The Invocation was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on July 1, 2025, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF REZONING APPLICATION FILED BY MARK WAYNE MATHERLY TO REZONE PARCEL 55167 (363 CENTRAL BOULEVARD)

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a rezoning application for 363 Central Boulevard. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 22, 2025, and July 29, 2025. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08.01

AN ORDINANCE REZONING FROM PSC-O PLANNED SHOPPING CENTER COMMERCIAL OVERLAY TO PS-C PLANNED SHOPPING CENTER COMMERCIAL PARCEL ID 55167 (363 CENTRAL BOULEVARD).

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS AGAINST PURDUE PHARMA/SACKLERS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-08.01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING OF THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF OPIOID-RELATED CLAIMS AGAINST PURDUE PHARMA/SACKLERS, AS WELL AS THAT OF NINE OTHER DEFENDANTS, AND DIRECTING THE CITY ATTORNEY AND/OR THE CITY'S OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE SETTLEMENT.

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

Council Member Campbell asked for an explanation of this item, and City Attorney, Clarke Whitfield stated there was a nationwide epidemic with opioids. Virginia, along with other states, have joined together in a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies who mass produced opioids, and these were some of the pharmaceutical companies that have decided to settle with states instead of being sued. This was a continuation of previous funds received. Council Member Miller asked if this money was separate from previous money received, and Mr. Whitfield stated these were separate funds from those being currently received.

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

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

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE FOR A GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE
SERVICES FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS GRANT PROGRAM**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08.02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES OFFICE OF FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS GRANT (DCJS) PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,848.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION
ORDINANCE FOR THE CREATIVE COMMUNITIES ART GRANT**

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-08.03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,500, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000 FOR A TOTAL GRANT OF \$9,500.

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

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Cheryl Sutherland, owner of Main Street Art Collective, who addressed Council and presented a petition signed by over 800 individuals requesting that parking be increased from one to two hours. Multiple people have received tickets for parking longer than an hour and it was becoming a huge issue in this area.

Mayor Jones recognized Karen Stattler who addressed Council regarding mental health issues in the community and starting Kindness Gardens throughout the city. These gardens will have rocks with affirmations and positive words of encouragement.

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Mayor Jones recognized Amy Pruitt, owner of Happy Little Fox Toy Shop and pop-up shops at the Dog-Eared Book Store, who addressed Council about parking issues on Main Street. She shared her personal experience of how this limit impacts small businesses and affects disabled individuals.

Mayor Jones recognized Katherine Carter, owner of the Dog-Eared Book Store, who shared her experience with parking issues. While in support of parking times being enforced, she suggested Council consider increasing the time limit for parking.

Mayor Jones recognized Jude Swanson who addressed Council about the parking downtown as a consumer and not a business owner. Mr. Swanson noted increased growth in local businesses was a great thing, but they need to consider increasing the parking time.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Council Member Mayo commented on the busy week with schools opening soon, and stated to the students, that Council was behind them and ready to gear up for a great year. Mr. Mayo also talked about the ribbon cuttings at Arnett Hills and G.W. High School.

Council Member Miller commented on the parking issues along Main Street affecting businesses like barber shops where people have to move their vehicles while getting their hair done because it takes longer than an hour. Dr. Miller discussed the Advanced Manufacturing program at the Institute, commented on the ribbon cuttings at the schools and how much the teachers appreciated the pay raise.

Council Member Saunders stated that they have a great city with outstanding citizens. Mr. Saunders congratulated the school system for all they do for the students, gave a special thanks to Mayor Jones for his leadership moving the City forward and stated it was a honor being under his leadership. Mr. Saunders thanked the City Manager and Deputy City Manager for the work they do for the City and thanked all of City Council for what they do every single day.

Council Member Whittle commented on education being Council's main priority and thanked everyone involved for their hard work and dedication to the school system.

Vice Mayor Buckner echoed everything that has been stated tonight, and noted it was an honor to serve with his fellow Council Members. The outpouring received in a time of need was amazing, and Mr. Buckner welcomed Council Member Hood back.

Council Member Campbell commented on downtown parking and how parking was a major concern back when he had his LC Clothing store. Rev Campbell commended the Superintendent and Chair of the school board for the many years of planning that went into Arnett Hills, it was impressive. Rev Campbell stated they have a great and compassionate city and was proud of Danville.

Council Member Hood commented on the enthusiasm of school starting and how everyone has come together to build the school system up. Mr. Hood thanked his colleagues for checking in on him and helping him improve. Trinity Baptist Church invites everyone to come out to their Community Resource Day this Saturday, August 9 from 9 am to 12 pm at 399 South Main Street.

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Mayor Jones thanked everyone for coming tonight.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK