MINUTES
DANBURY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
DANBURY LIBRARY
September 23, 2026

A meeting of the Danbury Town Council was held at the Danbury Library on Wednesday, September 23, 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: None

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

On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Shannon Conner, 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 commented that he and his wife, Olivia Shelton, will be celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary on September 29th. Shannon Conner informed the council that she has asked Tory Mabe, of the Stokes County Tourism Division, to supply her with some pictures of Danbury. She plans to use those to continue her efforts to come up with a new summer banner design.

MAYOR'S REPORT:
Gary East thanked everyone for the help that was given during the parade on September 12th. He explained the town water pressure problem that occurred on Friday September 11, 2026, that was going to impact the Stokes Stomp on Saturday. One option proposed by Stokes County Public Works was to cancel the Festival. The final solution was for the vendors to bring their own water and the Arts Council would rent more Porta Potties for the event. Gary East stated that he is looking forward to the Christmas program.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. On motion of Andrew Mathys, seconded by Steve Shelton, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the August 26, 2026 meeting with the following corrections to be made: The “n” taken off of Steven on page 2 under New Business, Item 1, and “at the Arts Block” to be removed from the end of the last sentence under New Business, Item 8.

2. On motion of Steve Shelton, seconded by Shannon Conner, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Accounts Payable for the period of August 27, 2026 to September 23, 2026.

3. Mike Barsness gave an update on the park concepts plan that Destination by Design had provided. He gave out handouts that had the two initial concepts combined into one plan. He also pointed out the cost estimates and suggested if the park improvements move forward it might be wise to do work in phases. A site plan needs to be developed with the help of a surveyor or engineer. Then a grant acquisition plan would need to be created. A State Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant and a Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant are available for application. These are popular and competitive grants. The grant preparation fee proposed by Destination by Design would be in addition to the concept design cost. Also, the fee would be less expensive if the Town applied for both grants rather than just one. Andrew Mathys had questions in reference to the playground equipment that was represented on the design handout. Gary East stated that the equipment depicted in the plan was one option in lieu of traditional playground equipment. The specific equipment could be determined once the Town gets to that level of planning. There was concern about the 50% grant match that would be needed and whether the Town can afford it. Andrew Mathys would like to know how much the town is willing to put toward the grant match. Gary East suggested that we allow Destination by Design to do the grant work. Gary also suggested that the subject of Destination by Design doing the grant work be voted on at the next council meeting.

4. Mike Barsness stated that he, Steve Shelton, Brent Laurenz, Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Harry Wilson, trail builder, and Jesse Day, Piedmont Triad Regional Council met on September 10, 2026. It was concluded that Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail would cover costs for the Town’s part of the trail. The Town of Danbury will only incur an expense if there needs to be extensive drainage or culvert work or if the Town wants other amenities not customarily provided.

Mike Barsness will begin working on a Resolution authorizing the work and use of the road.

5. Steve Shelton explained his request to temporarily halt the ordering of new town signs. His concern centered on branding terminology. Looking forward, there may be better wordage than “National Historic District”. Gary East suggested that everyone present a new idea for sign wordage at the next council meeting.

6. Administrator’s Report

    a. Mike Barsness updated the council on the Social District Ordinance preparation. After meeting with an agent from the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABC), it was determined that the owner of the property could apply for a Common Area Entertainment permit which would allow consumption of alcoholic beverages within a defined multi-business area on private property. The property owner would be responsible to create a management and maintenance plan. This approach eliminates the need for the town to establish and manage a social district. Ordinance development is on hold.

On motion of Shannon Conner, seconded by Andrew Mathys, it was unanimously RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm.

_____
Gary East
Mayor

Attest:

_____
Renea Brown
Town Clerk

(Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 6:30 PM, at the Danbury Library.)