

MINUTES
DANBURY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DANBURY LIBRARY
February 25, 2026

A meeting of the Danbury Town Council was held at the Danbury Library on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mayor Gary East and Council members Steve Shelton, Shannon Conner, Andrew Mathys, and Jacob Tilley. Town Administrator Mike Barsness, Town Clerk Renea Brown and Town Attorney Eugene Russell were also present. A quorum was recorded.

Absent: None

Visitors present: None

Gary East called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.

Gary East approved the agenda after adding discussion items requested by Steve Shelton and Andrew Mathys. No objections were raised.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT:

Gary East asked if any council member had a Conflict of Interest regarding items on the meeting agenda. No conflicts were expressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Steve Shelton stated that on 2/17/26, he attended Leadership Stokes, which was sponsored by the King Chamber of Commerce. Shannon Conner gave information on how tax numbers impact the different areas of the county.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Gary East informed the council that he had declared a State of Emergency prior to the recent snow and ice storm, and then terminated it when the threat had ended. He, Steve Shelton, and Jacob Tilley attended the League of Government meeting on Thursday, February 19, 2026. Danbury will host the meeting on April 16, 2026. He asked council members to consider different community events that could be held in Danbury.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Shannon Conner, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2025, meeting.
2. On motion of Andrew Mathys, seconded by Jacob Tilley, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the ratification of the remote vote to cancel the January 28, 2026, Town Council meeting due to a winter storm.
3. On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Andrew Mathys, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Accounts Payable for the period of December 17, 2025, to February 25, 2026.
4. After a brief synopsis from Mike Barsness in reference to the timeline for the SCIF Grant, on the motion of Andrew Mathys, seconded by Jacob Tilley, it was unanimously RESOLVED to accept the SCIF Grant Project Final Amended Budget of \$197, 558.94.
5. Mike Barsness presented the Budget Calendar and preliminary ad valorem revenue estimates for the fiscal year 2026-27. He also advised them that he would be communicating with them to get their comments on the budget as it progresses.
6. Discussion was held to consider ideas for capital projects for the fiscal year 2026-27. Mike Barsness advised the council that he had contacted Destination by Design to inquire if they would be interested in working with the Town of Danbury again to design the projects. They are interested. Andrew Mathys recommended a playground area, and Shannon Conner recommended a walking trail. Mike suggested that a workshop could be held, and the Planning Board could be included. Shannon suggested that it also include Tory Mabe.
7. On the motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Andrew Mathys, it was unanimously RESOLVED to nominate Jacob Tilley to become the representative for Danbury in the Stokes County Tourism Development Authority.
8. Steve Shelton gave his report on the TAC meeting. He stated that he asked about the bridge completion date, and it will be 2028. He also stated that the roundabout is not in the project.
9. Mike Barsness presented the Financial Report for the last 7 months. He stated that there are no revenue surprises. Also informed council of intent to invest another \$50,000 in Capital Management. This plan still leaves ample funds to cover monthly expenditures and some capital project needs. There are no penalties if the money is needed at any time. No objections were raised.

10. A discussion was held in reference to the pretreatment of streets when a winter storm is forecasted. Gary East stated that he had spoken with Jamie Hicks about acquiring his services to treat the roads. Jamie stated that he would be interested in doing so. Mike Barsness suggested that DOT be contacted first to find out if they would pretreat Danbury streets before asking Jamie to store salt, sand, and other materials. He stated he would contact them.
11. Andrew Mathys expressed concerns about the vegetation growth on the road edges. There were several ideas mentioned that would help with this problem. Blowing the leaves in a more timely manner, asking DOT to use their street sweeper to clear the roads, and Gary East stated that the Day Reporting Program could possibly help with this job.
12. Andrew Mathys expressed concerns about the lack of communication between Meridian Waste Pickup and the town. There had been several instances where the trash had not been picked up, and Meridian failed to communicate with the town. Jacob Tilley suggested a texting program, and Gary East advised that it would be cost-prohibitive to take this route. It was suggested that we utilize our town website and Facebook page more and that people can always call into the Town Hall office.
13. Steve Shelton suggested that we become more involved with the Parks and Recreation Committee in Stokes County.
14. On the motion of Jacob Tilley, seconded by Andrew Mathys, it was unanimously RESOLVED to authorize Steve Shelton to represent the town in researching the possibility of Danbury becoming an official NC Trail Town, including, but not limited to, attending the upcoming NC Trails Summit in Winston-Salem on March 5, 2026.
15. Administrator's Report
 - a. Administrative goals are being set for FY 2026-27. Completing a current inventory of Town Hall items and historical items, and converting more paper files into electronic files. Adding inexpensive security cameras is a focus.
 - b. New signage quote was presented to council. They requested that a reflective material be used. A quote will be obtained and presented to council.
 - c. The Town needs to prepare to update the Comp Plan. It has been 10 years.

On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm.

Gary East
Mayor Pro-tem

Attest:

Renea Brown
Town Clerk

(Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 6:30 PM, at the Danbury Library.)