



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

August 19, 2024

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. Mayor Lea was absent.

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 Vice-Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

Welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Presentation by Council Member Sanchez-Jones on an official trip to Sister City, St. Lo. France, from May 31–June 7, 2024.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones and several others highlighted information and presented paintings to the City from her recent trip to St. Lo, France.

3. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:

The 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 the Council, as he may deem appropriate.

Brenda Allen, 12 Gilmer Avenue, N. E., appeared before the Council and expressed opposition with regard to the transferring of the deed for a parking lot to the Roanoke Higher Education Center for complimentary

student parking spaces.

Cathy Carter, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the Gainsboro community and asked for an update to the Gainsboro plan.

Bailey Medeirs Helgeson, 313 Luck Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and expressed gratitude for the opioid abatement awareness partnership.

Barbara Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and asked if the Council-Appointed boards and commissions could conduct meetings in the evenings for public convenience.

Mar Strong, 1021 Brandon Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the opioid abatement funding.

Tyler Breeding, 5132 Cantor Drive, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the need for bike lanes and protection for cyclists.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (6-0)

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Members of the 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, August 5, 2024.

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

- C-2.** A communication from Council Member Patricia White-Boyd, Chair, City Council Personnel Committee, requesting that the 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-3.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that the City Council convene in 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 Sec. 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** A communication from the Interim City Manager requesting that the City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult on a personnel matter, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-5.** Annual Report of the Economic Development Authority of the City of Roanoke for Fiscal Year 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-6.** Annual Report of the City Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Architectural Review Board and the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals for the Fiscal Year 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-7.** Report of qualification of Nazier Jackson as a non-voting Youth Representative member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for a term of office ending March 31, 2027.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Presentation of information by the Partnership for Community Wellness with regard to outcomes from ARPA and Gun Violence Prevention Commission funding. Christine Gist, Grant Coordinator, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Mayor Lea and Council Member Moon Reynolds)
Received and filed.
2. Presentation of information by the Roanoke Higher Education Authority with regard to providing complimentary student parking. Kay Dunkley, Executive Director, Roanoke Higher Education Center, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Mayor Lea and Vice-Mayor Cobb)
Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

1. INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

FY24 Budget - July Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutes

Department of Human/Social Services Briefing - 15 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- A.** Acceptance and Appropriation of the Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program - Law Enforcement Equipment.
Adopted Resolution No. 42997-081924 and Budget Ordinance No. 42998-081924. (6-0)
- B.** Authorization for an encroachment permit for Greater Roanoke Transit Company t/a Valley Metro (GRTC) bus shelter located in the right-of-way adjacent to property located at 0 Lafayette Boulevard, N. W.
Adopted Ordinance No. 42999-081924. (6-0)
- C.** Authorization for an encroachment permit for Greater Roanoke Transit Company t/a Valley Metro (GRTC) bus shelter at Fallon Park in the right-of-way located adjacent to property at 502 19th Street, S. E.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43000-081924. (6-0)
- D.** Appropriation of Revenue from the Disposable Plastic Bag Tax.
Withdrawn.

- E. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Fatherhood Engagement and Support Program Funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia.
Adopted Resolution No. 43001-081924 and Budget Ordinance No. 43002-081924. (6-0)
- F. Acceptance and Appropriation of Opioid Abatement Funds directly received and those awarded by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority.
Adopted Resolution No. 43003-081924 and Budget Ordinance No. 43004-081924. (6-0)
- G. Acceptance and Appropriation of Virginia Department of Fire Programs Grant Funding.
Adopted Resolution No. 43005-081924 and Budget Ordinance No. 43006-081924. (6-0)
- H. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management Pass-Through Funding and Reimbursements for the Hazardous Materials Response Team.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43007-081924 and Budget Ordinance No. 43008-081924. (6-0)
- I. Acceptance and Appropriation of FY25 "Four-For-Life" Grant Funding.
Adopted Resolution No. 43009-081924 and Budget Ordinance No. 43010-081924. (6-0)

COMMENTS OF THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER.

Dr. Patton shared the following comments:

Welcoming Week will be held on September 17; a tour of the Municipal Building at 10:00 a.m. On Thursday, September 19, a job fair will be held at 10am at the Main Branch Library; and on Friday, September 20, a citizen celebration will be held at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber.

The Virginia Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing on the Orange Avenue Improvements on Thursday, August 22, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Bonsack Elementary School, 5437 Crumpacker Drive, Roanoke, Virginia 24019.

The Envision Williamson Road Project is extending the current phase to ensure focus groups are held in the month of September.

The Gainsboro Branch Library will host its Women's Equity Day on Monday, August 26, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., in the Virginia Y. Lee Room.

The Summer Point in time count has been finalized and presented to the Blue Ridge Interagency Council; 342 persons were indicated as homeless, a 15 percent decrease in individuals since the January point in time count.

The Eureka Park Recreation Center groundbreaking will be held on Thursday, August 22, at 9:30 a.m., at Eureka Park.

The Interim City Manager's and City Clerk's Offices are currently scheduling the Council members two by two tours of City departments.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: None.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

1. Comments on certain Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions in which City Council serve as liaisons or appointees. **None.**

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. A Resolution Ratifying and Confirming the Declaration of Local Emergency by the Interim City Manager.

Adopted Resolution No. 43011-081924. (6-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

Council Member White-Boyd announced that in celebration of Women's Equality Day on August 26, an event will be held at 6:00 p.m., at the Martin Luther King Monument, followed by a walk to Lacks Plaza. All are welcome to attend and wear white.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones commented that in waiting for hurricane Debby to arrive, she visited the City's floodprone areas and acknowledged that City employees had already barricaded most locations and were prepared for the storm.

Vice-Mayor Cobb thanked all City employees for their preparedness for storms and daily efforts in providing city services.

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

12. RECESSED - 4:58 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. Mayor Lea was absent.

The Invocation was delivered by the Reverend Kevin Kinsey, Pastor, Central Church of the Brethren.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Vice-Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

Welcome.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING. (6-0)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

15. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Proposal of the City of Roanoke to amend the Roanoke Charter of 1952 to remove the responsibility for the appointment of the City's Director of Real Estate Valuation from the City Manager to City Council.

Adopted Resolution No. 43012-081924. (6-0)

16. OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Amendment of City Code Section 22.3-2, Definitions, Article I, General, Chapter 22.3, Pensions and Retirement; Section 32-37, Appointment; and Section 32-37.1, General powers, Division 2, Assessment of Real Estate Generally, Article II, Real Estate Taxes Generally, Chapter 32, Taxation, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43013-081924. (6-0)

17. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:

The 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.

Thomas Robinson, 1402 Maple Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to gang violence, his previous imprisonment and his current work against gang violence in the City.

Richard Rosario, 405 Mountain Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the recent relocation of the RAM House to 410 Elm Avenue, S. W.

Emily Kate Copenhaver, 2218 Windsor Avenue, S. W, appeared before the Council and requested a ceasefire resolution for Palestine.

Keely Meadows, 5327 Cooper Street, S. W., appeared before the Council and requested a ceasefire resolution for Palestine.

Irene Malakowsky, 2208 Jefferson Street, S. W., Apt., 314, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the new zoning plan and the importance to meet the needs of the community.

Danny Clawson, 1029 Woodrow Avenue, S. E., appeared before the Council in support of the proposed zoning plan and expressed gratitude for the work of the City's Planning Department.

Wayne Fry, 32 14th Street, S. W., appeared before the Council in support of a ceasefire in Palestine.

ADJOURNED - 7:34 P.M.