

December 16, 2025

The Second December meeting of the Danville City Council was held on December 16, 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, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Madison J.R. Whittle (9).

Staff Members present were: City Manager Ken F. Larking, Assistant City Manager/CFO Michael A. Adkins, Assistant City Manager Briana Evans, City Attorney W. Clarke Whitfield, Jr., and City Clerk Susan M. DeMasi. Deputy City Manager Earl B. Reynolds Jr., was absent.

Mayor Jones presided.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council Member Gary P. Miller gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

Presentation: Dan River Region Out-of-School Time (OST) Network
Presented by: Cathy Gore, President/CEO
United Way of Danville-Pittsylvania County

Cathy Gore, President/CEO of the United Way of Danville-Pittsylvania County, introduced a new initiative to help create a strong unified voice for out of school programming that extends beyond the typical school day. Ms. Gore reviewed a case study that showed how this network will increase information sharing and cooperation for defined activities in projects. Council was invited to a breakfast on January 8, 2026 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am at Averett's North Danville campus, to meet members of the network and learn first-hand the importance of this initiative.

Presentation: School Accreditation and Performance Rating Report
Presented by: Dr. Angela Hairston

Mayor Jones recognized Dr. Angela Hairston and members of the Danville School Board; School Board Chair Tyquan Graves gave opening remarks. Dr. Hairston presented the status of accreditation and performance rating of the schools within the City of Danville, noting all schools in the City have been deemed fully accredited by the state, with eight of those schools on track to be distinguished. There were also several schools on the Region 6 leaderboard for growth, mastery, and attendance. Council was thanked for their support, partnership, and belief that the work in the system was moving forward. Dr. Hairston introduced members of staff and the principals of each school, and Council congratulated Dr. Hairston and all staff for being dedicated to turning the school system around. Council Members presented school principals with City Seal pins and Mayor Jones presented Dr. Hairston with a brochure created for her, and a framed picture. Mayor Jones also presented Keys to the City to Dr. Hairston and City Manager, Ken Larking, for their tireless work on behalf of the Schools and the City of Danville.

Mayor Jones gave a brief "State of Danville" address, highlighting awards the City has received, including the thirty-three awards the City won in 2025. Mayor Jones thanked the residents of the City for believing in Danville's future, and the City employees for their creativity and commitment to help build a stronger, safer, more hopeful City each day.

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MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and second by Council Member Mayo, Minutes from the November 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Review of General Fund Financials as of November 30, 2025

Assistant City Manager and Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins reviewed the General Fund financials as of November 30, 2025, five months into the fiscal year or 42% of the fiscal year complete. Total revenues were \$57.7M or 31% of budget, which was about the same as last year. Property taxes went out in November and were due December 5; through the end of business today, the City had collected just over 50% of real estate taxes, where it should be at the end of December. Delinquent real estate collections continue to perform well with \$812,000 collected or 71% of budget. Personal property was at \$8.6M out of the \$17M budgeted or 50%. Sales tax was a little sluggish at \$5.4M or 38% of budget, about \$450,000 short; that gap should be tightened as holiday sales taxes come in around January or February. Mr. Adkins noted he was not too concerned, the City had other items that were over budget that would cover that shortfall if it persisted at the end of the year. Meals tax was \$5.7M or 41% of budget, and Lodging taxes were at \$1.7M or 47% of budget. Casino related taxes reached \$15.6M at the end of November or 44% of budget. Mr. Adkins noted as the City goes through the year, the percentage of collections on the net gaming revenue for the direct payment increases from 2.5% to 6%; there will be more collections as they head into the second half of the fiscal year, and believes the City will be \$5M over budget at the end of the fiscal year. Interest on investments was another area that was outperforming expectations; the City has collected \$1.4M in investment earnings out of a \$2.15M budget, which was 66% of budget at this point. State and federal income was right on track with budget with no concerns there.

Under General Fund Expenditures, Departmental Spending was currently at 38% which was trailing budget. Group health insurance was the only line item that a close watch was being held on; it was a bit ahead of budget at 46%. There were increased employee contributions that will start in January and should help to close that gap. The 2025 audit was substantially complete; there were a few items that need to be finished regarding the school system but no changes to the City financials they were aware of. Brown Edwards plans to be there on January 20 to formally present the audit report. As a reminder, at the end of the last fiscal year the fund balance was \$54M and the current policy requires a minimum of \$46M, so there was about an \$8M buffer as they entered Fiscal Year 26.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A PLAN TO FINANCE CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF A LEASE REVENUE NOTE BY THE IDA

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12.10

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA APPROVING A PLAN TO FINANCE CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THROUGH THE

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ISSUANCE OF A LEASE REVENUE NOTE BY THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA.

The Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Whittle 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 THE NEGOTIATION, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A COMMERCIAL SUBLEASE WITH THE IDA FOR SUITE 201 OF THE DAN RIVER FALLS BUILDING

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12.11

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA (OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM), AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A COMMERCIAL SUBLEASE WITH THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, FOR A PORTION OF THE DAN RIVER FALLS BUILDING, 9,361 SQ. FT. OF UNIT 1 (SUITE 201), LOCATED AT 420 MEMORIAL DRIVE, DANVILLE, VIRGINIA 24541.

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 THE NEGOTIATION, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A COMMERCIAL SUBLEASE WITH THE IDA FOR SUITE 101 AT THE DAN RIVER FALLS BUILDING

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12.12

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA (DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION), AUTHORIZING THE NEGOTIATION, EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A COMMERCIAL SUBLEASE WITH THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, FOR A PORTION OF THE DAN RIVER FALLS BUILDING, 13,205 SQ. FT. OF UNIT 1 (SUITE 101), LOCATED AT 420 MEMORIAL DRIVE, DANVILLE, VIRGINIA 24541.

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

VOTE: 9-0
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,

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NAY: Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (9)
None (0)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mr. David Weslowski from Best Friends Animal Society addressed Council about data collected regarding the Danville Area Humane Society. Multiple offers of help have been given to the animal shelter; Council was asked to encourage the shelter officials to accept help.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no communication from the Assistant City Managers, or City Clerk.

City Manager Ken Larking thanked the Mayor for the Key to the City and thanked Dr. Hairston for the kind words that were spoken in his honor.

City Attorney Clarke Whitfield wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Member Mayo congratulated Ken Larking and Dr. Angela Hairston on their teamwork and the success being shown. Mr. Mayo wished a Merry Christmas to everyone, to enjoy time with their families, and asked everyone to pray for the family of Reid Taylor.

Council Member Miller noted the Christmas parade was great and the crowd was outstanding. Dr. Miller spoke about the ribbon cutting at the Dog-Eared Page bookstore, with a great turnout for a local business, and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Council Member Saunders noted tonight has been a great night; a citizen's highest honor was receiving a key to the city. To the City Manager and Dr. Hairston, thank you for all their hard work and dedication. Mr. Saunders stated he hoped everyone had a safe and Merry Christmas.

Council Member Vogler commented on the loss of Reid Taylor and to keep his family in everyone's thoughts and prayers. Mr. Vogler encouraged everyone to attend the Harry Johnson Holiday Classic at GW High School December 28, 29, and 30. The Ballou Park Christmas light show was still open from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm every night until December 23, and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Council Member Whittle wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Vice Mayor Buckner commented on the thirty-three awards won by the City in 2025 and thanked City employees for all their hard work. Mr. Buckner noted the newly renovated Langston campus looks magnificent, and thanked Council Member Madison Whittle for everything he has done for the citizens of Danville. Mr. Buckner wished every family, neighbor, and friend a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Council Member Campbell thanked Dr. Hairston and Danville Public Schools for all their hard work, and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Council Member Hood thanked the entire Danville Public School system for all that they do and continue to do, thanked the City Manager for everything he does and for keeping Council up to speed. Mr. Hood asked citizens to keep the family of Michael Boston in their thoughts and prayers, and thanked Wilkins and Co., for their coat drive collecting 1,100 coats for those in need.

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Mr. Hood stated The Virginia Board of Historical Resources has given final approval for a state historic highway marker recognizing the Hippodome Theater and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mayor Jones announced that proceeds from "Wine Down Wednesday" at Two Witches Brewery from 5 pm to 9 pm will go to the Danville Boys and Girls Club. To the family of Reid Taylor, their thoughts and prayers were with them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 pm.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK