



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

November 6, 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. Vice-Mayor Cobb and Council Member Priddy were absent. Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority Commissioners Garner and Smith were absent.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.
Karen Michalski-Karney, Chair

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL/ROANOKE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY:

1. Do the Commissioners visit the housing developments from time to time? (Mayor Lea)
2. Highlight the activities (Annual Report) that have occurred throughout last year, and any plans moving forward. (Council Member Moon Reynolds)
3. Update on the acquisition process of the former Ashton Hill or Spanish Trace site at Peters Creek Road and Shenandoah Avenue, N. W.; and any additional strategies to aid in City's housing inventory? (Vice-Mayor Cobb and Council Member Moon Reynolds)
4. Resident concerns in various housing complexes, i.e. trash, security. (Mayor Lea and Council Member Moon Reynolds)
5. How is Melrose Towers managed? (Mayor Lea)
6. How long is the current waitlist and are there any exceptions for priorities? (Council Member White-Boyd)
7. Can felons qualify for housing? (Council Member White-Boyd)

RECESS/ADJOURN. 10:09 a.m.

AT 10:26 A.M., THE COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING 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.

(4-0, Council Member Moon Reynolds was not present when vote was recorded.)

A communication from Council Member Patricia White-Boyd, Chair, City Council Personnel Committee, requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss a personnel matter, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(4-0, Council Member Moon Reynolds was not present when vote was recorded.)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(4-0, Council Member Moon Reynolds was not present when vote was recorded.)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding current litigation, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(5-0)

A communication from the City Manager requesting a Closed Meeting to discuss the possible acquisition of real estate in the Gainsboro area of the City of Roanoke, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(5-0)

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 overview of items 7.1.A. and 7.1.B. and a representative from the Department of Transportation present for questions.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.
NONE.

BRIEFINGS:

Code Amendments (Youth Athletics Review Board, PRAB Codification, Carvins Cove Commercial Activity) - 30 minutes

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. (10:50 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. Vice-Mayor Cobb and Council Member White-Boyd were absent.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Tray Light, Deacon, St. John's Episcopal Church.

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. (4-0, Council Member Priddy abstained from the vote.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Recognition of Veteran Master Sergeant Silverine Vinyard James on the 50th Anniversary of her retirement from the United States Army on Tuesday, October 31, 2023.

Mayor Lea and Council Member Moon Reynolds recognized and presented a Key to the City to Veteran Master Sergeant Silverine Vinyard James.

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.

Chris Craft, 1501 Eastgate Avenue, N. E., appeared before the Council and thanked them for the Lea Youth Basketball League; asked Council to eliminate the food tax; and commended Dwayne D'Ardenne, Transportation Manager, and Hong Liu, City Traffic Engineer for their work and communication.

LaVania Harrell, 905 Peters Creek Road, N. W., appeared before the Council and requested that the Council declare a day of prayer in the City of Roanoke.

Troy Eichelberger, 1621 Downing Street, N. W., appeared before the Council and thanked the Council for their work.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (5-0, AS AMENDED) Council Member Priddy asked that Items C-2 and C-3 be removed and considered separately.

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 meetings of City Council held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023; Monday, September 18, 2023; Thursday, October 5, 2023; and recessed session held on Monday, September 25 and Tuesday, September 26, 2023.

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

- C-2.** Request for a Public Hearing to amend the City Charter, Section 10, Meetings of council generally; and Section 16, Time of holding municipal elections.
(5-0)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: On behalf of the Legislative Committee Chair, I am requesting that Council schedule a public hearing for November 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may heard to hear comments of citizens regarding this proposed amendment to the City Charter.

- C-3.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Nicole Ross as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission, effectively October 17, 2023.
(5-0)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accepted the resignation and received and filed the communication.

- C-4.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Jamaal L. Jackson as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates, effective immediately.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Accepted the resignation and received and filed the communication.

- C-5.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Brenda Allen as a member of the Architectural Review Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Lori Baker-Lloyd ending October 1, 2025;

Shane Spradlin as a member of the Towing Advisory Board to replace J. A. Robertson for a three-year term of office commencing November 1, 2022 and ending October 31, 2025;

Sue Allen Agresta as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the unexpired term of office of Amanda McGee commencing November 9, 2023 and ending December 31, 2024;

Jaime Mather as a member of the Youth Athletics Review Board for a three-year term of office commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2026; and

Andrew Raduly as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three-year term of office commencing January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 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:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

A. Acceptance of FY 2023 - 2024 Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds.

Adopted Resolution No. 42815-110623 and Budget Ordinance No. 42816-110623. (5-0)

B. Appropriation of funds from the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority and National Opioid Settlement.

Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 42817-110623 (5-0)

C. Acquisition of Real Property Rights for the Greenway Connection to Riverland Road/Star Trail Parking Lot Improvements.

Adopted Ordinance No. 42818-110623. (5-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager announced a partnership among the United Way and City of Roanoke and highlighted the impact. He also announced a community event sponsored by the Police Department to be held on Wednesday, November 8. Council Member Moon Reynolds inquired about the deer culling program; whereupon, the City Manager advised that the City reinstated the program and deer would be culled safely.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

A. Refund of Erroneously Assessed Taxes Previously Paid By Carilion Patient Transportation, LLC.

Adopted Ordinance No. 42819-110623. (5-0)

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution designating a Voting Delegate and an Alternate Voting Delegate for the Annual NLC City Summit Business Meeting to be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Adopted Resolution No. 42820-110623. (4-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

Mayor Lea announced the CIAA event on November 11, at 3:00 p.m., at the Salem Civic Center and advised that adult tickets were \$15.00 and student tickets were \$7.00.

Council Member Priddy advised of the Naturalization Ceremony held at the Oliver W. Hill Justice Center and asked Council to include information with regard to U. S. citizenship to the legislative agenda.

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

Appointed Betty Whittaker to fill the unexpired term of office of Jamaal Jackson as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates ending September 30, 2025.

Appointed Sergeant Ray Shanks to replace Deputy Chief David Morris as a member (law enforcement) of the Towing Advisory Board for a three-year term of office ending October 31, 2026. Council waived the residency requirement in this instance.

Appointed Sharon Toliver-Hardy to fill the unexpired term of office of LaKeevia Sinkford as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board ending November 30, 2026.

ADJOURNED - 3:20 P.M.