

February 3, 2026

The Regular February meeting of the Danville City Council was held on February 3, 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**

Council Member J. Lee Vogler, Jr., gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Jones and Council Members commended the City staff who did an outstanding job during the snow and ice events over the past two weeks. Mark Aron and Arnold Hendrix gave updates and Council appreciated the great information they provided. The City had a great team including public works and utilities. City Manager Ken Larking noted he was kept informed by his departments and had complete confidence in their ability to handle the storm. The City employees were well trained, well equipped, have the resources they need and were able to go out there and do their jobs. He has always had confidence in the ability of the team to go out there and respond as necessary in these kinds of events. Mayor Jones also acknowledged community partners providing services during the events.

Director of Utilities Jason Grey explained the City has spent over \$50M in the past ten years to upgrade the substations to get more modernized equipment, such as relays that react quicker to events. They were doing things proactively to prevent outages including right of way management and pole inspections. Mr. Grey noted they wanted to thank the cities of Lebanon, OH and Hammington, OH who sent crews down for the first storm.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

Mayor Jones announced the three finalists for consideration of the Council Vacancy which included Shakeva Frazier, Shelby Irving, Danny Marshall, and Gwyndolyn Stone – Alternate. On Tuesday, February 10, 2026, those individuals will be interviewed by Council here in Chambers. This appointment was until November when there will be a special election to fill the unexpired term of Madison Whittle.

### **MINUTES**

Upon **Motion** by Council Member Campbell and **second** by Council Member Mayo, Minutes of the meeting held on January 6, 2026 were approved as presented. Draft copies of the Minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, MAINTAINING PARCEL #25925 (136 SOUTH RIDGE STREET) IN THE RD, RIVER DISTRICT**

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Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Rezoning Request at 136 South Ridge Street. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 20, 2026 and January 27, 2026. No one present desired to be heard and the public hearing was closed.

Division Director of Planning Renee Burton explained the application was for a rezoning to HB Highway Business so that at 136 South Ridge Street, there may be the operation of automobile sales. The operation of automobile sales was incompatible with the current zoning district, as well as the surrounding area, and the Comprehensive Plan. Therefore, the Planning Staff recommended denial.

Council Member Campbell noted Mr. Wellington has a pretty large facility, he couldn't have one or two cars to sell in the back and Ms. Burton noted he could not with the current zoning. He has a special use permit to operate a car wash and detailing business and that could remain.

Council Member Vogler **moved** to adopt a Resolution entitled:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02.01**

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA MAINTAINING PARCEL #25925 (136 SOUTH RIDGE STREET) IN THE RD, RIVER DISTRICT

The Motion was **seconded** by Vice Mayor Buckner and carried by the following vote:

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

**CONSIDERATION OF A CODE AMENDMENT REQUEST FILED BY THE CITY OF DANVILLE TO APPROVE THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW DESIGN GUIDELINES**

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Code Amendment Request. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 20, 2026 and January 27, 2026. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Vogler requested a brief overview of this item and Ms. Burton explained this was an updated version of design guidelines that will govern the Architectural Review Overlay that now consists of the River District, the Old West End Historic District as well as the North Main Business District. The guidelines were a recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan and the Preservation Plan and they were following through with those objectives.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02.01**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA ADOPTING AND APPROVING THE CITY OF DANVILLE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW DESIGN GUIDELINES

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

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

**CONSIDERATION OF DENYING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FILED BY BLACKSTONE BUILDING GROUP TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF LOT FRONTAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding a Special Use Permit Request by Blackstone Building Group. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on January 20, 2026 and January 27, 2026.

Mayor Jones recognized Rick Byers, the builder/developer of the Vandola Crescent Project who noted he wanted to offer an apology and explanation of what happened at the Planning Commission meeting, and why it was denied. Mr. Byers stated he missed the Planning Commission meeting, having come down with COVID; if he had been there, an explanation would have smoothed things over and it would have been approved. This was another zoning housecleaning issue; it was never about increasing the density of the project or the amount of units; it had remained the same the last year and a half. Originally, when they designed the project, the yards were going to be in the HOA, they were not going to have individual lots. They realized later that in order to participate in the right of way reimbursement program, they would have to have deeded lots for the townhomes. The townhomes have been designed for the last year and a half at sixteen to seventeen feet wide and the minimum was eighteen. That was why they were there; in order for them to record the lots with the existing townhome design, they would need the variance as proposed. This project was originally approved for up to 360 units, they were down to 317; eight of those units they have voluntarily given up because they were working with the City on building a non-profit childcare facility to anchor the development. That will be donated into a 501(c)(3). They were not asking for additional units, it was tidying up the lot lines to match the actual width of the townhomes.

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

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved to Postpone and Remand** this item back to the Planning Commission.

A RESOLUTION DENYING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ25-00424, FILED BY BLACKSTONE BUILDING GROUP, LLC, REQUESTING A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF LOT FRONTAGE REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 41.2.F OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, AT PARCEL IDS 78585, 77925, 71138, 77918, 77919, 77920, 77921 AND 77922 IN THE MR, MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL ZONE; OR

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA GRANTING SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION PZ25-00424 FILED BY BLACKSTONE BUILDING GROUP, LLC, TO ALLOW A WAIVER OF LOT FRONTAGE REQUIREMENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 41.2.F OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE VIRGINIA, 1986, AS AMENDED, AT PARCEL IDS #78585, #77925, #71138, #77918, #77919, #77920, #77921 AND #77922 (VANDOLA ROAD AND KAYEWOOD LANE) IN THE MR MULTI-UNIT RESIDENTIAL ZONE

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

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Mr. Hood requested an explanation on why this item was being postponed. Vice Mayor Buckner noted the reason for his recommendation to postpone was because the gentleman was not able to attend the Planning Commission meeting and they were not able to hear his case. Ms. Burton noted the recommendation of the Planning staff on denial was because of the concern of the incompatibility with the existing area on Vandola. The decrease in size really makes a difference in the housing that will be offered to the public for sale or rental in the future; that was one of the staff's concerns.

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

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

**CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT #1 OF THE EDEN, NORTH CAROLINA WATER AND WASTEWATER AGREEMENT**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02.02**

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA APPROVING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AMENDMENT #1 OF THE EDEN, NORTH CAROLINA WATER AND WASTEWATER AGREEMENT TO REFLECT NEW NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

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)

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR A GRANT AND LOAN FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02.02**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR A VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH \$2,920,000 GRANT AND \$5,080,000 LOAN FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$8,000,000 TO ASSIST WITH THE CITY'S LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY AND REPLACEMENT EFFORTS AS DIRECTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME.

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

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**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUES FROM CASINO GAMING TAXES TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02.03**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUES FROM THE CASINO GAMING TAXES TO SUPPORT AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,000,000 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME

was presented by its **First Reading**, as required by City Charter, to lie over before final adoption.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Jones noted to those listening, the school buses, with meals for the students, will be at the following locations tomorrow from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Moffett Church, Arnett Hills, GWHS, Park Avenue, Grove Park, Purdum Woods - the Express Store across the street, the Wal-Mart in Nor-Dan, Gibson and the Food Lion Cane Creek parking lot.

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

Council Member Miller noted his congratulations to the three finalists; it was an appointment by Council until November at which time they will have to run again. This does not preclude any of those who do not win from running in November. Dr. Miller noted he spoke with patients today who stated they were pleased with how the streets were kept clear.

Council Member Saunders noted his prayers to Bishop Linder, his family and community; he was missed already. They appreciated all the work he has done for the city, the state, region and nation. Mr. Saunders noted he had heard that the homeless shelter had a 30-day maximum stay but it may change to 60 days; Mayor Jones noted the new director was having a conversation with his board of directors to change it from 30 to 60 days. Mr. Saunders noted a special thanks to the City employees, he has heard a lot of good things from residents about their work.

Council Member Vogler thanked all those who took the time to apply for the Council vacancy; they had great applications and it was tough to narrow it down to who they did. Mr. Vogler congratulated the three finalists, a week from today at 7:00 p.m. they will be in Chambers for the interviews. The meeting was open to the public.

Vice Mayor Buckner thanked everyone who applied, it was not easy to put yourself out there and be willing to serve in this capacity. The three finalists were not making it easy on Council, it will be a tough decision, but they do look forward to the conversations they will have. Mr. Buckner stated that the City staff did an excellent job with the storms, and thanked them for their work.

Council Member Campbell noted he has been on Council for eighteen years, he remembered how the City was then with the loss of textiles and tobacco, and how well they were now doing; they did a lot of things right. Danville was a prosperous city and prosperity needed to be shared,

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not given, but worked for. Rev Campbell noted his heart goes out to Bishop Linder and his family; he was a great friend and mentor to him.

Council Member Hood thanked those who submitted the application for the council vacancy, and thanked the finalists for stepping up to serve.

Council Member Mayo noted his agreement with Mr. Hood, thanked all those who applied, congratulations to the finalists, and good luck on the next round. Mr. Mayo commended Mark Aron for his work and all the City staff. Prayers to the Linder family.

Mayor Jones recognized the finalists to fill the Council vacancy, Shakeva Frazier, Shelby Irving, Danny Marshall and alternate Gwyndolyn Stone. Interviews will take place next Tuesday night in Chambers at 7:00 p.m.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:51 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC  
CITY CLERK