



City of Roanoke, Virginia
CITY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

October 7, 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. Council Member Moon Reynolds was absent.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 A.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. 9:04 A.M. - 9:32 A.M.

JOINT MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY - CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL.

City Council - **Council Member Moon Reynolds was absent.**
Economic Development Authority - **Tamea Franco was absent.**

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.
Chair, Braxton G. Naff

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

Overview of the Economic Development Authority and Current Projects
Strategies to grow the Housing Trust Fund
Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology Update

RECESSED/ADJOURNED. 10:13 a.m.

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A communication from Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., requesting that the 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.

(6-0)

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 Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia.

(6-0)

ITEMS LISTED ON THE 2:00 P.M. COUNCIL DOCKET REQUIRING DISCUSSION/CLARIFICATION AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE 2:00 P.M. AGENDA. NONE.

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

BRIEFING:

Unhoused Update - 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. (11:04 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.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America will be led by Mayor Lea.

Welcome.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING. (6-0, Council Member Moon Reynolds recused herself from the vote, for she was not present during the Closed Meeting.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Presentation of a Vietnam War Commemoration certificate from the United States Department of Defense.

Former Council Member Bill Bestpitch read and presented the Certificate to the Council.

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.

Barbara Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to commuter service from Roanoke to Blacksburg, Virginia and expressed support of venture cycling from Oregon to Yorktown Battlefield.

Brian McConnell, 32 Elm Avenue, S, W, Apt. 302, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to challenging and empowering local government community members.

Cathy Carter, 343 McDowell Avenue, N. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the Friends of Washington Park progress report.

4. CONSENT AGENDA:

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 the City Council held on Monday, September 16, 2024.

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

- C-2.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Stephen Niamke as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates, effective immediately.

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

- C-3.** Request for a Public Hearing for the Sale of a City-Owned Vacant Lot located at 801 Franklin Road, S.W. (Official Tax Map Number 1020716).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton as a member of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan as an ex-officio member by position;

Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton as a member of the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Robert Cowell, Jr., ending April 12, 2025;

Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton as a member of the Western Virginia's Regional

Industrial Facility Authority to fill the unexpired term of office of Robert Cowell, Jr., ending February 3, 2028;

Andrew Ashby as a member of the Towing Advisory Board to replace Captain Andrew Pulley for a three-year term of office commencing November 1, 2024, and ending October 31, 2027;

Kayleigh Critzer as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board as the Roanoke City Public Schools representative to replace Greg Johnston for a term of office ending June 30, 2027;

Alyshia Merchant as a member of the Fair Housing Board for a three-year term of office, commencing April 1, 2024, and ending March 31, 2027;

Carolyn Hayes-Coles as a member of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority to replace Edward Garner for a four-year term of office commencing September 1, 2024, and ending August 31, 2028;

Nadirah Wright as a member of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority to replace Andrew Anguiano for a four-year term of office commencing September 1, 2024, and ending August 31, 2028; and

Demetrius Johnson as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission to replace Helen Dean for a term of office ending June 30, 2027.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Presentation of information with regard to the Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250). Cheryl Wilson, Executive Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Mayor Lea)
Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS:

1. INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

Cycle Tracks and Bicycle Training - 15 minutes.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- A.** Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY25 United Way of Roanoke Valley funding for the Bank On Roanoke Valley Program.
Adopted Resolution No. 43050-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43051-100724. (7-0)
- B.** Acceptance and Appropriation of a 2024 Carilion Clinic Grant Award in support of the Financial Empowerment Center.

Adopted Resolution No. 43052-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43053-100724. (7-0)

- C. Acceptance and Appropriation of FY2025 Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Highway Safety Grant Funding (Distracted Driving Campaign).
Adopted Resolution No. 43054-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43055-100724. (7-0)
- D. Acceptance and Appropriation of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Criminal Justice Services.
Adopted 43056-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43057-100724. (7-0)
- E. Acceptance and Appropriation of Fire Prevention and Safety Grant Funding from the Department of Homeland Security.
Adopted Resolution No. 43058-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43059-100724. (7-0)
- F. Authorization to Apply for FY2025 Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) Grants.
Adopted Resolution No. 43060-100724. (7-0)
- G. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY25 Operation Ceasefire Grant, Crime Center Capacity.
Adopted Resolution No. 43061-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43062-100724. (7-0)
- H. Acceptance and Appropriation of FY2025 Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Highway Safety Grant Funding (Selective Enforcement-Alcohol).
Adopted Resolution No. 43063-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43064-100724. (7-0)
- I. Acceptance and Appropriation of the 2025 Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Traffic Safety (Selective Enforcement-Pedestrian/Bicycle) Grant.
Adopted Resolution No. 43065-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43066-100724. (7-0)
- J. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY2025 Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Traffic Safety (Selective Enforcement- Police Traffic Services) Grant.
Adopted Resolution No. 43067-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43068-100724. (7-0)
- K. Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Alternatives Set Aside (TA) – Authorization for Updated VDOT Agreement for the 9th Street Multimodal Improvements.
Adopted Resolution No. 43069-100724 and Budget Ordinance No. 43070-100724. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER.

The Interim City Manager offered the following comments:

Virginia Municipal League 2024 VML Innovation Award

In the Category of PUBLIC SAFETY, The City of Roanoke won a Virginia

Municipal League 2024 VML Innovation Award for Lock in Safety, Unlock Hope. Following several years marked by increasing gang-related gun violence, the City of Roanoke increased its focus on policing, intervention, and prevention efforts in the community. Through this multipronged approach, “Lock in Safety, Unlock Hope” was born. The initiative utilized American Rescue Plan funding to purchase 10,000 gun locks to be distributed throughout the community. The locks are located at numerous convenient locations, including all city libraries, the Police Department, the Department of Social Services, and the courthouse, and are distributed by participating non-profit organizations. Locks are also distributed at any community event that the police department, sheriff’s department, social services, or the library has been invited to. The “no questions asked” policy has allowed many residents to access a lock without judgment. To support the program, the city also created educational resources on gun safety, including videos on the proper use of gun locks. The videos are conveniently located on the “Lock in Safety, Unlock Hope” website and are available via a QR code for easy access. During the award banquet of the Virginia Municipal League Conference, members of city staff and you, the Council will be there to accept the award.

City of Roanoke’s Registrar Meeting

I have had the pleasure to meet with the City Registrar, Mr. Nicholas Ocampo. Mr. Ocampo is working to get his team trained by Homeland Security. He will also be working with the Roanoke Police Department. The Registrar’s team is fully prepared, and Roanoke will have a free and fair election.

City of Roanoke’s Response to Hurricane Helene

Roanoke has been fortunate to experience only minor disruptions from Hurricane Helene, with our Emergency Management Response team addressing issues quickly. While we’ve been spared from severe damage, we remain deeply aware of the devastation others are facing in nearby communities and states, where lives have been lost and communities uprooted. As we continue our recovery, we are grateful for our city’s resilience and stand ready to support those who are suffering from this disaster. On the dais, you will find a prepared document of our efforts here in the city. Later today, this document will be emailed to all directors.

Council Follow-up Report

The Interim City Manager advised that a follow-up report on items addressed from the last Council meeting held on September 16, 2024, was placed on the dais.

Interim City Manager’s Round Table Gatherings “Challenges and Change”

Over the next month, I will host several Round-Table Gatherings entitled “Challenges and Change.” The discussions will focus on what we can do collectively to effect change in areas we need to change. Letters to the downtown business community went out on October 3rd.

Snowplow Naming Contest

The Office of Communications will be collaborating with Public Works to launch a snowplow naming contest. Starting on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 – Friday, November 1, 2024, residents will be able to enter names for the snowplow contest, and the winners will be announced in early December.

Carilion Clinic Community Health and Outreach Flu Shot Clinic

Roanoke Public Libraries are partnering with Roanoke University and Carilion's Physician Assistant (PA) Program. On Friday, October 4, 2024, at the Elmwood Park Art Walk, partners will be offering services, such as supplies, Covid and Flu vaccines, and HIV testing. Additionally, the program will offer Flu vaccines at the Main Library on Monday, October 7, 2024, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., and at the Melrose Branch Library on Wednesday, October 23, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: NONE.
8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.
9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.
10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:
 1. A resolution in support of kidney transplant services provided by Carilion Clinic. **Adopted Resolution No. 43071-100724. (7-0)**
 2. **Adopted Resolution No. 43072-100724 designating a Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate for the Annual Business Session and meetings of the Virginia Municipal League. (7-0)**
11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:
 1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council. **None.**
 2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council.

Appointed Christopher Chittum as a member of the Roanoke Valley Broadband Authority to fill the unexpired term of office of Robert Cowell, Jr., ending December 12, 2027.

Appointed Tasha Burkett as a member (ex-officio) of the City of Roanoke Finance Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Evelyn Powers (ex-officio).

Reappointed Husain Alam as a member of the Architectural Review Board for a four-year term of office commencing October 2, 2024, and ending October 1, 2028.

Appointed Fred Greear, III, as a member of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan to replace Gregory Feldmann for a term of office ending June 30, 2027.

Appointed Aileen Helsel as a member of the Economic Development

Authority to replace William Poe for a four-year term of office commencing October 21, 2024, and ending October 20, 2028.

Appointed Tanya Catron as a member of the Defined Contribution Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Andrea Trent ending June 30, 2025.

Appointed Angelia Vernon as a member of the Defined Contribution Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Paul Workman ending June 30, 2025.

RECESSED - 4:23 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE DECLARED IN RECESS UNTIL WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024, AT 9:00 A.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 CHURCH AVENUE, S. W., ROOM 450, TO CONVENE IN A CLOSED MEETING ON A PERSONNEL MATTER.