

January 20, 2026

A Regular Work Session of the Danville City Council convened on January 20, 2026, at 7:50 p.m. in the City Council Conference Room located on the Fourth Floor of the Municipal Building, 427 Patton Street, Danville, Virginia. 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, and J. Lee Vogler, Jr. (8)

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 Council Member Vogler and **second** by Council Member Campbell, Minutes of the Regular Work Session held on December 16, 2025, were approved as presented. Draft copies were distributed to Council Members prior to the Meeting.

PROGRAM UPDATES

City Manager Ken Larking noted at Council's desk were documents related to the Council Vacancy. There was a schedule of events suggested by staff that Council could follow in order to appoint the next council member to replace Delegate Whittle's seat. The document outlined how Council could take the applications, review them and then conduct the interviews. If Council was in agreement with the process, staff will be happy to help facilitate this for Council.

Mayor Jones noted one item Council needed to agree on was the Special Called Work Session for January 29th to review applications. Council members noted they were available for the special work session at 5:30 p.m.

Council Member Saunders questioned citizens wanting to come to a Council meeting to speak during the public comment section and recommend one of the finalists. Mr. Larking noted that Council's Rules and Procedures on public comment prohibit campaigning, so citizens should not be allowed to speak during the public comment period and campaign for any individual. Mr. Whitfield noted his agreement and explained that a citizen had to sign up by the Friday prior to the meeting and indicate what they wished to speak about. If a citizen wished to speak about the qualities of a candidate they wished to see, but not a specific candidate, they would be able to sign up for that.

Mr. Whitfield explained that the applications opened up the day after Mr. Whittle's resignation; applicants will have two weeks to apply. Mr. Vogler asked if the timeline will be put on the City's website, and staff noted it would. Dr. Miller questioned how long this term was for and Mr. Whitfield noted Council was appointing someone until somebody was elected and qualified in November. There will be a special election in November, and whoever wins that special election fills the remainder of Mr. Whittle's term.

Council noted their agreement with the proposed timeline for filling the Council Vacancy.

Mr. Larking noted February 10th will also be a special called meeting, it will be an open meeting to interview the finalists, but will not be broadcast. Council will need to have another closed work

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session to select their candidate. After discussion, Council noted they will add the closed session to the end of the February 10th meeting. Mr. Larking suggested Council have pre-determined questions that every candidate gets, and staff can help with those questions. Mr. Larking noted he will provide a list of questions on the meeting on the 29th and Council can select which ones they want to use. Mayor Jones stated if the Council Members had questions they would like to be considered, to send them to the City Manager.

Mr. Larking stated that staff was planning a Council/staff retreat and had a couple dates to suggest: March 13th and March 14th.

CLOSED MEETING

At 8:35 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 locating within the region in cooperation with the City's regional partners.

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

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

Upon unanimous vote at 9:13 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.

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

VOTE: 8-0-1

AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Mayo, Miller,
Saunders, and Vogler (8)

NAY: None (0)

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:14 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC
CITY CLERK