

September 16, 2025

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on September 16, 2025, at 7:54 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building, 427 Patton Street. The following Council Members were present: Vice Mayor James B. Buckner, Bryant Hood, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry P. Mayo, Dr. Gary P. Miller, and Sherman M. Saunders, (6). L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle were absent (3).

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.

WORK SESSION ITEMS

Meeting Minutes

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and **second** by Council Member Mayo, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on August 19, 2025, were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

School Board Properties

Mayor Jones noted Dr. Hairston and the School Board had shared that they have some properties they were considering selling and would ask that they could maintain those monies to do some projects. Mr. Larking explained it was to purchase other property that would be helpful to the school system elsewhere in the City.

Council agreed to put this on an upcoming business agenda.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Corrie Bobe, noted as an update on two upcoming events, on October 16th at 11:30 a.m., they will be holding a grand reopening of the Visitor Center. They were nearing completion of the renovation of the entire center and want to welcome the community to the new space. On October 23, at 11:30 a.m. they will have the official groundbreaking for the Spring Street Parking deck.

Mayor Jones questioned a building in the Five Forks area and Ms. Bobe noted they have been working with the Community Development department on renovating property in the Five Forks area. One space in particular was nearing completion and has been upfitted to contain a restaurant. This past week they posted that the space was available for lease and have had a lot of interest.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking noted in addition to the dates Ms. Bobe gave, on October 30th in the morning was the Visit Soti stakeholder meeting. Ms. Bobe stated there will be a representative from the Virginia Tourism Corporation at this particular meeting, and they will be providing the updated numbers for 2024.

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CLOSED MEETING

At 7:59 p.m., Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** that this meeting of the City Council of the City of Danville, Virginia be recessed and that Council immediately reconvene in a Closed Meeting for the following purposes: discussion or consideration of the acquisition or disposition of real property for a public purpose where discussion in an open meeting would adversely impact the bargaining position of the City as permitted by Subsection (A)(3) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider discussion regarding the sale and/or potential purchase of a specific parcel of property for use by the City of Danville and/or specific parcels of property for prospective industrial, commercial, and mixed use projects looking to locate to the City, and an Economic Development discussion and update concerning prospective businesses or industries where no previous announcement has been made and/or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made as permitted by Subsection (A)(5) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended and more specifically to consider an update on multiple prospective commercial, mixed use, hospitality, and industrial projects considering locating within the City and/or within the region in cooperation with the City's regional partners.

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

VOTE: 6-0-3
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller and Saunders (6)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Campbell, Vogler, Whittle (3)

Upon unanimous vote at 8:31 p.m., Council reconvened in open session and Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of the following Resolution:

CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, the Council convened in Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a Certification by the Council that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each Member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of Virginia Law under Section 2.2-3711 were heard, discussed or considered, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by the Committee.

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

VOTE: 6-0-3
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Mayo,
Miller and Saunders (6)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Campbell, Vogler, Whittle (3)

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MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:32 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK