MINUTES
DANBURY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DANBURY LIBRARY
August 26, 2026

A meeting of the Danbury Town Council was held at the Danbury Library on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Jacob Tilley

Visitors present: Jeff Sanborn, Janelle Johnson, Mr. Johnson, Rick Morris, Emily Williams

Gary East called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

On motion of Andrew Mathys, 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 expressed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS: Steve Shelton spoke about his conversation with the representative from Outdoor NC (Trail Town designations) at the recent Great Trails Conference. Application period starts in September. He and Tory Mabe had discussed using this next year to get everything ready to submit Danbury's application in September 2027.

MAYOR'S REPORT:
Gary East read a Proclamation declaring September 17 through September 23, 2026, to be Constitution Week. He then welcomed our visitors to the meeting and thanked them for attending the meeting. He thanked the Stokes News for inviting him to the Reader Choice event. Gary gave an update for the planning of the upcoming Parade. It is moving forward well and will need some assistance with getting the parade done. He spoke with Claire Marie and there are 12 signed up so far. Will be contacting council members individually to see who can help.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Andrew Mathys, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the July 22, 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 July 23, 2026 to August 26, 2026.

3. On motion of Andrew Mathys, seconded by Shannon Conner, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve a Budget Amendment increasing the 2026-27 Operating Budget by $20,000 from General Fund Balance (for Park Plan) and $5,700 from Powell Fund Balance (for Courthouse Circle Repair).

4. On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Andrew Mathys, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve Town Signage Replacement based on the most recent cost and design information.

5. Jeff Sanborn, Stokes County Manager, presented the Stokes County Operating Plan. He went through each tab and gave a brief explanation of each subject. He took questions afterwards and answered any questions. We agreed to put the “Flip Book” link on the Town of Danbury’s website so that citizens can view the plan.

6. Steve Shelton gave an update on the Great Tails State Conference. He stated that it was a great meeting and he will be compiling a presentation to give at the next council meeting. He was very excited to have made some good contacts.

7. Mike Barsness presented the initial Park Master Plan Concepts that was created by Destination by Design. Holly Waterman, Ed McLean, Gary East, Steve Shelton, and Mike Barsness did a walk-through of the existing park area and discussed ideas of what they would like to see the park transformed to. Holly and Ed took those ideas and compiled 2 concepts. The council members like parks of both plans and would like to possibly combine their favorite parts such as the pavilion area, walking path, and green areas. Mike will give DBD the feedback from the council members so they can create a more accurate idea of what they would like to see happen.

8. Mike Barsness discussed the progress of the Social District Ordinance. He gave a history of what Eddy McGee is requesting and presented the council with a draft of a possible ordinance. He wanted to make sure that the council was interested in moving forward with this ordinance. On motion of Andrew Mathys, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was

unanimously RESOLVED to move forward with the Social District Ordinance in Danbury. Mike stated that Town Attorney Eugene Russell has reviewed the draft.

9. Administrator's Report

    a. Mike Barsness updated the council on the audit status. He let the council know that the audit had been completed and the next step is to complete the MD&A. Hope to have a report for the council by October or November.

    b. The storm damage cleanup has been completed.

    c. He let the council know that the summer banners will have to be replaced for next year. Shannon Conner agreed to head up a committee to get the new banners created so that they can be ordered.

On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 pm.

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Gary East
Mayor

Attest:

_____
Renea Brown
Town Clerk

(Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026, 6:30 PM, at the Danbury Library.)