



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

May 15, 2023
2:00 PM
City Council Chamber
215 Church Avenue, S.W.

AGENDA

The City of Roanoke is a safe, caring and economically vibrant community in which to live, learn, work, play and prosper.

A vibrant urban center with strong neighborhoods set amongst the spectacular beauty of Virginia's Blue Ridge.

NOTICE:

Council meetings will be televised live and replayed on RVTV Channel 3 on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; and video streamed through Facebook Live at facebook.com/RoanokeVa. Council meetings are offered with closed captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing.

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. All Present.

The Invocation was delivered by Elder Milton Hardy, Jr., Associate Pastor, Greater Prayer Temple.

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

Welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

A proclamation declaring the week of May 21 - 27, 2023 as National Public Works Week.

Council Member Priddy declared the week of May 21 - 27, 2023 as National Public Works Week and presented the proclamation to Ian Shaw, Acting Public Works Director; Michael Clark, Director, Parks and Recreation; and Nichole Gibson, Risk and Safety Manager along with staff.

A proclamation declaring May 2023 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones declared May 2023 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, and presented the proclamation to Lisa Spencer, Executive Director, Local Colors of Western Virginia and members of the Asian American community.

3. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:

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.

Jeannie Duddy, 204 24th Street, S. W., appeared before the Council to read and present a Bike Month proclamation issued by Governor Youngkin.

Barbara Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and expressed concern about the lack of communication within neighborhoods and read a passage titled "She realized she could close her eyes no longer."

Freeda Cathcart, 2516 Sweetbrier Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and expressed concern about an e-blast from the City's Department of Economic Development with regard to the sale of Fishburn Park and the timeline.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by the Members of City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of the items. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- C-1.** Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, March 20, 2023 and a Special Meeting of City Council held on Thursday, March 30, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Dispensed with the reading of the minutes and approved as recorded.

- C-2.** A communication from the City Manager, requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the disposition of publicly-owned property located at 339 Salem Avenue, S. W., where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-3.** A communication from the City Manager requesting a Closed Meeting to discuss the disposition of publicly-owned property located at 1015 Jamison Avenue, S. E., where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** A communication from the City Manager requesting a Closed Meeting to discuss a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry at the 800 block of Stewart Avenue, S. E., where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(5), (A)(6), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-5.** A communication from the City Manager requesting a Closed Meeting to discuss a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry at 700 block of Norfolk Avenue, S. W., and 700 block of Salem Avenue, S. W., where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(5), (A)(6), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-6.** Request to schedule public hearing for authorization of the issuance of debt for FY 2024 Capital Improvement Projects.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorized a public hearing to be scheduled at City Council's meeting on June 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or at such later date and time as the City Manager may determine, on the issuance of general obligation bonds not to exceed \$37,255,000 million for qualifying Capital Improvement Projects. This authorization includes authorization to provide proper notification and publication of such public hearing in accordance with State Code requirements on or about May 31, 2023 and June 7, 2023.

- C-7.** FY2023 City Manager Transfer Report for the 3rd quarter ended March 31, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

- C-8.** Reports of qualification of Jennifer Oakes as a member of the Local Office on Aging Advisory Board for a one-year term of office, commencing March 1, 2023 and ending February 29, 2024; and Ilsa Saavedra-Rogan as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission to replace Valerie Brown for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND COMMENTS OF CITY MANAGER:

1. CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFING:

FY23 Budget - April Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutes

Received and filed.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- A.** Approval of recommendations of the Roanoke Arts Commission on Arts and Cultural Agency funding for FY 2023 - 2024.
Adopted Resolution No. 42647-051523 and Budget Ordinance No. 42648-051523. (7-0)

- B. Acceptance of a donation from the Fishburn Family Foundation, presented by the Friends of Mountain View.
Adopted Resolution No. 42649-051523 and Budget Ordinance No. 42650-051523. (7-0)
- C. Acceptance of funds from the Virginia Business Ready Site Grant Program to Upgrade Tract 8 in the Roanoke Centre for Industry & Technology from a Tier II to a Tier III Site.
Adopted Resolution No. 42651-051523 and Budget Ordinance No. 42652-051523. (7-0)
- D. Acquisition of real property rights for Stormwater Drainage Improvement Project – Cove Road and 22nd Street, N. W.
Adopted Ordinance No. 42653-051523. (7-0)
- E. Acceptance of a 2023 Carilion Clinic Grant Award.
Adopted Resolution No. 42654-051523 and Budget Ordinance No. 42655-051523. (7-0)
- F. Approval of the 2023 Annual Plan Update to the 2020 - 2024 HUD Consolidated Plan.
Adopted Resolution No. 42656-051523. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager advised that the Mill Mountain Star was sound and the City was not taking steps to replace the Star. He pointed out the most significant challenge was the neon tubing being hard to maintain and update; and the Star was coated in what was believed to be lead-based paint and any work would require that remediation.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

- A. Amendment of the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Section 2-306 Gun Violence Prevention Commission.
The matter was tabled, (5-2, Vice-Mayor Cobb and Council Member Priddy voted no).
- B. Amendment of the City Code, Chapter 2, Administration, Section §2-303, Personnel committee, and Section §2-304(a), Legislative committee.
Adopted Resolution No. 42657-051523. (6-0, Vice-Mayor Cobb was not present when the vote was recorded)
- C. Acceptance of Monsanto Class Action Settlement Funds related to Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) contamination.
Adopted Resolution No. 42658-051523 and Budget Ordinance No. 42659-051523. (6-0, Vice-Mayor Cobb was not present when the vote was recorded)

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- 1. A report of the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of funds for various educational programs; and a report of the City Manager recommending that Council concur in the request. Donna Caldwell, Director of Accounting, Spokesperson.

Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 42660-051523. (6-0, Vice-Mayor Cobb was not present when the vote was recorded)

2. A report of certain Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions in which City Council serve as liaisons or appointees.
Council Member Priddy advised that recommendations to the Legislative Committee needed to be submitted by June 23 at 4:00 p.m., for the July Legislative Committee Meeting.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discussion of the amendment of youth curfew.
The matter was referred to the City Manager and City Attorney for further review.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution acknowledging the salaries of the Council-Appointed Officers.
Adopted Resolution No. 42661-051523. (7-0)
2. Appropriation of funds in connection with the endorsement of the Capital Improvement Program Update for FY 2024 - 2028.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 42662-051523, as amended. (7-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council.

Council Member Priddy inquired about the hiring of a new Police Chief. The City Manager explained that the search process would begin next week and would contain an internal review panel and should conclude in August.

Vice-Mayor Cobb provided an update of the GRTC Board meeting held on May 15. He highlighted topics which included--electric buses, free fare days in September and in November on Election Day, metroflex hours and the grand opening of the new transit center on June 14, at 11:00 a.m.

The Vice-Mayor also commented that prior to the pandemic, he and former Council Member Bestpitch met with leaders in the African American community with regard to the process for a public apology from local government. He stated that they wished to continue those meetings along with the group Standing for Equality Roanoke Valley and other community partners. He asked that the Council refer the matter to the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board to move the process further, gather further information and bring back recommendations to the Council.

Mayor Lea advised he recently visited the White House to discuss Mental Health Awareness; he served on a panel which discussed preparing the workforce to deal with mental health and to train people to address mental health issues.

2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council. **NONE.**

12. RECESSED - 5:10 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL STAND IN RECESS; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENE AT 7:00 PM, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 450, NOEL C. TAYLOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING.



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

7:00 PM

City Council Chamber
215 Church Avenue, S.W.

13. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. All Present.

The Invocation was delivered by Council Member Stephanie Moon Reynolds.

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

Welcome.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING. (7-0).

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

A proclamation declaring Friday, June 2, 2023 as Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Council Member White-Boyd declared June 2 as Gun Violence Awareness Day, read and presented the proclamation to representatives of FEDUP.

Rita Joyce, Representative, FEDUP advised that a prayer breakfast would be held on June 3 and invited the public and City Council.

Recognition of the City of Roanoke 2023 Leadership College Graduates.

Mayor Lea and Wayne Leftwich, Assistant to the City Manager, recognized the City of Roanoke 2023 Leadership College Graduates; and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of Keri and Justin vanBlaricom to rezone an approximately 1.1 acre portion of property located at 2424 Brambleton Avenue, S. W., from ROS, Recreation and Open Space District, to MXPUD, Mixed Use Planned Unit Development District, subject to the Development Plan, the proposed use is an eating establishment. Keri and Justin vanBlaricom, Applicants.
Motion defeated. (1-6, Vice-Mayor Cobb voted in favor)
2. Request of the City of Roanoke to consider an amendment to the City Plan 2040, the City's Comprehensive Plan, to vacate the public use of a portion of Fishburn Park and to release the public's right to use such portion of Fishburn Park, being an 1.1 acre portion of city-owned property located at 2424 Brambleton Avenue, S. W., and readopting and ratifying previous amendments to the City Plan 2040, the City's Comprehensive Plan. Katharine Gray, Agent, City Planning Commission.
Failed.

3. Proposal of the City of Roanoke to grant Cox Communication a Fiber Service Easement.

Adopted Ordinance No. 42663-051523. (7-0)

16. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:

City Council sets this time as a priority for citizens to be heard. If deemed appropriate, matters will be referred to the City Manager for response, recommendation or report to the Council.

Emily Copenhaver, 2218 Windsor Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council with regard to primary voting awareness and early voting.

Chris Craft, P. O. Box 12804, Roanoke, Virginia 24028, appeared before the Council and expressed appreciation for the Lea Outdoor Youth Basketball event and Carilion Clinic Iron Man event to be held on June 4, 2023 and invited Council to visit the Wildwood neighborhood.

Ellis Shrader, 32 Elm Avenue, S. W., Apt. 305, appeared before the Council to request that wheelchair-bound residents be allowed to ride the Valley Metro buses for free.

Joe Coe, 1060 Palm Avenue, N. W., Apt A., appeared before the Council and expressed concern about the speeding in his neighborhood.

ADJOURNED - 9:07 P.M.