



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

September 16, 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. All Present.

The Invocation was delivered by Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.

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

Welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 2:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. (2:45 P.M. – 3:25 P.M.)

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Recognition of visiting delegates from Wonju, Korea.

Mayor Lea recognized Korean delegates Jang Eung-yul, Kim Chin-hi, and Park In-Ja who are participating in the Roanoke College Korean Artists Residency Program.

A proclamation declaring the week of September 16 - 21, 2024, as Welcoming Week.

Mayor Lea read and presented the proclamation to Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager.

A proclamation declaring September 15 - October 15, 2024 as Hispanic and LatinX Heritage Month.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones read the proclamation declaring September 15 - October 15, 2024 as Hispanic and LatinX Heritage Month.

A resolution honoring Evelyn W. Powers, City Treasurer, upon her retirement after 43 years of service with the City of Roanoke.

Adopted Resolution No. 43020-091624. (7-0) Mayor Lea presented a ceremonial copy and Key to the City to Evelyn W. Powers, City Treasurer.

AT 3:26 P.M., THE COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED TO CONTINUE THE REMIANDER OF THE AGENDA.

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.

Paul Tulou, 1133 Winona Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to protected bike lanes and PedalSafe Roanoke.

Laura Hartman, 1209 Campbell Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and encouraged them to participate in the Week Without Driving Challenge from September 30, 2024 to October 6, 2024. She also thanked Council for creating a smoking area at the Third Street Station.

Freeda Cathcart, 2516 Sweetbrier Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to community engagement and concerns regarding the proposed zoning changes.

Sylvia King, 3102 Willow Road, N. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to issues in the City related to gun violence, homelessness, drugs, and the people of Roanoke.

Barbara Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to bicycle safety and transportation infrastructure. She requested the City conduct a transit study.

Polly Branch, 6928 Crowell Gap Road, S. E., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to remembering Roanoke's past history (Washington Park and Gainsboro Area) and working together for restoration and healing.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)

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 Tuesday, September 3, 2024.

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

- C-2.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that the City Council convene in a Closed Meeting for discussion of possible disposal of publicly owned property, 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Concurred in the request.**

- C-3.** Request to Schedule a Public Hearing to Consider Boundary Amendments to Enterprise Zone One A.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Concurred in the Request.**

- C-4.** Report of qualification of Marc Nelson as a member of the Western Virginia's Regional Industrial Facility Authority for a four-year term of office, commencing February 4, 2024, and ending February 3, 2028.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-5.** 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. (7-0)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Concurred in the request.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY25 School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant.
Adopted Resolution No. 43021-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43022-091624. (7-0)

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS:

1. INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFING:

FY25 Budget - August Monthly Financial/Budget Report - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- A.** Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Grant for Downstream Wiley Low Water Bridge Replacement.
Adopted Resolution No. 43023-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43024-091624. (7-0)
- B.** Acceptance and Appropriation of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Funds for Westside - Salem Turnpike Pedestrian Improvements.
Adopted Resolution No. 43025-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43026-091624. (7-0)

- C. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation Grant for the Roanoke River Blueway - Memorial Bridge Access Point.
Adopted Resolution No. 43027-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43028-091624. (7-0)
- D. Acceptance and Appropriation of FY24 and FY25 VDOT Street Maintenance Revenue vs Budget Allocation.
Adopted Resolution No. 43029-091624, Budget Ordinance No. 43030-091624, and Budget Ordinance No. 43031-091624. (7-0)
- E. Acceptance and Appropriation of a Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund Summer Jobs Connect Grant.
Adopted Resolution No. 43032-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43033-091624. (7-0)
- F. Acceptance and Appropriation of funds from the Virginia Business Ready Site Program (VBRSP) Grant Program to Upgrade Tract 8 in the Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology from a Tier 3 to a Tier 4 Site.
Adopted Resolution No. 43034-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43035-091624. (7-0)
- G. Acceptance and Appropriation of a Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund Expert Partner and Mentor Stipend.
Adopted Resolution No. 43036-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43037-091624. (7-0)
- H. Acceptance and Appropriation of a Virginia Housing FY24 Community Impact Planning Grant.
Adopted Resolution No. 43038-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43039-091624. (7-0)
- I. Acceptance and Appropriation of an FY24 Virginia Brownfields Restoration and Economic Redevelopment Assistance Fund (VBAF) Grant.
Adopted Resolution No. 43040-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43041-091624. (7-0)
- J. Acceptance and Appropriation of Safer Communities Program from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Criminal Justice Services.
Adopted Resolution No. 43042-091624 and Budget Ordinance No. 43043-091624. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER.

Dr. Patton shared the following comments:

Kathryn Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager in the Communications Office, will serve as the city's Ombudswoman. With this responsibility, Ms. Hedrick will attend City Council meetings where she will listen to citizen speakers' concerns and develop a Report Back to the City Council.

The City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA) announced the 2024 winners of its national Savvy Awards Competition

during a ceremony at the Loews Arlington Hotel in Arlington, Texas, on Thursday, September 5, 2024. The City of Roanoke won a Savvy Award for 'Noke News. The Judges commented, "Great job adjusting to user/viewer video consumption trends and shortening your message to better communicate with your audience. Carol Corbin is a great host, is a natural on camera, and the video production elements are excellent."

This evening, September 16, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m., a new art exhibit will be unveiled on the 4th-floor hallway outside the City Council Chambers. At 6:00 p.m., a short presentation will acknowledge the partners, panel, and artists. This project is a collaboration between the City and Roanoker Magazine for their 50th year of publication celebration and is entitled "Roanokers Celebrate the Region."

Valley Metro, Ride Solutions, and the Roanoke Arts Commission will celebrate the 7th annual Art by Bus Program on Thursday, September 19, 2024, at the Third Street Station.

One of the oldest and largest White Oak Trees owned by the City of Roanoke was struck by lightning recently and must be removed. Virginia Tech estimates the tree to have germinated somewhere around 1405-1410, making this tree 614 years old. We will announce when the removal occurs so citizens interested in using pieces of the bark for building furniture can have a part of the historic tree.

National Pools, the contractor for the Washington Park Pool project, has finished the excavation work and installed the conduit systems for the water circulation. Additionally, construction on the pool house structure began this week.

On Thursday, September 19, 2024, the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport will conduct a full-scale aircraft emergency exercise from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. The simulated crash will occur on Airport property previously known as Countryside Golf Club.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

- A.** Amendment to Extend the Contract between the Berkley Group, LLC, and the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Resolution No. 43044-091624. (7-0)
- B.** Petition the Circuit Court to Request that no Special Election be Ordered to fill the Vacancy that will be created by Treasurer Evelyn Watkins Powers' Retirement.
Adopted Resolution No. 43045-091624. (7-0)
- C.** Extension of the terms of office of Certain Council-Appointed Officers from October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.
Adopted Resolution No. 43046-091624. (7-0)

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

1. Comments on certain Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions in which City Council serve as liaisons or appointees.
Vice-Mayor Cobb provided an update from the recent GRTC meeting. Three new electric buses will be delivered in November 2024. Advertising is at capacity. Ridership continues to increase and up 10,000 from last year. A recommendation will be sent to the Interim City Manager requesting that the transit center be named for Margie Jumper, a black woman who violated an ordinance and refused to give a seat to a White man on a trolley, and as a result, was jailed.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **Adopted Resolution No. 43047-091624 approving and affirming the action taken by the Greater Roanoke Transit Company (GRTC) d/b/a Valley Metro to implement Fare Free Day Transit Services for Go Fest for Saturday, October 19, 2024; and authorizing the City Manager or her designee to take any necessary action to accomplish such fare. (7-0)**
2. **Adopted Resolution No. 43048-091624 approving and affirming the action taken by the Greater Roanoke Transit Company (GRTC) d/b/a Valley Metro to implement Fare Free Election Day Bus Service for Tuesday, November 5, 2024; and authorizing the City Manager or her designee to take any necessary action to accomplish such fare. (7-0)**

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

Katie Hedrick provided Council an overview regarding the certification process to receive a Welcoming City designation.

Mayor Lea encouraged residents to attend youth athletic events.

Council Member White-Boyd announced the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority 85th Anniversary Gala at the Vinton War Memorial, held on Saturday, September 14, 2024. She also congratulated the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for celebrating 85 years of community service.

Council Member White-Boyd announced that Sheriff Hash hosted a Senior Prom on Saturday, September 14 at the Bella Vista Room.

Council Member Fitzpatrick requested that City signage reflect that the City of Roanoke is an eight-time All-America City and that the City recognize the Hunton Life Saving Crew, Inc., the first all-Black volunteer rescue squad in the City of Roanoke.

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

12. RECESSED - 5:12 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 The Reverend James Hamm, Pastor, Back To Life 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. (7-0)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Recognition of the fourth floor art exhibit - Cover Story: Roanokers Celebrate the Region.

Doug Jackson, Arts and Culture Coordinator, and Anna Morales, Art Director, Roanoker Magazine, introduced the Cover Story exhibit.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of the City of Roanoke for proposed amendments to Chapter 36.2, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, by amending and reordaining, adding, or deleting the following code sections to remove barriers for the creation of affordable housing, to make the zoning code consistent with state code, to create an additional zoning district (UC Urban Center), and to make changes to the use tables for residential, multiple purpose, industrial, and planned unit development districts; such amendments not constituting a comprehensive rezoning or change of any densities that would decrease permitted density in any district, unless otherwise noted. The proposed Zoning Amendments are similar in substance to the Zoning Amendments adopted by the City Council on March 18, 2024. Chris Chittum, Planning, Building and Development, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43049-091624. (6-1, Council Member Moon Reynolds voted no)

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.

1. **Mary Frazier, 405 King George Avenue, S. W, appeared before the Council and requested a ceasefire resolution for Palestine.**

ADJOURNED - 9:17 P.M.

