



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

October 21, 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:

City Council meetings will be televised live and replayed on RVTN 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. City Council meetings are offered with closed captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing.

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. Council Member Fitzpatrick was absent.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Terry Kemp, Children's Pastor and Ministries Director, Fort Chiswell Church of God.

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

Welcome.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Proclamation declaring October 2024, as Domestic Violence Awareness Month.
Mayor Lea read and presented the proclamation to Jessica Pruitt, TAP, and Lena Loshonkohl, Artist.

Proclamation declaring October 20 - 26, 2024, as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

Mayor Lea read and presented the proclamation to Katie Kennedy, Program Manager, Lead Safe Roanoke and staff.

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.

Freeda Cathcart, 2516 Sweetbrier Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and provided an update on the flood resiliency plan and climate action strategies.

Barbara Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and expressed excitement about new bike lanes on Elm Avenue.

Nathan Harper, 1901 Warrington Road, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to safety concerns in downtown and Century Plaza.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (6-0)

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 meeting of City Council held on Monday, October 7, 2024; recessed until Wednesday, October 9, 2024.

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

- C-2.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (6) and (8), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-3.** Request for a Public Hearing on November 4, 2024, at 2:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to request the General Assembly amend the Roanoke Charter of 1952.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

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

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

- C-5.** FY2025 City Manager Transfer Report for the first quarter ended September 30, 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed the attached City Manager Transfer report for the first quarter ended, September 30, 2024.

- C-6.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton as a member of the Western Virginia Water Authority, Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of office of Robert Cowell, Jr.,

ending June 30, 2027;

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

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS:

1. INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

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

City Performance Dashboard - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- A.** Approval of a Letter Agreement for Student Parking Spaces with Roanoke Higher Education Center & PARK Roanoke-Higher Education Lot.
Adopted Resolution No. 43073-102124. (6-0)
- B.** Adoption of the City of Roanoke's Title VI Implementation Plan.
Adopted Resolution No. 43074-102124. (6-0)
- C.** Execution of the City-Wide Bridge Maintenance Drift Removal Contract Modification.
Adopted Resolution No. 43075-102124. (6-0)
- D.** Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development – Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) Grant Award.
Adopted Resolution No. 43076-102124 and Budget Ordinance No. 43077-102124. (6-0)
- E.** Accept and appropriate allocations of funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.
Adopted Resolution No. 43078-102124 and Budget Ordinance No. 43079-102124. (6-0)

COMMENTS OF THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER.

The Deputy City Manager offered the following comments:

339 Salem Avenue, S.W. (Future Development Opportunity)

Economic Development staff have posted to their website a development opportunity at 339 Salem Avenue, S.W. The site formerly housed the City's Homeless Assistance Team before its move further downtown last year. The

City previously entered a contract with a developer for the development of eighty affordable housing apartment units. This posting is the result of inquiries from the development community to purchase or lease the property. Redevelopment of this site complements the extensive development that has occurred in the west end of downtown. The deadline to submit proposals is November 15, 2024.

Home Safe Program

The Home Safe program has formalized a grant agreement with Belmont Lofts to develop fourteen units that meet HUD Fair Market Rent standards. These units will be available to individuals enrolled in Permanent Supportive Housing through Commonwealth Catholic Charities and Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Care. In addition, Home Safe has effectively combined the City's ARPA funds with HOME-ARP funds to address the urgent need for affordable housing for those experiencing homelessness. Last year, fifty individuals with housing vouchers were unable to utilize them due to a critical shortage of available HUD Fair Market Rent units. Recently, the City toured the nearly completed units with supportive services staff, and prospective tenants will have the opportunity to tour in the coming weeks, with move-ins expected to start as early as November 1st. Belmont Lofts, located at 825 Stewart Avenue, S. E., will consist of a total of thirty-two units, including fourteen designated for Home Safe participants and fourteen for households earning 60 percent or less of the area median income.

River's Edge North Deferred Maintenance Project

Construction began on a new multi-use path, located around River's Edge North sports fields, connecting the pedestrian bridge to the Magnolia Allee. This path will allow for a continuous interior walking loop around the warm-season turf fields. Also included in the project is the restriping of the parking lot and the crosswalks on Reserve Avenue.

Washington Park Pool Update

National Pools has successfully completed pouring the bottom of the Washington Park Pool. Over the next few days, they will begin gunite operations on the sides of the pool. This process involves applying a dry-mix concrete mixture through a hose using compressed air and water, ensuring a strong and durable structure for our community. Staff will continue to monitor progress and provide further updates as the project advances.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

- A.** Approve Contract to Purchase Unit B, 1830 Blue Hills Circle, N. E., Official Tax Map No. 7280106 from Virginia Utility Protection Service, Inc.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43080-102124. (6-0)

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- 1.** A report of the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of funds for various educational programs; and a report of the Interim City Manager recommending that Council concur in the request. Donna Caldwell, Director of Accounting, Spokesperson.

Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43081-102124. (6-0)

2. 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 appointing a Director of the Economic Development Authority for the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Resolution No. 43082-102124. (6-0)
2. **Adopted Resolution No. 43083-102124, ratifying and confirming the retroactive declaration of local emergency by the Interim City Manager as the Director of Emergency Management, conferring emergency powers in the Interim City Manager; authorizing the Interim City Manager to make application for Federal and State public assistance to deal with such emergency; designating a fiscal agent and an agent for submission of financial information for the City; and calling upon the Federal and State governments for assistance. (5-0, Council Member Moon Reynolds 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.

Council Member Volosin thanked staff of the Department of Parks and Recreation and all who assisted with the GO Fest event held on October 18 - 20, 2024, in downtown; advised that the City of Roanoke won an Innovation Award for Public Safety for the Lock in Safety - Unlock Hope Program, at the Virginia Municipal League conference held in Virginia Beach.

Mayor Lea announced on Friday, October 4, he and Council Member White-Boyd attended an event commemorating Henrietta Lacks where a statue of Lacks known as "Mother of Modern Medicine" was unveiled in Constitution Square, South Boston, Virginia.

Vice-Mayor Cobb highlighted an exhibit at the Taubman Museum of Art titled Eternally New: The Art of Nouveau Word of Alphonse Mucha on October 19, 2024, with works on loan from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts along with the U.S. debut of an immersive art experience from the Grand Palais Immersif in Paris; and mentioned the Faith and Blue event held at Williams Memorial Baptist Church on October 20, 2024, to fight gun violence where law enforcement officials, congregations and the community joined together in prayer and song.

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

12. **RECESSED - 3:50 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. Council Members Fitzpatrick and Moon Reynolds were absent.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Amy Hodge, Pastor, Mt. Zion AME 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. (5-0)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of Mario Williams to vacate an approximately 50 foot wide portion of Carl Road, S. W., that extends southwest from the intersection with Beechwood Avenue, S. W., adjacent to Official Tax Map No. 1290304. Mario Williams, Applicant, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43084-102124. (5-0)
2. Request of Ram Kartar, LLC, to rezone a property located at 716 Marshall Avenue, S. W., Official Tax Map No. 1120201, from RM-1, Residential District, to MXPUD, Mixed Use Planned Unit Development District. Matt Prescott, Applicant, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43085-102124. (5-0)
3. Request for Sale of a City-Owned Vacant Lot located at 801 Franklin Road, S. W. (Official Tax Map Number 1020716).
Matter was tabled until the November 18, 2024, Council Meeting. (4-1, Vice-Mayor Cobb voted no)

16. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: NONE.

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.

Helen Ferguson, Special Projects and Grants Manager, provided a report to the Council on items needing further review from the October 7, 2024, City Council Meeting. She advised that Angie O'Brien, Deputy City Manager, was coordinating with Delegate Terry Austin to guide the planning efforts to co-host Freedom Fest in July 2025; with regard to ARPA funding, the Treasury decided to allot unrestricted use of interest earned which will remain designated for Federal grant matches; Family Services of Roanoke Valley operates mental health services at three establishments of Roanoke redevelopment and Housing Authority, Jamestown Place, the EnVision Center and Morningside Manor; and Carol

Corbin, Communications Manager was working with RVTV and the departments of General Services, Transportation, Stormwater and Solid Waste to create a series of short public education videos to explain the difference between road shoulders, bike lanes and mobility tracks.

Mayor Lea asked about the status of the BoxFit program; whereupon, Ms. O'Brien gave an update and advised that the matter was in discussion with regard to redistributing funding for perhaps a city-wide boxing program or formation of a new program.

ADJOURNED - 7:38 P.M.