

January 20, 2026

The Second January meeting of the Danville City Council was held on January 20, 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, L.G. "Larry" Campbell Jr., Mayor Alonzo L. Jones, Bryant Hood, Barry P. Mayo, Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, and J. Lee Vogler, Jr. (8).

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

Vice Mayor James B. Buckner gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Campbell **moved** for adoption of the following Consent Agenda items:

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on December 16, 2025. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Virginia Trees for Clean Water Grant

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2026-01.02, 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.

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

An Ordinance Entitled Ordinance No. 2026-01.03, 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.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS

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

Resolution 2026-01.08 – A Resolution Reappointing Sherman M. Saunders as a member of the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority.

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Resolution 2026-01.09 – A Resolution Reappointing J. Lee Vogler, Jr., as a member of the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority.

Resolution 2026-01.10 – A Resolution Reappointing Gary P. Miller as an alternate member of the Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facility Authority.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025.

Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins gave a review of the General Fund Financials through December 31, 2025, which marks half of the fiscal year complete, or 50%. Revenues received through the end of December amounted to \$79M, which represents 43% of budget, very consistent with last year at this time, which was 42% of budget. The month of December marks the end of the first half billing cycle; in Real Estate, current collections were \$13.5M, or 51% of budget. Real Estate delinquent collections were doing quite well, the City received \$882,000 at the end of December marking 77% of budget. Personal Property has done equally well, the City received \$8.7M through the end of December, at 51% of budget. Sales tax, as mentioned in previous months' reports, was seeing some sluggishness, receiving \$6.5M to date, which was 46% of budget. That was four percentage points behind, which was \$537,000 behind budget. There may be some improvement with the holiday retail sales as they come in next month, but Mr. Adkins noted he believed the City will still be short by the end of the year in this line item; there were other line items that will cover that deficit. Under Meals tax, the City has received \$6.7M for the first six months of this fiscal year, or 48% of budget. However, the first few days of January, the City received and posted several payments, about \$400,000, probably delayed because of holiday reporting from the restaurants. If that had been received timely in the month of December, there would have been a total of \$7.1M, placing the City at 51% of budget, just ahead of target. There were no worries about meals tax at this time. For Lodging taxes, the City received \$2M at the end of December, this represents 54% of budget. Lodging taxes outperformed budget expectations; they have seen an 11% increase over last year at this time, about \$200,000. Nightly stays were up about 10%, comparing the first six months of this year to last year. Last year, the City was averaging about 21,500 stays per month; this year, so far, they were averaging 23,700 stays per month, an increase of 2,200 stays per month. The City has earned \$19M of its \$35M budget for casino taxes this year, 54%, and outperforming expectations. Mr. Adkins noted he could see actual collections exceeding budget by about \$5M by the end of this year. Another area of improvement was Investment and Interest Earnings; they did forecast interest rates to drop a little more quickly and more severely than they have. His impression of the Federal Reserve was that they will maintain the current rates at least until the end of this fiscal year. They should see actual collections exceeding budget by about \$500,000; they were currently at \$1.65M which was 77% of budget this year. State and Federal revenues were on track with no concerns.

On the Expenditure side, Departmental spending was at 47% of budget; they typically see that run 2%-3% behind budget. Non -Departmental Expenses, primarily group health insurance, were a little ahead of budget at 53%; these were completely based on the claims incurred through the

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year. There were higher employee contributions going into effect January 1st, which should help with that. Council thanked Mr. Adkins for his report.

CONSIDERATION OF A MASS TRANSIT FEE ORDINANCE REVISION

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Mass Transit Fee Revision. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 6, 2026, and January 13, 2026. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01.04

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AMENDING AND INCREASING FEES FOR THE DANVILLE TRANSIT SYSTEM EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 2, 2026.

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

Council Member Vogler questioned this item which states it was increasing fees, but the council letter states that the City was actually expanding the time for reduced fees. City Manager Ken Larking explained this extends the period of time to 6:00 p.m. which was previously 12:00 p.m., for that discount for certain qualifying individuals. It was not a fee increase, but an increase of an opportunity to get a discount.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

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

City Manager Ken Larking noted he wanted to inform citizens of an opportunity to apply for a newly formed commission, the Public Arts Commission; the City was taking applications for the Council to appoint members to that group. If citizens were interested in being a member of that Commission, there was an application on the City's website.

Mayor Jones noted, as a reminder, to those interested citizens for the vacant council position, the application was on the City's website and the deadline to submit an application was January 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Council Member Mayo noted he wanted to thank everyone that came out and enjoyed the festivities for MLK weekend; there was a lot going on with various organizations. The Omega Psi Phi Fraternity had their 26th Annual MLK Breakfast; Mr. Mayo thanked Council Members who were able to come, along with school board members and citizens who helped them celebrate. They had over 500 people attending.

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Council Member Miller noted it was a phenomenal event yesterday; they did an awesome job. Dr. Miller noted there was good news on utilities, in February the City will get the battery covers for the storage batteries at the new Mount Cross facility; that was to store energy and should be ready in late May or June. Dr. Miller commended city employees that collected food for God's Storehouse and a cash donation to the Cancer Association.

Council Member Saunders noted he and his wife attended the prayer breakfast in Richmond last Wednesday and had breakfast with Delegate Madison Whittle as well as Pittsylvania County supervisors. The Virginia State Gospel Choir performed at the event, it was wonderful with one member from this area. Mr. Saunders commended Mr. Mayo for his MLK breakfast, it was a great event, and last weekend the NAACP had their banquet as well; a lot of the money raised was for scholarships and helping children in schools.

Council Member Vogler noted he feels very fortunate to serve with the members of Danville City Council; what they have was not common. Mr. Vogler noted the forecast for this weekend was looking significant when it comes to snowfall, and encouraged citizens to check in on their neighbors and stock up on their supplies.

Vice Mayor Buckner encouraged citizens to please check on their neighbors and loved ones this weekend; warming centers will be open in the City.

Council Member Campbell noted he was glad to be serving another year with Council in the City of Danville; this was a great city, and it was moving forward.

Council Member Hood noted there will be a warming center on Shelton Street, Pastor Ferrell's Redemption Church, he welcomes all, and right now he was doing a day center as well. Mr. Hood noted the City does a great job with their website at danvilleva.gov that shows where casino revenues were going and also to find information on bids and procurement. Mr. Hood noted the passing of Bishop Linder and his condolences to the Linder family and Mount Sinai Church family.

Mayor Jones noted the weather was coming this weekend and encouraged citizens to check on their neighbors and check the City's website and River City TV Facebook page, Mark Aron and Arnold Hendrix do a great job keeping citizens up to date on conditions. Mayor Jones also asked citizens to be patient with city employees working in the bad weather.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:42 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK