

MINUTES
DANBURY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DANBURY LIBRARY
JUNE 24, 2026

A meeting of the Danbury Town Council was held at the Danbury Library on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Jacob Tilley, and Andrew Mathys

Visitors present: Emily Williams, representing Stokes News.

Gary East called the meeting to order at 6:31 P.M.

On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the agenda as proposed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT:

Gary East asked if any council member had a Conflict of Interest regarding items on the meeting agenda. None were expressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Steve Shelton gave an update on the progress of the Stokes Stomp. He attended a meeting at The Arts Place on Monday June 22, 2026 at 4pm. He presented council with the 2026 layout map. There were some changes from last year's layout due to construction at The Arts Place. He will also verify that the parade will be able to disband at Moratock Park. The next meeting for Stokes Stomp planning will be on July 7, 2026 at 4pm. Steve plans to attend and will keep everyone updated. Shannon Conner stated that the buses for the tubers are going too fast. She also stated that she will be unable to attend the meeting on July 22, 2026.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Gary East addressed an issue with the road being closed at the General Store and Old Church Rd due to a tree falling. There was some miscommunication between responding agencies which delayed the street reopening until late in the day.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Shannon Conner, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the May 27, 2026, meeting.
2. On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Accounts Payable for the period of May 28, 2026 to June 24, 2026.
3. On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Shannon Conner, it was unanimously RESOLVED to adopt the FY 2025-26 Final Amended Budget in the amount of \$99,703.00.
4. On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Shannon Conner, it was unanimously RESOLVED to set the FY 2026-27 Tax Rate at \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed property value.
5. On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve FY 2026-27 Operating Budget in the amount of \$85,800.00.
6. On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve Resolution 2026-01, exempting the Park Master Plan project from NCGS 143-64.31, requiring qualifications-based selection process for certain professional services.
7. On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve a contract with Destination by Design, PLLC, to create a Park Master Plan, in the amount of \$18,500.00, to begin after July 1, 2026.
8. Mike Barsness recapped on the Hanging Rock connector trail project, specifically the last 300 ft of the trail. A quote came in for \$16,214.00 to clear this part of the trail. Mike had a conversation with Brent Laurenz of MST and Brent feels they can open our section of the trail at possibly no cost to us, unless we want improvements beyond typical trail building. Brent will arrange for Harry Wilson (trail crew) to meet us on our section of trail to determine feasibility of their involvement. Steve Shelton added that he was very encouraged after attending a zoom meeting about the trail project.

9. Steve Shelton reported on a zoom TAC meeting. He reported that the traffic shift from the old portion of the bridge on Sheppard Mill Rd to the new portion of the bridge will occur sometime this fall. He also reported that there are state regulated pilotless aircrafts being discussed that will involve PTRC members. This could be a great asset to our local hospital by allowing medical equipment and emergency patients being airlifted to and from the hospital. Mike added that they discussed P8 scoring again with nothing new in this process to report.

10. Administrator's Report

- a. Mike stated that it is time for council to begin searching for a new Town Administrator. His goal is to begin exiting by year end. He will start working on getting some unfinished projects completed.

On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Gary East
Mayor

Attest:

Renea Brown
Town Clerk

(Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2026, 6:30 PM, at the Danbury Library.)