

ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL-REGULAR SESSION

June 21, 2022

2:00 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 42245-010322 adopted by the Council on Monday, January 3, 2022.

PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, Joseph L. Cobb, Stephanie Moon Reynolds, Anita J. Price, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Patricia White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

ABSENT: None-0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager; Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney; and Cecelia F. McCoy, City Clerk.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Serenus T. Churn, Jr., Pastor, High Street Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.

PRESENTATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

RECOGNITION OF THE CITY'S SWIFTWATER RESCUE TEAM: Mayor Lea with Chief David Hoback recognized the Swiftwater Rescue Team and Fire-EMS Department who rescued a citizen who was trapped in a flooding vehicle.

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that City Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard. All matters will be referred to the City Manager for response, recommendation or report to Council, as he may deem appropriate.

Shawn Ayers, 1228 Hamilton Terrace, S. W., appeared before the Council to complain about the mismanagement of the City's Streets and Maintenance Department.

Barbara Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council to speak on the All America City and encouraged the hiring of diverse citizens of the City to bring skills and expertise.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion were desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL: Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, May 16, 2022, were before the body.

(See Minutes on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Cobb moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and approved as recorded. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-MILL MOUNTAIN ADVISORY BOARD-VISIT VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE, BOARD OF DIRECTORS-COURT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM REGIONAL COMMUNITY CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD-GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMISSION: Reports of qualification of the following individuals were before the Council:

Whitney Feldmann as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025;

Malcolm Quigley as a member of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors to replace Ssunny Shah for a one-year term of office commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023;

James Davis as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board to replace David Perry for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025;

Adam Puckett as a member of the Court Community Corrections Program Regional Community Criminal Justice Board to replace Deputy Chief Eric Charles for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025; and

Eric Anderson as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Angela Williams ending March 31, 2025.

(See Oaths or Affirmations of Office on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Cobb moved that the reports of qualification be received and filed. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND COMMENTS OF CITY MANAGER:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

Orange Avenue Improvements

Mark Jamison, Director, Public Works, advised that the City had been working for a while on a few initiatives involving the Route 460/Orange Avenue area. He introduced Dewayne D'Ardenne and Josephus Johnson-Koroma to continue the presentation.

(See presentation on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Mr. D'Ardenne advised that the improvements were concentrated in the area between Gainsboro Avenue and Blue Hills Drive. He continued noting that many have experienced traffic and congestion on that corridor and improvements need to be done. VDOT sponsored and funded Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions (STARS) studies to provide innovative solutions to relieve congestion and improve safety throughout the Commonwealth; and the recommended improvements derived from the STARS studies were submitted through the VDOT SMART SCALE portal for potential grant funding.

Mr. Johnson-Koroma highlighted the currently funded intersection improvements noting that construction for the projects was anticipated in 2025 or 2026.

SMART SCALE Round 4 funding:

- Orange Avenue (Rt. 460)/Seibel Dr. - \$436,731
- Orange Avenue (Rt. 460)/King St. - \$4,989,215
- Orange Avenue (Rt. 460)/Blue Hills Dr. - \$5,580,213

SMART SCALE Round 3 funding:

- Orange Avenue (Rt. 460)/King St. and Blue Hills Dr. - \$2,818,704

He further advised of the upcoming grant applications for intersection improvements noting that SMART SCALE Round 5 applications were due on August 1 with the announcement of project award in spring of 2023.

- I-581/Orange Avenue/Williamson Rd. — Est \$TBD
- Orange Avenue/Plantation Rd./Kimball Avenue — Est \$4M
- Orange Avenue/11th St. to 24th St. — Est \$24M

At 2:48 p.m., Mayor Lea left the meeting during the presentation and at 3:13 p.m., he returned to the meeting.

Following discussion of the potential improvements, Council Member Cobb inquired as to the reasoning that the 11th Street to 24th Street project ranked as not securing funding and asked if anything can be done to strengthen the rank of that project moving forward. Mr. Jamison explained that projects were scored against other projects submitted for that round of funding and when the funding ran out, that project was right below the line. He further explained it has a good opportunity with tweaks made to secure funding, but there were no guarantees because it would have to be scored against the other projects submitted for the next round of funding.

Council Member Moon Reynolds expressed concern with regard to the new Sheetz store and the increased traffic to the area that the store will incite; whereupon, Mr. Johnson-Koroma explained that the traffic volume will be addressed during the design phase of the project to determine the best way to account for the larger traffic volume.

Mr. D'Ardenne added that Sheetz must install a dual left turning lane as part of their build, but that was not a part of the VDOT portion of the project.

Council Member Price commended RVTV on the presentation and quality graphics that were very user friendly.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd thanked the presenters, received, and filed the briefing.

Star City Strong

The City Manager updated the Council on the Star City Strong Recovery and Resiliency Fund American Rescue Plan Act - Year One Report and Year Two Recommendations. He provided background on the matter noting that American Rescue Plan Act funds awarded were \$64.5 million over two years.

(See presentation on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

He summarized the report by highlighting the main principles studied by an advisory panel appointed by the Council charged with submitting recommendations on allocating the funds. He explained the criteria below:

- People - Ensure no one in the community lacks the essentials of shelter, food, and personal safety. Provide opportunities for residents of all ages, ability levels and backgrounds to engage fully in civic, economic and social life.
- Places - Support stabilization and continued vitality of neighborhoods, nurturing complete neighborhoods" and "neighborhood centers" along with Downtown and the City's Business Districts and the small businesses located within.

- Governance - Support the continuity of government operations and the safety municipal workers and the general public. Help equip the next generation of leaders and enhance the capacity of those already serving in such roles. Enhance awareness of and access to COVID-recovery assistance to individuals, household businesses and organizations and neighborhoods.

Mr. Cowell concluded the presentation by reviewing the next steps in the allocation and recommendations. He commended the Council for making sure citizens were involved, and that their input was valuable.

Following discussion on planting trees, food desert in the northwest area, investment in projects in the northwest area and the current target area, the City Manager reviewed the next steps and thanked the Council for the opportunity to present the information.

Mayor Lea thanked the City Manager for the informative presentation and received and filed the briefing.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

REINSTATEMENT OF THE REAL PROPERTY REHABILITATION EXEMPTION: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending amending the City Code to allow reinstatement of the real property rehabilitation exemption for commercial and mixed-use real property lost due to nonpayment of real estate taxes.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#42373-062122) AN ORDINANCE amending and re-ordaining Subsection (c) of Section 32-98.1, Eligibility, Division 5, Exemption of Certain Rehabilitated Real Property, Article II, Real Estate Taxes Generally, Chapter 32, Taxation, Code of City of Roanoke (1979) as amended, to allow for reinstatement of the real property rehabilitation tax exemption for commercial and mixed use buildings in instances where such exemption is lost due to nonpayment of real estate taxes, fees, and charges, upon payment of such real estate taxes, fees, and charges; dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title; and providing an effective date.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 416.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42373-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

VDOT REVENUE SHARING FUNDS: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending de-appropriation of VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds for the Graybill Road/Gilford Avenue Drainage Improvement Project.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42374-062122) AN ORDINANCE to De-appropriate funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation for the Graybill Road/Gilford Avenue Drainage Improvement Project, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 Capital Projects Fund Appropriations and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of the budget ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 417.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42374-062122. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

JOINT USE AGREEMENT: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending execution of a proposed Joint Use Agreement between the City of Roanoke and the Roanoke City School Board.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#42375-062122) AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City Manager or his designee to enter into an Agreement between the City of Roanoke and the School Board of the City of Roanoke in order to enhance the cultural, recreational, athletic and educational opportunities offered to the citizens of the City of Roanoke; and dispensing with the second reading, by title, of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 418.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42375-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Price and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

COMMENTS OF CITY MANAGER: NONE.

CITY ATTORNEY:

AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT AND PRACTICES; AND OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES: The City Attorney submitted a written communication recommending amendment of the City Code to update Article IV, Personnel Management and Practices and Article III, Officers and Employees.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#42376-062122) AN ORDINANCE amending Article IV, Personnel Management and Practices, of Chapter 2, Administration, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 419.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42376-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Sanchez-Jones and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#42377-062122) AN ORDINANCE amending Article III, Officers and Employees, of Chapter 2, Administration, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 431.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42377-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION: The City Attorney submitted a written communication recommending amendment of the City Code to update Chapter 12, Fire Prevention and Protection.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#42378-062122) AN ORDINANCE deleting in its entirety Article III, Fire Alarm Systems, of Chapter 12, Fire Prevention and Protection, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 437.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42378-062122. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following ordinance:

(#42379-062122) AN ORDINANCE amending and reordaining Article II, Fire Prevention Code, Chapter 12, Fire Prevention and Protection, by amending Section 12-19, Amendments, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, for the purpose of updating and clarifying the City's Fire Prevention and Protection ordinance; providing for an effective date; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 438.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42379-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE PROHIBITION OF FIREARMS ON CITY PROPERTY: The City Attorney submitted a written communication recommending amendment of the City Code to update Section 24-2.1, Prohibition of Firearms on City Property.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Cobb offered the following ordinance:

(#42380-062122) AN ORDINANCE amending the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, by amending Section 24-2.1, Prohibition of Firearms on City Property to Chapter 24, Public Buildings and Property Generally; to add certain properties of the the City of Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority; establishing an effective date; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 443.)

Council Member Cobb moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42380-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE SECURITY ALARMS: The City Attorney submitted a written communication recommending amendment of the City Code to update Chapter 23, Police, Article III, Security Alarms.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd offered the following ordinance:

(#42381-062122) AN ORDINANCE amending Article III, Security Alarms, of Chapter 23, Police, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended; providing for an effective date; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 445.)

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42381-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: The Roanoke City School Board submitted a written report requesting appropriation of funds for various educational programs; and the City Manager submitted a written report recommending that Council concur in the request.

(For full text, see reports on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42382-062122) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Commonwealth, federal and private grant for various educational programs, amending and re-ordinating certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 School Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of budget ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 448.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42382-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Price and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: NONE.

MOTION AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Council Member Price reminded everyone about the upcoming Roanoke Youth Summit on Saturday, June 25, at 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in Washington Park. The event is free, and transportation will be available at Fishwick Middle School, Patrick Henry High School, Melrose Library and William Fleming High School.

Council Member Bestpitch commented that he would continue to Chair the Legislative Committee through December and advised that the legislative lobbyist would be present at the July 5 Council Meeting.

Council Member Moon Reynolds stated she will be meeting with the Noble Neighborhood Association on June 20 to discuss business and neighborhood concerns about projects being coordinated by the Williamson Road Area Business Association.

Council Member Cobb announced a gun buyback event would be held on Saturday, June 25, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the Melrose Community Center (1427 Melrose Avenue, N. W.). Citizens can receive a \$250 grocery gift card for a semi-automatic handgun or \$150 grocery gift card for a shotgun, rifle, or revolver.

Council Member Moon Reynolds inquired about a joint meeting with the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission. The City Manager advised no meeting date had been set.

Mayor announced the Miss Virginia 2022 schedule of events from June 23 – 25, beginning with the Four Points Premiere Celebration at the Hotel Roanoke Grand Ball Room held June 23, 10:00 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.; Miss Virginia Purse-a-nality and Basket Auction held Wednesday, June 22 at 7:30 p.m., and Miss Virginia “Show Us Your Shoes” Parade held Saturday, June 25 at 11:00 a.m.; and informed citizens of an upcoming free Youth Football Clinic (ages 7-13) sponsored by the CIAA on Tuesday, July 19 at Salem Football Stadium (1008 Texas Street, Salem). This event will feature community service engagement as the CIAA, its head football coaches, and student athletes. Those interested in participating in the clinic will need to register no later than Monday, July 11th.

VACANCIES ON CERTAIN AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL: NONE.

At 4:43 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess.

At 7:00 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the Council Chamber, with Mayor Lea presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members William D. Bestpitch, Joseph L. Cobb, Stephanie Moon Reynolds, Anita J. Price, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Patricia White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

ABSENT: None-0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager; Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney; and Cecelia F. McCoy, City Clerk.

The Invocation was delivered by Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Lea.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

ALLEY VACATION: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by the Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a request of Zachary Toth to vacate an approximately 12 foot wide alley running east from 4th Street, S. W., approximately 75 feet to a dead end, with an approximate total area of 910 +/- square feet, adjacent to property located at 210 4th Street, S. W., the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 and Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

(See publisher's affidavit on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The City Planning Commission submitted a written report recommending approval the vacation as requested, contingent upon the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall submit a subdivision plat to the Subdivision Agent, receive all required approvals thereof, and record the plat with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for the City of Roanoke. Such plat shall combine all properties which would otherwise dispose of the land within the right-of-way to be vacated in a manner consistent with law, and retain appropriate easements for the installation and maintenance of any and all existing utilities that may be located within the right-of-way, including the right of ingress and egress.

2. Prior to receiving all required approvals of the subdivision plat referenced in the previous paragraph, the applicant shall, as consideration pursuant to § 15.2-2008, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, for the vacated right-of-way, either give to the Treasurer for the City of Roanoke a certified check or cash in the amount of \$6,000 or offset the valuation with improvements made within the public right of way that are approved by the Planning Commission Agent.

3. Upon meeting all conditions to the granting of the application, the applicant shall deliver a certified copy of this ordinance for recordation to the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Roanoke, Virginia, indexing the same in the name of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, as Grantor, and in the name of the petitioner, and the names of any other parties in interest who may so request, as Grantees. The applicant shall pay such fees and charges as are required by the Clerk to effect such recordation.

4. Upon recording a certified copy of this ordinance with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, the applicant shall file with the Engineer for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, the Clerk's receipt, demonstrating that such recordation has occurred.

5. The applicant shall screen the existing mechanical units per Sec. 36.2-647 of the City of Roanoke Zoning Ordinance. Such screening shall be installed by the applicant prior to final plat approval by the Subdivision Agent.

6. The applicant shall place bollards sufficient for protection of the mechanical units from being struck by vehicular traffic. Such bollards, which shall be approved by Planning staff, shall be installed by the applicant prior to final plat approval by the Subdivision Agent in consultation with the City Traffic Engineer.

7. If the above conditions have not been met within a period of twelve (12) months from the date of the adoption of this ordinance, then such ordinance will be null and void with no further action by City Council being necessary, unless extended by the Planning Commission Agent for an additional six (6) months prior to the end of the twelve (12) month period.

(For full text, see report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds offered the following ordinance:

(#42383-062122) AN ORDINANCE permanently vacating, discontinuing and closing a 12 feet wide alley running east from 4th Street, S. W., approximately 75 feet to a dead end, located at 210 4th Street, S. W., Official Tax Map No. 1010822, as more particularly described hereinafter; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 449.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42383-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Bestpitch.

Zachary Toth, Owner, appeared in support of the request.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak on the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions and/or comments by the Council Members, Ordinance No. 42383-062122 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

FEE COMPENDIUM: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a request of the City of Roanoke to repeal the current Fee Compendium and readopt a new Electronic Fee Compendium and to receive the views of citizens with regard to the fees set forth in the Fee Compendium involving the City's Planning Department, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Thursday, June 9, 2022 and Thursday, June 16, 2022.

(See publishers' affidavit on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The City Attorney submitted a written report recommending the creation and maintenance of the Fee Compendium in a central electronic database.

(For full text, see report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds offered the following ordinance:

(#42384-062122) AN ORDINANCE repealing the City of Roanoke 's Current Fee Compendium; adopting an electronic City of Roanoke Fee Compendium reestablishing certain fees, rates, penalties and charges made by the City; providing for an effective date; and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 452.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42384-062122. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak on the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no comments and/or questions by the Council Members, Ordinance No. 42384-062122 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

GENERAL OBLIGATION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a proposal of the City of Roanoke to receive public comment for authorization of General Obligation Public Improvement Bonds in the principal amount of not to exceed \$48,120,000.00 and appropriation of funds for capital projects, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Tuesday, June 7, 2022 and Tuesday, June 14, 2022.

(See publishers' affidavit on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak on the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

Council Member Moon Reynolds requested that the document be published online for transparency and citizen information.

The City Manager acknowledged that the public hearing was published on June 7, 2022 and June 14, 2022.

There being no additional questions and/comments by the Council Members, Mayor Lea advised that no further action was required.

AMENDMENT TO FY 2021 – 2022 ANNUAL BUDGET: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a request of the City of Roanoke to the aggregate amount of the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 annual budget in connection with appropriation of funds for the General Fund and appropriation of funding from additional local taxes and other revenue estimates in the amount of \$18,111,000.00, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Monday, June 13, 2022.

(See publishers' affidavit on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The City Manager submitted a written report recommending adoption of a Budget Ordinance to adjust the FY 2021 - 2022 General Fund revenue and expenditure budgets by \$18,111,000.

(For full text, see report on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42385-062122) AN ORDINANCE to increase the transfers to Roanoke City Public Schools (RCPS), operating expenditures for Snow Removal, Public Safety Overtime, Fire Temp Wages, Sheriff Medical Contract, Children's Services Act, Transfer to Reserves for Fund Balance, Inmate Phone Commissions, Downtown District Taxes, Capital Projects Fund for Carillion Inspection and Budget Contingency, to increase revenue budget estimates for local taxes and other revenues, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 General Fund and Capital Projects Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of budget ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 453.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42385-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds.

The City Manager advised that budget adjustments were customary as at the end of the year revenues come in stronger or weaker than projected and in the instance before the Council, a few areas came in significantly stronger than expected, a significant part of which was due to personal property tax.

The Director of Finance provided additional information highlighting each local tax that over performed and the amount of adjustment noting that real estate tax experienced 0.6 percent growth over the adopted budget; sales tax was approximately 14 percent above the adopted budget; and personal property tax was approximately 22.1 percent.

She continued stating that the total \$18,111,000.00 dollars about 9.4 percent of the total budget was under consideration for an increase and in terms of the anticipated appropriations, the Roanoke City Public Schools would receive \$6,130,300.00 of that total, and very specific appropriations such as a revenue increase for the district taxes for downtown Roanoke, Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, and the Children Services Act.

Continuing with the presentation, Ms. Merchant reviewed the following rebate scenarios in anticipation of a net potential "surplus" revenue equaling \$5,908,563.96 in an effort to provide some kind of relief to citizens due to the large increase in the personal property taxes.

Scenario 1 - If no rebate was afforded the Schools Division would receive \$2,363,426, \$50,688 would be placed in the reserve balance, \$2,190,000 for street paving, citizens would receive nothing and the contingency would receive \$404,450.

Scenario 2 – Rebate of a flat dollar was afforded it would be up to \$82.77 per vehicle provided to the citizens, not receiving more than they paid in taxes.

Scenario 3 – Rebate based on percentage citizens would receive 17.5 percent of total amount of taxes paid, for example, \$9.91 on \$56.48, \$87.70 on \$500.

Scenario 4 – If up to \$1 million of the revenue was retained, the Schools Division would receive \$400,000, \$160,900 placed in the reserve balance, \$439,100 street paving, citizens and contingency would receive nothing.

The City Manager added that the scenarios were viable and asked that if rebate granted be issued in September 2022 to advise that as of August 31 all citizens' current on taxes or with established payment plan to provide a grace period to allow for catch up.

Council Member Bestpitch commented that he was in support of the option for everyone who was current on taxes as of August 31; receive the rebate for up to \$82.77.

Council Member Cobb inquired about the option of a payment plan for citizens who needed it; whereupon, the City Manager advised that the City Treasurer offered a payment plan and information was listed in the bills mailed out. Council Member Cobb expressed he would support the flat rate rebate to citizens.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd explained that she would support the option of a rebate of up to \$82.77, but was amenable to option 3, the flat rebate.

Council Member Moon Reynolds asked if citizens utilizing the payment plan qualified for the rebate; whereupon, the City Manager replied in the affirmative as long if the citizen was current on payments. She expressed she was not in support of the flat rate rebate which would provide \$82.77 to someone who may not have paid any taxes or a lower amount because of the age of their vehicle.

Council Member Price inquired as to how the 17.5 percentage derived. The Director of Finance indicated that it was a mathematical formula representing \$5.9 million is 17.5 percent of that 91 percent of the full levy after the relief that has already been granted.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones advised she was leaning towards the option of 17.5 percentage rate rebate.

Following additional discussion on the scenarios before the Council, Mayor Lea declared the Council meeting in recess for a brief break (8:21 p.m.).

At 8:36 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened with Mayor Lea presiding and all members of Council in attendance.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd moved to substitute the amended budget ordinance, which reflects less revenue realized because of the allowance of a rebate for a total of \$12,611,000 instead of \$18,111,000. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUE: Council Member Moon Reynolds offered the following ordinance with regard to an anticipated surplus in connection with 2022 personal property revenue:

(#42386-062122) AN ORDINANCE authorizing and approving the return of a portion of the surplus FY 2021 - 2022 personal property tax revenues to taxpayers with a one-time payment equal to 17.5 percent of the tax paid on each vehicle provided such taxpayer has paid their 2022 personal property taxes and any penalties or fees thereon by August 31, 2022 and provided that a minimum of 91 percent of the net levy has been received by August 31, 2022; establishing an effective date; and dispensing with the second reading of this Ordinance by title.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 456.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42386-062122. The motion seconded by Council Member Price.

The City Manager explained that in the previous item adopted rebated the amount of the surplus \$5.9 million back and what was before the Council currently was to determine the methodology of the rebate. He pointed out that Council was provided three options, a flat rate rebate not to exceed the amount someone paid; a flat rate rebate regardless of the amount paid, but capped at \$82.77; or to offer a percentage rebate of 17.5 percent regardless of the amount paid. All to be issued in September upon the condition that the citizen is current on their bill or payment plan requirements.

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved to adopt an ordinance for the one-time payment equal to 17.5 percent of the tax paid on each vehicle. The motion seconded by Council Member Price.

Terrance Gardner, 3938 Wyoming Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and expressed concern about the next time taxes would be due and the increase in said taxes. He noted that he preferred no rebate, but to use the funds to improve the City streets, such as, installing a light on his street.

Mayor Lea referred Mr. Gardner's comments to the City Manager for response, recommendation or report to the Council.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd expressed how tough it was to make a decision on the matter and wanted the City's residents to know that Roanoke County has a slightly higher tax rate. The City of Roanoke pays for street paving and City dollars have to go a long way to provide services for all citizens and Roanoke County does not have to pay for street paving, but she was in favor of providing a rebate.

There being no additional comments by the Council Members, Ordinance No. 42386-0062122 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Moon Reynolds, Price, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-5.

NAYS: Council Members Bestpitch and Cobb-2.

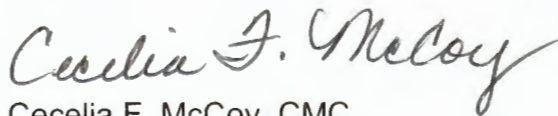
HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that City Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard. All matters will be referred to the City Manager for response, recommendation or report to Council, as he may deem appropriate.

Ronnie Blankenship, 513 Lester Avenue, N. E., appeared before Council and spoke with regard to a disturbance at 502 Mapleton Avenue, N. E., and advised that neighbors feel unsafe.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lea declared the Council meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

APPROVED

ATTEST:



Cecelia F. McCoy, CMC
City Clerk



Sherman P. Lea, Sr.
Mayor
