

January 6, 2026

The Regular January meeting of the Danville City Council was held on January 6, 2026, 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, Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Bryant Hood, Barry P. Mayo, Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr. and Madison J.R. Whittle (8). L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., was absent (1).

Staff Members present were: City Manager Ken 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

Council Member Sherman M. Saunders gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon **Motion** by Vice Mayor Buckner and **second** by Council Member Mayo, Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 2, 2025, were approved as presented. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for approval of the following Appointment Resolutions:

Resolution 2026-01.01 – A Resolution Reappointing Kristen Barker as a Member of the Industrial Development Authority.

Resolution 2026-01.02 – A Resolution Reappointing Helm Dobbins as a Member of the Employee Retirement System Board.

Resolution 2026-01.03 – A Resolution Reappointing Edgar Love as a Member of the Employee Retirement System Board.

Resolution 2026-01.04 – A Resolution Reappointing Hampton Wilkins as a Member of the Fair Housing Board.

Resolution 2026-01.05 – A Resolution Reappointing Steven Petrick as a Member of the Planning Commission.

Resolution 2026-01.06 – A Resolution Appointing James Bolton as a Member of the Planning Commission.

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

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

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FILED BY SPM EMPOWERMENT AND SKILLS, INC., TO ALLOW SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (PUBLIC OR PRIVATE) AT 211 NOR DAN DRIVE, SUITE 1130

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit at 211 Nor Dan Drive, Suite 1130. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on December 23, 2025 and December 30, 2025.

Mayor Jones recognized Vincent Brown of SPM Empowerment who gave a brief preview of what SPM will offer; they were opening a 17,000 square foot facility in Nor-Dan Shopping Center. That facility will meet the needs of local skills including marine painting, painting, carpentry, heating and air, electrical, concrete and extermination. They will be able to meet a gap need for those who do not have a GED or high school diploma.

No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01.01

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ25- 00523 FILED BY SPM EMPOWERMENT AND SKILLS, INC., REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES (PUBLIC OR PRIVATE) AT PARCEL #54825 (211 NOR DAN DRIVE, SUITE 1130) IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 3.N SECTION C ITEM 18.

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA TO ACCEPT UTILITY EASEMENTS

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01.07

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN AGREEMENTS WITH THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA ACCEPTING UTILITY EASEMENTS.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, Vogler, and Whittle (8)

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NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Campbell (1)

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR A VIRGINIA TREES FOR CLEAN WATER GRANT

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01.02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO ANTICIPATE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY FOR VIRGINIA TREES FOR CLEAN WATER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000 AND APPROPRIATING SAME.

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 A GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA OPIOID ABATEMENT AUTHORITY TO FUND ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE TREATMENT COURT

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Vogler and **second** by Council Member Whittle an Ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01.03

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM VIRGINIA OPIOID ABATEMENT AUTHORITY INDIVIDUAL DISTRIBUTION AND THE GOLD STANDARD INCENTIVE PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$74,069 AND A LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,673.73 FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$91,742.73 AND APPROPRIATING 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 City Manager, Deputy City Manager, Assistant City Managers, City Attorney or City Clerk.

Council Member Mayo noted a Happy New Year to everyone. There were so many activities going on over the holidays; it was great to see Council Members all over the City.

Council Member Miller noted MLK weekend was coming up with a breakfast on the 19th at GW in the new gym. Dr. Miller noted he stopped at the Welcome Center on the way back from Tennessee, they had brochures from SoSi for Danville, and the manager of the welcome center told him she had attended the Virginia Fall Tourism Study Tour in Danville in the fall. Dr. Miller gave a shout out to Tourism Director Lisa Meriweather and her staff. The *Virginia Living* magazine also has an article on Danville. Dr. Miller encouraged citizens to get their flu shots; it was a bad flu season.

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Council Member Saunders thanked Dr. Miller for advice on the flu, and noted it was great to see everyone at the first Council meeting of 2026. Mr. Saunders stated they will miss Council Member Whittle as he starts in the House of Delegates.

Council Member Vogler wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted Council Member Whittle will do a great job in Richmond. Mr. Vogler noted it will be budget time soon, stating last year they used casino funds for additional funding for street repaving, expanding what the City would normally do. One of his priorities was to maybe expand it further; there were some sections of the City that needed work.

Council Member Whittle thanked the voters from the City of Danville that have allowed him to represent them for the last ten years, and the voters that elected him to the 49th District. Mr. Whittle thanked the Danville City employees who do a fantastic job, and the School Board and employees, Dr. Hairston has done a fantastic job. Police, Fire and Rescue and the great relationship they have with the Danville Life Saving Crew, and believes the crime rate will drop again this year. Mr. Whittle also acknowledged his staff who allow him the ability to serve the citizens. They do a fantastic job for him and he wanted to thank them for that; some have been with him over twenty and thirty years. Mr. Whittle thanked the City Clerk, City Attorney, the Deputy City Manager and City Manager. Mr. Whittle noted Council worked well together, even when they disagree. Danville was on a good course and hoped he had left it a little bit better than when he started here.

Vice Mayor Buckner noted to Mr. Whittle they looked forward to the things he will do in Richmond, he will continue to represent the City; Council was proud of him and the work he has done. Mr. Buckner wished everyone a Happy New Year, and noted the article in *Virginia Living* was a great article. The things that Visit SoSi was doing were incredible.

Council Member Hood thanked Council Member Whittle and noted they appreciate his dedication and will to serve the City of Danville and its citizens, it was greatly appreciated. Mr. Hood read an open letter from him to the citizens of Danville: *It is both an honor and responsibility to serve you. As a member of Danville City Council, I want to reaffirm my unwavering commitment to make decisions that place the well-being, stability and future of our city at the forefront. Every decision made, whether large or small, carries weight. I approach this role with the understanding that Danville is made up of many forces, backgrounds, perspectives and lived experiences. True progress requires balance, balance between growth, perseverance, balance between opportunity and responsibility. Balance that ensures that every citizen regardless of neighborhood, age, income or background, feels seen, heard, and valued. I want to assure you that my work and the work of this Danville City Council as a whole is guided by what is best for all of Danville, not just today, but for generations to come. We strive to weigh every issue carefully, consider long-term impacts and act with integrity, transparency and fairness. While we may not always agree on every issue, our shared goal remains the same: a stronger, safer and more united Danville. Serving on Danville City Council is not about individual agendas, it is about collective responsibility. Together we work to balance economic development with community needs, education, public safety with trust and progress with accountability. We remain committed to listen, learning and improving as we move forward. Danville's strength lies in its people. Your resilience, pride and dedication to this City inspires the work we do. I encourage continued civic engagement, honest dialogue and collaboration as we build the future of our city together. Thank you for placing your trust in us; I remain committed to serve with purpose, balance and the best interests of Danville at heart. With respect and dedication, Bryant Hood.*

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Mayor Jones noted this year City Council was going to have another retreat in Danville. Council will have a chance to revisit all of their strategies. There were new things happening in the City and they were excited about this. If citizens had anything they wanted to share, to reach out to the Council Members.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:28 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK