



City of Roanoke, Virginia
ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
ROANOKE CITY SCHOOL BOARD

February 5, 2024
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.

- City Council - **All present (Mayor Lea arrived at 9:15 a.m.)**
- School Board - **Trustees Saunders and Watkins were absent.**

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

- Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.
- Chair Elizabeth C.S. Jamison

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL/ROANOKE CITY SCHOOL BOARD.

- Report from Budget Working Group
- Priorities for 2024 - 2025 Budgets and ESSER funds (Plans to fund positions after funding period ends)
- Cellphone use in classrooms (Plans to adopt a cellphone use policy for school hours)
- Status of bus contract
- Update on possible transition to EV's for schools buses

- Clarification on the protocol for threat of danger
- Academic update
- Project Discovery Program
- Status of former school administration building
- Update on school construction projects (Preston Park, Lucy Addison and Charles W. Day Technical Education Center)
- Use of school facilities for City youth recreational sports (Basketball)

RECESSED/ADJOURNED - 10:34 a.m.

AT 10:47 A.M., THE COUNCIL 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.

(7-0)

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, being the annual performances of the Council-Appointed Officers, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss specific legal matters involving the City and the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia, as amended.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia, as amended.

(7-0)

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 Priddy commented about photo speed cameras in school zones; whereby, the City Manager advised that an overview of the program would be provided during the 2:00 p.m. session.

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

BRIEFINGS:

Code Amendment (Section 24-2.1 Prohibition of Firearms on City Property) - 15 minutes

AT 12:35 P.M., THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENED AT 2:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 450, NOEL C. TAYLOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING.



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.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Jeff Wilson, Pastor, Genesis United Methodist Church.

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

Welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The City Clerk's Office is accepting applications for three upcoming vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board for three-year terms of office expiring on June 30, 2024. Three-year terms of office will commence July 1, 2024 and end on June 30, 2027. Incumbent School Board Trustees are Michael L. Cherry, II, Diane M. Casola (not seeking reappointment) and Mark K. Cathey (not eligible for reappointment).

Application and information describing the duties and responsibilities of Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board are available on the City of Roanoke's web page at www.roanokeva.gov, or may be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's Office, Room 456, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The deadline to receive applications is Monday, March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

For questions and/or additional information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (540) 853-2541 or by email at clerk@roanokeva.gov.

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

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.

Glen Zedney, 206 Monterey Avenue, N. E., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the increase in the real estate tax.

Alison Blanton, 1701 Arlington Road, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the demolition of the house in Washington Park.

Freeda Cathcart, 2516 Sweetbrier Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and expressed concern with regard to the City's Comprehensive Plan.

Chris Craft, 1501 Eastgate Avenue, N.E., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to tax relief, Wildwood Civic League and the loss of Michael Clark in the Parks and Recreation Department.

Tammy Montgomery, 1612 Stewart Avenue, S. E., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to drug dealing and crime in her neighborhood.

Barbara Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and presented keys to the Council representing the Council's responsibility to the community to provide equity and inclusion.

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 meetings of City Council held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, and Tuesday, January 16, 2024.

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

- C-2.** A communication from Gayle Shrewsbury, Secretary, Western Virginia Water Authority, Board of Directors, transmitting resolutions commending John P. Bradshaw, Jr., and Carlton "Chuck" Light for their service as Board Members.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

- C-3.** Report of qualification of Meg Dorsey 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:

- 1.** Presentation by Friends of Evans Spring, to share information with regard to the Evans Spring property. Dr. Theo Lim, Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, Virginia Tech, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Council

Members Moon Reynolds and Priddy)

Received and filed.

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

1. CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

Zoning Reform - 30 minutes

Camera-Based Speed Enforcement in School Zones - 10 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- A.** Acceptance of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant funds for acquisition, demolition and site restoration of eight floodprone properties.
Adopted Resolution No. 42874-020524 and Budget Ordinance No. 42875-020524. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER. NONE.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

- A.** Amendment of City Code Section 24-2.1 Prohibition of Firearms on City Property.
Adopted Ordinance No. 42876-020524. (6-1, Council Member Moon Reynolds voted no.)

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: NONE.

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- 1.** Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council.
Council Member Priddy commented on the Wasena Bridge Replacement Project and possible relocation of the area voting precinct, and suggested that a report on the matter from the Electoral Board be brought to Council.

Council Member Volosin commented that during a recent RVTV Committee Meeting, the issue of the possible relocation of the Roanoke Valley Television Station, currently located in the Jefferson Center, was discussed and should be on the radar of the Council.

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

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING. (POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 20, 2024, 1:30 P.M.)

AT 4:55 P.M., THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS, FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING.

AT 6:04 P.M., THE COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

AT 6:05 P.M., THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS TO BE RECONVENED IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON FEBRUARY 20, 2024, AT 1:30 P.M., FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING.