

November 18, 2025

The Second November meeting of the Danville City Council was held on November 18, 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., Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Barry Mayo, Dr. Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). Bryant Hood was absent (1). *Mr. Whittle entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.*

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 Buckner gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jones asked City Attorney Clarke Whitfield to review the procedures to appoint a new Council Member after Council Member Whittle submits his resignation. Mr. Whitfield explained, once Mr. Whittle files his letter of resignation, the City Attorney's office will file a Writ of Special Election; a special election will be held on November 3, 2026. In the meantime, the remaining Council Members will fill the vacancy with an interim appointment. Within 15 days of the occurrence of the vacancy, they will file the Writ. Council has 45 days from the date that Council Member Whittle resigns his seat, to fill that seat. At least seven days prior to making the appointment, Council must hold an open public meeting, at which time all finalists for the appointment were publicly disclosed and materials, such as resumes they have submitted, were made publicly available. The first runner up from the last Council election was a finalist automatically, by Code. The City Code states, prior to filling any vacancy, the Council should conduct public interviews of each of the finalists selected by Council to fill the vacancy. Mr. Whitfield noted once all the applications were in, and the applications would be available one business day after the vacancy was created, Council would probably want to hold a closed meeting to determine who the finalists were. Once the finalists were identified, Council would interview them in public, and after the public interviews, Council would probably meet again in Closed Session to decide who they wanted to appoint. Once a final determination was made by Council, the new member would be voted on in an open, public session, and that person will serve until the next Council Member was elected and qualified through the electoral process.

In response to Council Member Vogler, Mr. Whitfield explained that if Council does not make an appointment within the 45 days, the Chief Judge of the Circuit would make that appointment; that person would have to be a citizen, who was a registered voter, eligible to vote in the City of Danville. Council Member Miller questioned if there was a tie vote on the candidate, what would happen, and Mr. Whitfield noted the Judge would probably have to make that decision. Council Members thanked Mr. Whitfield for the update.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on October 21, 2025.

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Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Funding Appropriation

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2025-11.05, an Ordinance Amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Grant from the Department of Juvenile Justice in the Amount of \$86,999 and a Local Share of \$39,830, for a Total Appropriation of \$126,829, to Provide for the Electronic Monitoring and Outreach Detention Programs, Online Intervention Programs, and Pro- Social Skills Programs for the City of Danville at the W. W. Moore Jr. Detention Home and Appropriating Same.

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

OLD BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO RELOCATE THE WARD 7 POLLING PLACE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Relocation of Ward 7 Polling Place. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on November 8, 2025.

Mayor Jones recognized Peggy Petty, General Registrar for the City of Danville along with the Chairman of the Electoral Board, Neal Morris. Ms. Petty noted they were here in support of relocating Ward 7 from the Salvation Army Building to Woodrow Wilson. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

RESOLUTION NO 2025-09.14

A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE RELOCATION OF THE POLLING LOCATION FOR THE WARD SEVEN (7) VOTING PRECINCT FROM THE SALVATION ARMY BUILDING TO THE ADULT EDUCATION CENTER ON THE CAMPUS OF WOODROW WILSON.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING CHAPTER 12 OF THE DANVILLE CITY CODE FOR THE RELOCATION OF A POLLING LOCATION

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-09.08

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AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 12-17 ENTITLED "WARD NO. 7" OF CHAPTER 12, ENTITLED "ELECTIONS", OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED TO RELOCATE THE POLLING LOCATION FOR WARD NUMBER 7.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 12 OF THE DANVILLE CITY CODE

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-09.09

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REORDAINING IN ITS ENTIRETY CHAPTER 12, ENTITLED "ELECTIONS", OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Review of General Fund Financials as of October 31, 2025

City of Danville Assistant City Manager-Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins, gave an overview of the General Fund financials through the end of October, marking a third of the fiscal year complete, or 33%. Revenues totaled \$41.6M at the end of October, representing 23% of the current year budget which was where the City was last year at the end of October. Real Estate and Personal Property tax bills were received by citizens the first week of November; they were due December 5th and he will have more to talk about as far as current year collections, next month. Looking at collections through today, they were very comparable to last year as well, and looked like it will be on target for now. Collection of delinquent real estate taxes was going very well; at the end of October, they were at \$716,000 representing 63% of budget, an increase of \$261,000 over last year at this time. There will be a public auction in Chambers for abandoned parcels on December 11th at noon; that has proved to be a very good tool in clearing up some of the delinquent accounts. Regarding local taxes, those were meeting or exceeding expectations in most every case. Meals tax at the end of October was \$4.6M representing 33.5% of budget, lodging was \$1.4M representing 37% of budget, ahead of budget at this point and, to date, they have collected \$750,000 for business licenses, a slight increase of \$32,000 over last year at this time. Mr. Adkins stated, what was noteworthy, was this was an increase of 48 business licenses

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over last year. Regarding sales tax, as was mentioned over the last few months, Mr. Adkins noted he was watching that; it was currently at 31% of budget, a few percentage points behind budget. In dollars, it was about \$300,000 below where the City would be. Mr. Adkins explained sales tax was not incurred or received evenly throughout the year; the City does get a larger portion of sales tax after holiday retail activity, in January and February. In January and February, they will have a better idea of how the holiday sales went and how the year will turn out.

Interest income from the investment fund at the end of October was \$1.4M, that was already 54% of the budget; interest rates were dropping but the budget assumed a quicker drop of rates, so interest earned at this point was ahead of budget. Mr. Adkins believed that if sales tax does come in under budget, the investment earnings will make up for it. Casino tax revenue was currently outperforming budget; looking at what was budgeted, the City was about \$1.5M ahead of what was expected.

Departmental expenditures were being contained at 30%, trailing budget at about 3%; they usually see it trail about 2-3% throughout the year. Non-departmental expenditures, mainly group health insurance, they were seeing that tick up ahead of budget, about 3%, but the City does have an increase on the way for employee contributions to group health insurance that go in effect in January. That will help offset some of the increase they were seeing.

In response to Council Member Campbell, Mr. Adkins stated the City ended Fiscal Year 24 with \$51M in reserves, at the end of Fiscal Year 25 it increased to \$54M.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Katherine Wall who noted she spoke with the City Manager about the intersection of Edgewood Drive and Memorial Drive, the far-right lane and the possibility of a No Left Turn sign. Ms. Hall asked if the intersection was in the Comp Plan for redesign and if the Plan for businesses, was taking a survey of citizens on what kinds of restaurants and stores they would like to see there.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Council Member Mayo noted it was good to see the Mayor back, and thanked the City of Danville for coming through for the job and resource fair, it was a great success with over 250 people showing up, and over 600 jobs. There was a lot going on this weekend with different events and Mr. Mayo gave a shout out to House of Fashion with Kelly Hood; it was a great show at Caesars. Mr. Hood wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Miller noted it was good to see the Mayor back and the GW football game was great; that was the first round of playoffs, next Friday night would be tougher and encouraged citizens to come out and support them. Dr. Miller noted the Veterans' Parade was great, but turnout was a little sparse; he rode with Mr. Saunders on his motorcycle. This weekend the City had the PLAN Mechanicsville event, it was a great event on Saturday, with good input from the citizens, and thanked Ms. Burton and her staff.

Council Member Saunders noted he enjoyed the Veterans' Parade and thanked the citizens for coming out. Mr. Saunders hoped the citizens enjoyed Thanksgiving with their families, noted his

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appreciation of Mr. Mayo doing the job fair, and congratulated The LINKS on their event, raising \$16,000 for the UNCF.

Council Member Vogler noted the Veterans' Parade was a fantastic event; several Council Members were veterans, and all of Council was invited every year; they were honored and happy to go. Mr. Vogler congratulated GW on a big win this past Friday; they will be back at home this Friday and encouraged citizens to attend and support the team. Mr. Vogler wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Whittle noted he received a lot of letters on the zoning changes and questioned if there was anything they could do to help people understand what the changes were and get their input. Mr. Larking noted the City has done a good job getting the word out with direct mailings and community outreach through a variety of means. Mr. Whittle noted he also had a few questions regarding the Environmental Stewardship Plan and asked staff about the costs of those transitions.

Vice Mayor Buckner welcomed the Mayor back, and noted Caesars Virginia was having a LOVE sign revealing, on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. On Thursday, the City was hosting the Governor's VA 1 Tourism Summit at Caesars, and thanked all the people who worked to build this region, the team at Visit SoSi was doing an outstanding job. Mr. Buckner wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Council Member Campbell noted he was glad to see the Mayor back, and wanted to salute Ms. Hood for a wonderful fashion show; it was well put together. Rev Campbell wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK