



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

July 3, 2023
9:00 AM
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.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. All present. Mayor Lea arrived at 9:08 a.m.

Welcome.

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A communication from Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. A list of current vacancies is included with the agenda for this meeting.

(5-0, Mayor Lea and Council Member Volosin were not present when the vote was recorded.)

A communication from the City Manager requesting a Closed Meeting to discuss a prospective economic development project at the 30 Block of Church 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.

(6-0, Mayor Lea was not present when the vote was recorded.)

ITEMS LISTED ON THE 2:00 P.M. COUNCIL DOCKET REQUIRING DISCUSSION/CLARIFICATION AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE 2:00 P.M. AGENDA. **Council Member Moon Reynolds requested an update on the overgrown lot off of Hershberger and the Huntington Boulevard traffic signal.**

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.
Council Member Moon Reynolds requested information with regard to protocol for press conferences.

BRIEFINGS:

Gateless Parking - Code Change - 15 minutes.

Historic Gainsboro Community Hub Concept Plan - 20 minutes

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 A.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. (9:06 A.M. - 9:56 A.M.)

THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL STAND IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENE AT 2:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 450, NOEL C. TAYLOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING. (11:05 A.M.)



City of Roanoke, Virginia
CITY COUNCIL

2:00 PM

City Council Chamber
215 Church Avenue, S.W.

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. All Present. Council Member White-Boyd arrived at 2:03 p.m.**

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Adam Ayers, Middle School Pastor, Valley Church of God.

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 July 2023 as National Parks and Recreation Month.
Council Member Priddy read and presented the proclamation to Michael Clark, Director of Parks and Recreation and staff.

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.

Bill Tanger, 257 Dancing Tree Lane, appeared before the Council with regard to the Mountain Valley Pipeline and concerns of the Williamson Road Neighborhood watch groups in connection with the Williamson Road Project.

Freeda Cathcart, 2516 Sweetbrier Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council with regard to \$14 million in available funding for natural area preservation and actions to protect and preserve the tree canopy.

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, June 5, 2023.

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

C-2. Request a Public Hearing to Vacate a Public Utility Easement Located Across Official Tax Map No. 7110128.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorized the scheduling and advertising of the requested vacation of the 15-foot public utility easement on Tax Map No. 7110128, for a public hearing on July 17, 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 shall determine, in his discretion.

C-3. Request a Public Hearing to Vacate a Drainage Easement Located Across Official Tax Map No. 6021103.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorized the scheduling and advertising of the requested vacation of the 15-foot drainage easement and conveyance of another replacement easement on the property, for a public hearing on July 17, 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 shall determine, in his discretion.

C-4. Request a Public Hearing to Authorize the Sale of Approximately 0.77 acre of City-Owned Property, a Portion of Tax Map No. 6472302 and Located at 2100 Countryside Road, N. W.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorized the scheduling and advertising of the proposed sale of the Property for a public hearing on July 17, 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 shall determine, in his discretion.

C-5. Minutes of the Audit Committee held on Thursday, April 13, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

C-6. Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Elizabeth C.S. Jamison and Natasha N. Saunders as Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board for three-year terms of office, each, commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026;

Auraliz Quintana as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026;

Barbara Duerk as a member of the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission to replace Stephanie Lareau for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026;

Jamie Starkey as a member of the Youth Services Citizen Board to replace Karen Pillis for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026;

Ahondryea Brooks as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board to replace Laura Leonard for a four-year term of office ending November 30, 2026;

Sarah Karpanty as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board to replace Ahondryea Brooks for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026; and

Jonathan Lloyd as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Jerel Rhodes ending December 31, 2024.

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:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

A. Amendment of the Regional Training Center Agreement to allow for a two month extension to align the agreement with the start of the fiscal year.

Adopted Ordinance No. 42698-070323. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered comments on the following topics:

- **Hershberger lots, homeless encampment.**
- **Huntington Boulevard traffic signal.**
- **Funding.**
- **Basketball and pickleball courts.**
- **Arts and culture video "It's Here."**

He introduced the following City employees:

- **Ross Campbell, Director, Public Works**
- **Sam Roman, Assistant City Manager**
- **Deputy Chief Stokes, Acting Chief of Police**
- **Gwendolyn Coleman, Director, Human/Social Services**

- **Chris Chittum, Executive Director, Community Development and Placemaking**

2. CITY ATTORNEY: NONE.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

1. A report of the Economic Development Authority recommending issuance of revenue bonds, not to exceed \$10.5 million, for Virginia Lutheran Homes, Inc., in connection with the expansion of Brandon Oaks located at 3804 Brandon Avenue, S. W. Harwell M. Darby, Jr., Counsel to the Economic Development Authority.

Adopted Resolution No. 42699-070323. (7-0)

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance No. 42694, on second reading, exempting from real estate taxation certain property, located in the City of Roanoke owned by PCC Land Company, LLC, whose sole member is Presbyterian Community Center, Inc., a Virginia non-stock, non-profit corporation.

Adopted Ordinance No. 42694-070323 (6-0, Council Member Volosin voted present.)

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution to support the use of the Royalty Affirmation as a messaging tool for the youth of the City of Roanoke in an effort to curb gun violence.

Adopted Resolution No. 42700-070323. (7-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

Mayor Lea acknowledged the Miss Virginia Pageant which returned to the City of Roanoke, thanked the staff at the Berglund Center and the Hotel Conference Center for their support.

Council Member White-Boyd requested an update on the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board.

Council Member Moon Reynolds asked for protocol and placement for scooters and an update on the Mill Mountain Star; whereupon, the City Manager advised he would investigate.

2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council.

Appointed Victoria Thornton as a member of the Roanoke Cultural Endowment, Board of Directors, to fill the unexpired term of office of Cheryl Mosely ending December 31, 2023.

Appointed Herbert Berding as a member of the Western Virginia's Regional Industrial Facility Authority to fill the unexpired term of office of Tomas Reyes ending February 3, 2026.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING. (7-0)

ADJOURNED - 3:24 P.M.