

February 17, 2026

The Second February meeting of the Danville City Council was held on February 17, 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, Daniel W. Marshall, Barry P. Mayo, Gary P. Miller, Sherman M. Saunders, and J. Lee Vogler, Jr. (9).

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

Mayor Jones presided.

### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Member L.G. "Larry" Campbell, Jr., gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS**

#### **Swearing In of Interim City Council Member Daniel W. Marshall, III.**

City Clerk Susan DeMasi swore in Council Member Daniel Marshall as the Interim City Council Member.

City Manager Ken Larking noted he wanted to share what caused the City to temporarily run out of treated water in parts of the system, which required the issuance of a boil water advisory. Due to heavy rain and runoff into the creeks and streams feeding the Dan River, the water coming into the treatment plant became unusually cloudy. Despite the City's best efforts, it could not be safely treated to meet quality standards. For several hours, they were unable to supply the distribution system with treated water meeting the Virginia Department of Health Standards. The lack of new, treated water in the system caused water levels and pressure in the tanks to drop. Whenever the system loses pressure, public health regulations require the City to issue a boil water advisory as a precaution to protect the residents. Mr. Larking noted he knew this situation was frustrating and inconvenient for residents, businesses and visitors, and they were working hard to get the water system back to normal as quickly as they could and will investigate how this happened so they can improve their processes and prevent it from happening in the future. Keeping the water supply safe and reliable was the City's top priority.

Mayor Jones noted to the citizens and businesses, Council and the City wanted to thank them for their patience. Mayor Jones introduced Director of Utilities Jason Grey and thanked him for working tirelessly to correct this problem.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Budget Appropriation Items. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on February 10, 2026. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

February 17, 2026

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on January 20, 2026. Draft copies of the minutes had been distributed prior to the meeting.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Appropriation Ordinance for a Grant and Loan from the Virginia Department of Health

An Ordinance Entitled, Ordinance No. 2026-02.02 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.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Appropriation Ordinance by Increasing Revenues from Casino Gaming Taxes to Support Economic Development Projects

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

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

VOTE: 9-0  
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Marshall,  
Mayo, Miller, Saunders and Vogler (9)  
NAY: None (0)

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REVIEW OF GENERAL FUND FINANCIALS AS OF JANUARY 31, 2026.**

Chief Financial Officer Michael Adkins reviewed the General Fund Financials through January 31, 2026, which marked 58% of Fiscal Year 26 complete. Revenues received through the end of January amounted to \$95M, representing 52% of budget, which was where they were last January. Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes both met the 50% mark at the end of December after the first half billing. Delinquent collections were doing quite well; the City received \$974,000 to date and that was 85% of budget. As mentioned in the past, sales tax has been sluggish this year, and as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, the City has received \$7.6M, or 54% of budget; the City was short about \$582,000. Looking ahead, the City did receive a sales tax installment last week representing the holiday retail sales that occurred in December; it was nearly \$1.3M. That was not the highest the City has ever had but was definitely in the top three. There was a little bit of a rebound, and that will bring the shortage down to \$475,000. Mr. Adkins noted he was fairly confident the City will not perform up to the budgetary number for sales tax, but it will be manageable. Looking at Meals tax on January 31<sup>st</sup>, the City has collected nearly \$8M, which was on target with budget, falling right between 57% and 58%. Lodging taxes were outperforming budget slightly; as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, the City collected \$2.2M, representing 61% of budget. For casino-based taxes through January, the City receipts will be received in the amount of \$22.7M, which was 65% of the original budget. The winter weather in January did impact casino revenues, but they were still higher than what the City based their budget on for this year. Interest and investment earnings were touched on in previous months, and those were outperforming budget; the City has received \$1.9M or 88% of budget at the end of January. Mr. Adkins noted the Federal

February 17, 2026

Reserve was holding interest rates steady which was working out well for the City; he was expecting this line item to exceed budget by about \$700,000 to \$750,000 this year which would offset the decrease in sales tax. State and Federal revenues were coming in as expected, with no concerns there.

On the Expenditure side, Departmental spending was at 53% of budget, running a little bit behind. Non -Departmental Expenses were primarily debt service and group health insurance. Debt service was a known amount, so that was on track with budget. Group Health insurance was ahead of budget, and on track at 58%. They could see an increase again in coming months, perhaps some postponed treatments were done until after the holidays but will keep Council apprised of that as they progress through the rest of the fiscal year. In summary, the General Fund was performing very well; other than Sales Tax, which will be a manageable shortfall, he had no concerns.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 AUDIT**

Mr. Adkins introduced Matt Heatwole, a partner with Brown, Edwards; they have performed the City's independent audit each year for the past several years. Electronic copies of the audit report were sent to Council today, it is also available on the City's website and staff can always provide a hard copy if they need one. Mr. Heatwole was there to provide Council with his report.

Mr. Heatwole noted he was there to talk about the audit and the financial report of the City of Danville. Mr. Heatwole thanked Council for the opportunity to work with the City, and thanked Mr. Adkins and Amy Chandler, the City's Finance Department, and the schools' finance department for their cooperation. Mr. Heatwole noted the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report or ACFR, goes above and beyond just the basic financial statement, it includes a letter of Transmittal for Management of the City with a pretty robust statistical section. It also includes Management's Discussion and Analysis, the overall analysis of the year, budget impacts and so forth.

In the Financial Report itself, they will find their Audit Opinion; they were issuing an Unmodified, Clean Audit Opinion; it was the highest and best opinion the City can receive as a part of the audit. It means, based on their audit procedures, they believe the amounts presented in the financial statements and the notes were materially correct and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. Also, within the Financial Report, were two other opinions on their letterhead, a Yellow Book Opinion, which was a general report on compliance and internal controls, and behind that was another audit in itself of the federal expenditures the City and the Schools have expended during the fiscal year. That was also an unmodified or clean audit opinion on those. Mr. Heatwole noted they always deliver two additional letters, one was called Management Letter, a tool for management as part of their observations in the audit, and best practice suggestions they arrive at. It also gives some disclosures of accounting standards projects; there was always a lot going on to keep up with as things were changing. Finally, the last deliverable was a letter addressed to Those Charged with Governance, the Council, which gives an overall summary of how the audit went, any significant findings which he was happy to report there were none. Also, an important piece of that letter was the management representation letter signed by Mr. Adkins and the people at the school. It was important to understand that at the end of the audit, management was making representations to the auditors of the financial records themselves, and that was attached to that letter as well.

Council thanked Mr. Heatwole for his presentation.

February 17, 2026

**CONSIDERATION OF APPROVING A PLAN TO FINANCE CERTAIN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02.03**

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA, APPROVING CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF A LOAN TO BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE STAUNTON RIVER REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITY AUTHORITY

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

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

I, Daniel W. Marshall, III, do hereby state that I have a conflict of interest regarding a Resolution of the City Council of the City of Danville, Virginia, Approving Certain Documents in Support of a Loan to be Undertaken by the Staunton River Regional Industrial Facility Authority listed on the agenda as New Business Item C. Therefore, pursuant to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act, Virginia Code § 2.2-3112, I must abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Witness my signature this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026.

*s/Daniel W. Marshall, III*

**CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR A GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS**

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02.04**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE BY INCREASING REVENUE FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE LOCAL SHARE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,000 FOR A TOTAL OF \$80,000 AND APPROPRIATING THE SAME

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

Council Member Vogler noted to the City Manager, this was a grant, but the City has to match it and put in \$40,000. The purpose of this was for a feasibility study on the City Auditorium as a performing arts center, was that correct. Mr. Larking noted that was his understanding; Parks and Recreation Director Bill Sgrinia explained that it was. Staff was looking at the feasibility of what

February 17, 2026

to do with that building in the future. It has a lot of limitations for development, some historical designations and staff would like to look at the idea of having it be a center for the arts. Mr. Vogler asked if all of Parks & Recreation had moved out of there and Mr. Sgrinia noted they were for the office space, they still use the gym as a programming center and the print shop was in the basement. Mr. Vogler noted they did a study on this several years ago looking at it as a performing arts center and the limitations of that space were so much, the City could invest a lot of money into it but it was never going to be a functional performing arts center like a DPAC or Tangier's Art Center. Mr. Sgrinia stated he was correct; the City did a conceptual study for the space of the building and how that space could be re-programmed for the theatre to come back and some of the other spaces. This study would see if a city arts center was even feasible. Mr. Vogler noted he would love to have a performing arts center here, but feels it was redundant if they were limiting it to that space, and felt they would be better off selling that building to a developer who could turn it into a mixed use with apartments and taking the money from that to build from the ground up, a performing arts center.

### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS**

Mayor Jones recognized Deb McKague (via ASL interpreter) *In 2021, I stood on live television and spoke positively about this city and I did that because I truly believe Danville was ready to lead with accountability and I believed you were listening. Today, I am standing here with a very different reality. For more than a decade, I have raised concerns about safety and communication access for deaf residents. I spoke publicly in 2012, I returned again in 2021 and during that time, I provided written ADA Title II and Title III information directly to the city attorney, Mr. Whitfield. That information was placed in your hands and the response that followed was minimal and the problems were not resolved. Because these failures continue I have had to seek nearly all my medical care outside of Danville. When I attempted to receive care here, communication access was unreliable and video remote interpreting device was frozen, crashed and failed and in person interpreters were inconsistent. During a serious medical emergency, no in person interpreter was provided. I cannot feel safe in a system that still cannot reliably communicate with me. And I want to clarify an important point, ADA Title III applies to private public accommodations including many medical providers but ADA Title II applies directly to the City of Danville and requires effective communication all government programs, services and public safety systems. Across city services, communication access has been inconsistent or nonexistent. Under ADA Title II the city is required to ensure effective communication in all public services including police, fire, EMS, emergency responses, city offices and community programs. This includes Parks & Recreation, public events, trails, facilities and any city service for deaf residents must be able to access information, participate equally and communicate effectively. Yet fire and emergency services had no reliable communication access at all and police access has been inconsistent. When first responders cannot communicate with deaf resident, that is not a small issue. it is a public safety failure and access that works sometimes is not equal access. As a result of these failures, I was injured and for the past two years, I have lived with daily fear, fear of what will happen the next time I need emergency help. Being in fear that the same failures will happen again because action was not taken when it was needed. I want to be clear, I'm not here because of politics, I'm here because I was harmed. I've raised those concerns repeatedly and being unheard has had real consequences. Danville receives millions of dollars in tax revenue from Caesars. With those resources the city could have invested in training every department and every public facing service on their ADA responsibility. Police, fire EMS, Parks and Recreation, city offices and any providers the city relies on to serve the public. Deaf residents and deaf visitors deserve full access. So today, I am requesting a written response from the City Manager within fourteen days outlining what steps the City will take to correct these ongoing communication access failures and prevent further harm. I am also requesting that Danville establish a permanent ADA and Disability*

February 17, 2026

*and advisory council, including deaf residents, so these failures are addressed pro-actively, not only after someone is harmed. Communication access that works sometimes is not compliant, it is not equal access. Thank you.*

Mayor Jones recognized Tandra Malone who spoke on behalf of her son Tate Malone. She wanted to address issues that happened in Danville. He took ill last weekend, first responders were called and when they arrived at the hospital, there was no staff, they were understaffed and there was an emergency. They had to wait an hour and twenty minutes until first shift came on; that was inexcusable. She would like to get some information on who she can talk to about that as well as she is still trying to get some help for him. There was no physical therapist for special needs, or individuals with intellectual disabilities. She travels twice a week to UVA for him; the City of Danville does not have these services; some of the casino money could be used to bring in needed services.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

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

Council Member Hood thanked everyone for attending tonight and the viewers at home. Community transparency was vital, and the concerns of citizens never fall on deaf ears. Council wants to continue to work with the City to improve relationships through transparency. The House of Hope will be having their Coldest Night of the Year on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. Participants can assemble at the Fire Station on Lynn Street; this was in support of individuals and families experiencing homelessness, hunger and hardship.

Council Member Marshall thanked everyone for the honor to put him back on City Council. Mr. Marshall noted he looked forward to working with each and every Council Member to help keep moving Danville forward.

Council Member Mayo noted it good to have Mr. Marshall on Council, and to see everyone out tonight. Mr. Mayo stated the City Manager and staff were working on the water situation and to stay tuned for other information to come out.

Council Member Miller welcomed Mr. Marshall to Council, it was good to have him there. Dr. Miller noted a few years ago the water got polluted and a few years before that the river turned grey thanks to Duke Power. These things happen and each time the Utilities Department responded magnificently to clean up the water; even with all the precautions they take, things can happen. Council appreciated what Jason Grey has done. Dr. Miller noted flu and pneumonia cases were here and asked citizens to get their flu vaccines. Dr. Miller noted Richard "Dick" Patterson passed away, he was a Danville OB/GYN physician and another icon passed away, Rev Cecil Bridgeforth, his viewing was last week at Shiloh Baptist.

Council Member Saunders welcomed Mr. Marshall, and asked the City Manager if there was anything the City could do to help their citizens with disabilities, and Mr. Larking stated staff will be looking into that. Mr. Saunders noted with the citizen's concern about the hospital, they do understand that, he has had conversations with Mr. Heatherly. When she speaks to him, he will take her concerns seriously. Mr. Saunders thanked the citizens for their understanding during the weather situations the City had, and thanked the staff, city employees and support staff. He was sorry to hear about the passing of Rev Jesse Jackson; when they dedicated the MLK Bridge, Rev Jackson came down for that; Mr. Saunders noted his prayers for his family.

February 17, 2026

Council Member Vogler welcomed Council Member Marshall.

Vice Mayor Buckner welcomed Council Member Marshall. Mr. Buckner thanked the citizens, local businesses, restaurants, people who were feeling the impact with the water issue, and thanked Mr. Grey and his staff for all the hard work while they tried to remedy this situation.

Council Member Campbell welcomed Mr. Marshall, they were glad to have him on City Council. Rev Campbell noted Jesse Jackson had been to Bibleway a couple of times and had been a leader of civil rights in the community. Rev Campbell noted he was very close to Rev Bridgeforth; he served Shiloh Baptist Church, Almagro and social concerns in this community for over thirty years. If there was some way in the future they could honor his name in some way, it would be an honorable thing to do for him.

Mayor Jones noted Dr. Angela Hairston has been selected as the Virginia Region VI Superintendent of the Year; she and her division have worked tirelessly for Danville. Mayor Jones commended City staff for the work they have done during the two weather events. Mayor Jones recognized Twyla Grasty who has been made a deputy in the Sheriff's Office. Mayor Jones welcomed Mr. Marshall to Council.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:47 P.M.

APPROVED:

s/Alonzo L. Jones  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

s/Susan M. DeMasi, CMC  
CITY CLERK