

August 4, 2026

The Regular August meeting of the Danville City Council was held on August 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers 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 P. Mayo, Sherman M. Saunders, J. Lee Vogler, Jr., and Daniel W. Marshall (8). Dr. Gary P. Miller was absent (1).

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

Proclamation: Breastfeeding Awareness Month
Presented to: Roshay Richardson

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Budget Items on the Consent Agenda. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 28, 2026. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Buckner **moved** for adoption of the following Consent Agenda items:

Approval of Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting held on July 7, 2026.

Consideration of Amending the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Provide Additional Funding to Danville Public Schools

An Ordinance entitled, Ordinance No. 2026-07.08, An Ordinance of the Council of the City of Danville, Virginia Amending the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Appropriation Ordinance to Increase General Fund Revenues from Various Sources to Provide Additional Funding to Danville Public Schools in the Amount of \$824,000 and Appropriating Same.

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

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

APPOINTMENTS

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

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Resolution 2026-08.01 – Appointing Kalil Khan to the Danville Utility Commission.

Resolution 2026-08.02 – Appointing Jasmine Lipscomb to the Social Services Advisory Board.

Resolution 2026-08.03 – Appointing Wayne Mayo to the Danville Community Policy and Management Team as the Danville Public Schools Representative.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION OF AMENDING AND ESTABLISHING RENTAL FEES FOR AIRPORT FACILITIES

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding Rentals Fees for Airport Facilities. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 21, 2026 and July 28, 2026. No one present desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026- 08.01

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AMENDING AND ESTABLISHING MONTHLY RENTAL FEES FOR A NEW HANGAR LOCATED AT THE DANVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 17, 2026.

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

Council Member Marshall **moved** to defer/postpone this item to the next Council meeting; the Motion was **seconded** by Council Member Vogler.

Mr. Marshall noted the reason he tabled the motion until the next meeting was that Director of Transportation, Marc Adelman, was going to provide Council with information on how the prices of the hangars were calculated, and what type of response was the City getting from those hangars; he wanted more information about the cost. Vice Mayor Buckner asked Mr. Adelman to give some information on the rentals, and was this time sensitive. Mr. Adelman noted they would like the hangar to be available for September 1st. This hangar will allow Averett University to move into it, so that one of the hangars they currently rent can be renovated to support DCC's use of that hangar for the Aviation Training Facility Project. It was time sensitive; there will be time if they vote at the next meeting.

The **Motion** to defer this Item to the next meeting was carried by the following vote.

VOTE: 8-0-1
AYE: Buckner, Campbell, Hood, Jones, Marshall

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Mayo, Saunders and Vogler (8)
NAY: None (0)
ABSENT: Miller (1)

CONSIDERATION OF ISSUING AN AMBULANCE OPERATOR'S PERMIT TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOLDINGS, LLC, D/B/A AIR CARE EAGLE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding an Ambulance Operator's Permit. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 28, 2026.

Mayor Jones recognized Frank Leist who spoke in favor of issuing the permit. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-08.02

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA EXTENDING A FULL-SERVICE AMBULANCE OPERATOR'S PERMIT TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOLDINGS LLC, D/B/A AIR CARE EAGLE.

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

Council Member Marshall asked for an overview of this item, and Mayor Jones recognized Jay Lovelady, HCA Healthcare, Brian Solady from HCA Healthcare and Victor Grant from Air Methods Corporation. Mr. Lovelady explained the helicopter will be based at the Danville Regional Airport; they have been working with Mr. Adleman to locate that aircraft there full time. It will provide 24/7 operations, with a flight nurse, flight paramedic and pilot team, extending critical care to this community and to others. It will transport to many hospitals that offer tertiary services, high end critical care for patients from this community and surrounding areas. Mr. Marshall questioned how many employees they will have, and Mr. Lovelady stated the medical crew will be a mixture of experienced critical care nurses and experienced flight paramedics. There will be four pilots to provide 24/7 coverage, a staff of two mechanics, a communications center and a lot of infrastructure in the background to support the team.

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

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

A RESOLUTION AFFIRMING THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD DECISION TO DENY A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED ADDRESS SIGNS AT 553 LYNN STREET

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding an Architectural Review Board Decision. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 21, 2026, and July 28, 2026.

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Mayor Jones recognized Austin Bunn, appearing on behalf of Garrett Shiflett who apologized for not working through this process in the appropriate channels prior to installation, specifically to the Architectural Review Board, City Council and staff. In the Architectural Review Design Guidelines it relies in the UDC for regulations of signs; signage for TWC was referenced by Section 0 of Article 10 of the UDC states that the combined area of all signs shall not exceed two square feet per linear foot of primary wall frontage of the first two hundred linear feet and one square foot per linear foot beyond two hundred feet and two square additional per one vertical foot for every foot over twenty feet in building height. The UDC then refers to the applicable section of Article 10 which states that one sign of each type was allowed for each street frontage and further proposes that a building frontage that faces a public parking lot may also be considered as street frontage. It was their interpretation that this allowance was evaluated independently for each street frontage. As such, the allowable area of signs for each street frontage side at 553 Lynn Street far exceeds the existing signs that measure 32 sq ft each in area. The staff reports in the ARB materials refer to a 32 sq ft maximum sign area but also infer that this maximum was across the entirety of the building and that could be combined signage area across all street frontages. They cannot ascertain where the staff reports were coming with this 32 sq ft, it was in the previous version, but they could not derive it in any other current materials. Further explanation and specific references to the subject code language was provided with the materials that they submitted with the appeal that he hoped that Council had a chance to look over. In conclusion, they believe the signs that were installed were in compliance with the applicable code. Each sign was to be measured independently as to its size and compliance with the maximum size area and the sign facing west toward the parking lot on Lynn Street can be considered as facing a public street. They acknowledge that there were internal errors and miscommunications as it related to permit procurement and installation timing and location. They ask first for approval to keep the signs installed as they current were, if however, the sign facing west was deemed to be not in compliance to facing a public parking lot and not a public street, they would propose moving that sign to the building façade that was on Colquhoun Street on the other side of the building.

Mayor Jones recognized Frank Leist who spoke in favor of leaving the signs as they were.

Mayor Jones recognized Jackson Weller, Vice Chair of the Architectural Review Board, who explained the sign does not meet the guidelines of the zoning for the district, and the decision of the Board was to deny the certificate of appropriateness. After careful consideration, it was also understood that this company had been cited two other times for the same thing; this was not an incident where they didn't understand or didn't know what the guidelines for zoning were, they just chose to ignore it. The decision by the Board was for the sign to be in the correct guidelines and zoning for 32 sq feet.

Vice Mayor Buckner questioned Director of Zoning Renee Burton to approach, as the Board member stated, the sign was not in compliance and Ms. Burton noted that was correct. Mr. Buckner asked if every other business, condo, apartment building has to be within guidelines, they can't do for one what they can't do for another. Ms. Burton stated that was correct, the regulations were the same for all. Mayor Jones noted it was stated that this was not the first time this happened and Ms. Burton explained they had a similar case at 401 Craghead Street as well as 511 Craghead Street where signs were installed prior to approval from what was the River District Commission, at the time, as well as without sign permits.

Council Member Vogler questioned in those instances, were they forced to take the signs down or were they kept and Ms. Burton explained in those situations, they were installed without prior approvals, but then they were approved because they did meet the zoning code. These before

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Council today do not meet the zoning code. Mr. Vogler stated because the zoning code was different than it was before, was that what has changed, or would this have been out of bounds with the previous one and Ms. Burton stated it would have been out of bounds with the previous one; the previous code also had a limitation of 32 sq feet.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-08.04

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA AFFIRMING THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD DECISION TO DENY CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR PREVIOUSLY INSTALLED ADDRESS SIGNS AT PARCEL #21670 (553 LYNN STREET).

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF AN APPLICATION TO AMEND CONDITIONS OF APPROVED REZONING FILED BY BLACKSTONE BUILDING GROUP, LLC AT RIVER OAK DRIVE

Mayor Jones opened the floor for a Public Hearing regarding an Application to Amend Conditions. Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the *Danville Register & Bee* on July 21, 2026, and July 28, 2026.

Mayor Jones recognized Rick Myers, Blackstone Building Group, office address 424 Memorial Drive. Mr. Myers noted they were here tonight about a condition that was added in a rezoning prior to his purchasing the property. This was part of a much larger project which was a very contentious rezoning at the time. The condition was added at the City Council level; it was not recommended by the Planning Commission. The condition to have emergency access was not required by Danville's code or the state code and believed the Fire Marshall was here tonight to testify to that effect. He was here tonight to request a removal of that condition.

Mayor Jones recognized Frank Leist, Turpin Street, who spoke in favor of leaving the condition in. No one further desired to be heard and the Public Hearing was closed.

Council Member Vogler moved for adoption of a Resolution entitled:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE, VIRGINIA DENYING AMENDMENT APPLICATION PZ26-00363 FILED BY BLACKSTONE BUILDING GROUP, LLC TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2024-03.04.

The Motion was seconded by Council Member Mayo.

Council Member Marshall questioned Mr. Myers whether at the end of the street there would be cul-de-sac and Mr. Myers noted there would be. Mr. Marshall questioned Ms. Burton if the issue

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was that they were trying to avoid the cul-de-sac and Ms. Burton stated they were not trying to avoid the cul-de-sac, the condition was placed on with the rezoning to provide a secondary access and that was their enforcement at this time. City Manager Ken Larking stated when the rezoning came up in the past, one of the conditions Council put on the rezoning was that there would need to be two points of entry and exit. Staff was following what the Council directed the developer to do during that rezoning process, saying that they recommend that there be two points. Mr. Larking noted the Fire Code does not require that there be two points of entrance and exit; that was a condition that City Council has put on top of what was required by the state. Mr. Vogler noted this was from March of 2024, almost two and half years ago; it was part of the original agreement.

Vice Mayor Buckner questioned how wide they were making the street, and Ms. Burton noted for streets, the minimum width was 60 feet for right of way, and Mr. Marshall questioned if that was paved and Ms. Burton stated it was 50 feet of pavement including curb and gutter. Mr. Marshall questioned how wide a fire truck was and Fire Chief Dave Coffey stated it was 8-10 feet wide. Mr. Vogler questioned Chief Coffey if he had any concerns, if this passes without the emergency access, and Chief Coffey noted his personal opinion was that it would always be nice to have two means of egress, but the Fire Code only requires one. Mr. Vogler questioned if the Chief could adequately do his job without the second one and Chief Coffey noted that was a hypothetical, but would say yes, but worse case scenario, no. Mr. Marshall questioned there would be fire hydrants on the street and if there were, how many, and Chief Coffey noted the requirement was a fire hydrant every five hundred feet. Mr. Myers noted the street was probably more than 500' and that would also kick in the requirement of more than one fire hydrant.

Mr. Vogler noted he would like to pull his Motion and City Attorney Clarke Whitfield stated he did not think he could, he was not modifying the motion, he was changing it.

The Motion **FAILED** BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-08.03

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DANVILLE VIRGINIA, GRANTING AMENDMENT APPLICATION PZ26-00363 FILED BY BLACKSTONE BUILDING GROUP, LLC TO AMEND ORDINANCE 2024-03.04.

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

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

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM VISITORS

Mayor Jones recognized Alex Barella who addressed Council regarding journalism, both in Danville and nationally.

Mayor Jones recognized Aaron Stainback who works with the DAHS handling social media, who noted his support for the Danville Area Humane Society, and working with their partners.

Mayor Jones recognized Eldesa Smith, 169 Beverly Road, who spoke to Council regarding the accuracy, security and integrity of public record keeping systems with a specific focus on the protection of sensitive juvenile data.

Mayor Jones recognized Deborah Anderson, Eastwood Drive, who spoke about the increase of traffic from heavy transfer trucks.

Mayor Jones recognized Stan Lawton who spoke to Council to ask for an immediate reversal of the City Code 32-75(a), to restore the permanent COLA.

Mayor Jones recognized Audrey Lodato, Kingston, NY, on behalf of Best Friends Animal Society, who spoke about the new microchip scanner at the police station and reviewed the contributions Best Friends has made to their local partners.

COMMUNICATIONS

City Manager Ken Larking brought the Parks & Rec newsletter and the Know Your City newsletter to Council's attention. Mr. Larking noted Renee Burton, the City's Planning Director received the President's Award at last week's Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association Conference.

Assistant City Manager Evans noted the Office of Economic Development and Tourism continues to offer a series of workshops and programs for small businesses in the area. They just launched this week, the Holiday Preparation for Small Businesses, and there were more workshops on the way.

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

Council Member Vogler noted the Gratitude Tour last week was fantastic; Council got to visit all the schools in Danville Public Schools and meet with the staff and students.

Vice Mayor Buckner noted he was able to give the opening remarks at the American Planners' Association Conference, to four hundred planners from around the state. Mr. Buckner noted the Gratitude Tour was amazing, meeting with families, teachers and administrators.

Council Member Campbell noted he was glad to see the citizens of Danville participate this evening, and hoped something was done for the citizen who spoke about the trucks on her street. Rev Campbell stated he enjoyed participating in the Gratitude Tour, seeing the excitement in the schools.

Council Member Hood acknowledged the citizens who came to the meeting tonight and invited citizens to the unveiling of a state historic marker on Tuesday, August 11 at 10:00 a.m. at 215

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North Union Street for the Hippodrome Theatre. Mr. Hood thanked all the organizations that had community give aways for school supplies and bookbags.

Council Member Marshall noted the Gratitude Tour was fabulous. Mr. Marshall questioned the 1% sales tax and would like to see how much money has been received, how much has been spent, and thanked Dr. Hairston and her staff for all the work they have done.

Council Member Mayo noted the Gratitude Tour was wonderful, parents were out with their children, meeting teachers, it was a great time, and wished the children good luck returning to school. There were so many places this past weekend having back to school giveaways, making sure children had everything they needed for school.

Council Member Saunders noted his congratulations to Ms. Burton on her award, and thanked Dr. Hairston and her staff, they do an excellent job. Mr. Saunders noted he personally was offended tonight with some of the remarks from one of the citizens regarding the word "injustice" used in connection with the retirement system.

Mayor Jones thanked those that helped planned the Gratitude Tour. Tonight the Council approved the additional funding and bonus for the school system, it will be in one of the September checks, and thanked Council for approving that. Mayor Jones asked Mr. Stainback and Ms. Lodato to approach the podium, thanked them both for the work they were doing, and asked that they continue to work together.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:22 P.M.

APPROVED:

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK