



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

November 4, 2024
9:00 AM
City Council Chamber
215 Church Avenue, SW

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 RVTV Channel 3 on Thursdays at 7:00 pm, and Saturdays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; 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.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL: Council Member Volosin was absent.

Welcome

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 am, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER (9:02 am - 9:08 am)

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 Council Member Patricia White-Boyd, Chair, City Council Personnel Committee, requesting that the Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss a personnel matter, being the performance of a Council-Appointed Officer, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding actual and threatened litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an opening meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, pursuant

to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing disposition 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.

(6-0)

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

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

BRIEFINGS: NONE

THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL STAND IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENE AT 2:00 pm, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 450, NOEL C. TAYLOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING. (9:13 am)



City of Roanoke, Virginia **CITY COUNCIL**

2:00 pm

City Council Chamber
215 Church Avenue, SW

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. Mayor Lea and Council Member Volosin were absent.**

The Invocation was delivered by Vice-Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

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

Welcome

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING (5-0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. **PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

A resolution recognizing and commending the dedicated service of Christopher Chittum as Director of Planning, Building, and Development for the City of Roanoke, upon his retirement.

Adopted Resolution No. 43086-110424. (5-0)

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 Reynolds, 431 Vermont Avenue, NW, appeared before the Council and expressed concern about City-owned trees behind her property and asked the City to remove the trees.

Sylvia King, 3102 Willow Road, NW, appeared before the Council and complimented the City Council campaigns as dignified and suggested the Evans Spring Caretaker Cottage be wrapped in plastic.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (5-0)

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 21, 2024.

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

- C-2.** Request for a public hearing to be scheduled and advertised for consideration of a request for tax exemption for personal property from Wellness Wagon, a non-stock, non-profit organization.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorized and advertised a public hearing on the above-mentioned matter for City Council's regular meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or such later date and time as the Interim City Manager may determine.

- C-3.** Request for a public hearing to be scheduled and advertised for consideration of a request for tax exemption for real property located at 4751 Cove Road, NW, from Good Samaritan Hospice, Inc., a non-stock, non-profit organization.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorized and scheduled a public hearing on the above-mentioned matter for City Council's regular meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or such later date and time as the Interim City Manager may determine.

- C-4.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of James Davis as a member Roanoke Arts Commission, effective immediately.

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

- C-5.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Eric Anderson as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission, effective November 1, 2024.

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

- C-6.** Reports of qualification of Tasha Burkett as an ex-officio member, by position, of the City of Roanoke Finance Board and Tanya Catron as a member of the

Defined Contribution Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Andrea Trent ending June 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Proposal of the City of Roanoke to amend the Roanoke Charter of 1952, to reflect changes made in election dates and meetings of City Council generally.
Adopted Resolution No. 43087-110424. (5-0)

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS:

1. INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFING:

Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts State of Roanoke City's Health - Cynthia B. Morrow, MD, MPH - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- A. Acceptance of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Local Revenue Sharing Funding for multiple drainage improvement projects.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43088-110424. (5-0)
- B. Authorization of an encroachment permit for Greater Roanoke Transit Company trading as Valley Metro (GRTC) bus shelter located at Washington Park in the right-of-way adjacent to property located at 1610 Burrell Street, NW, approximately twenty-six feet south of Whitten Avenue, NW.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43089-110424. (5-0)
- C. Authorization of an encroachment permit for Greater Roanoke Transit Company trading as Valley Metro (GRTC) Bus Shelter Located in the right-of-way adjacent to property located at 1616 19th Street, NW.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43090-110424. (5-0)
- D. Authorization of an encroachment permit for Greater Roanoke Transit Company trading as Valley Metro (GRTC) bus shelter located in the right-of-way adjacent to property located at 40 Douglass Avenue, NW.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43091-110424. (5-0)
- E. Authorization of an encroachment permit for Greater Roanoke Transit Company trading as Valley Metro (GRTC) bus stop shelter located adjacent to property located at 1920 Orange Avenue, NW.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43092-110424. (5-0)

COMMENTS OF THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER

The Interim City Manager offered the following comments:

Roundtable Gathering "Challenges and Change"

On October 29 – 30, 2024, city staff met with 40 business owners in the Downtown Business District to identify collective solutions to impact change and provide support for

small businesses and the Downtown area. Business owners heard about current housing trends and the history of the lack of affordable housing. Further, they learned of the city's current intervention strategies such as public safety and resource assistance. Staff are pulling together ideas shared and developing several plans to address the opportunities that exist for the unhoused population. Business owners will engage with staff in the coming months for a follow-up session.

EDA Equipment Incentives Grant

I wanted to remind you of the Economic Development Authority (EDA) Equipment Incentive Grant Program. This grant program will assist city businesses with purchasing essential equipment. The EDA is expected to commit \$300,000 over two years (\$150,000 annually). This program will be essential to help small businesses meet their equipment needs. The grant period is now open.

Bike Lane Safety Video

The newest safety and educational video on Bike Safety is available. The video highlights the different types of bike lanes throughout Roanoke and shares essential safety tips for both cyclists and motorists. From traditional and buffered bike lanes to green lanes at intersections and mobility tracks, each bike lane type helps improve visibility and safety on our streets. This video also explains the presence of multi-use shoulders that are not designated bike lanes, but that cyclists can use when they are clear. Messaging throughout each lane type also includes information about where to place trash, brush, and bulk items, parking, and how motorists and cyclists can interact. There will be a follow-up video specific to Solid Waste Management.

Wasena Bridge Update

Archer Western (AW) has completed the concrete foundation for Pier 3, marking a significant milestone in the project's foundation framework. The use of a pump truck during these large concrete pours not only streamlines the placement process but also enhances precision, which is critical for structural integrity. Each pier foundation requires about 160 cubic yards of concrete—equating to approximately 630,000 pounds (more than half a million pounds)—demonstrating the substantial scale of the work involved. Additionally, AW has addressed damage from Hurricane Helene to their work bridge across the Roanoke River, ensuring the continuation of demolition operations for the former bridge. These efforts are pivotal in maintaining project timelines and ultimately contribute to the overall success and safety of the infrastructure being developed.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: NONE

8. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE**

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**

10. **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. A resolution designating a Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate for the Annual Business Meeting of the National League of Cities City Summit.
Adopted Resolution No. 43093-110424. (5-0)

11. **MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council. **NONE**

2. **Public Matters Follow-up:**

Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, provided the following report on public matters.

Downtown Safety Concerns

Mr. Nathan Harper, a downtown business owner, shared concerns about his own safety and that of other downtown employees. He was very complimentary and supportive of the Downtown Ambassador program and asked that patrolling and safety initiatives increase.

Report Back:

In September of this year, Deputy Chief Puckett of the Police Department issued a memo titled, "Downtown Safety and Visibility Enhancement Plan." The plan approves overtime payment for patrols of the downtown business district, additional patrols during peak night hours, dedicated officers during daylight hours, and increased visibility of officers and police vehicles. This plan was shared with Mr. Harper.

Data Dashboards

The Department of Technology is currently working with existing platforms to build a more comprehensive data dashboard that will be visible to Council members and staff as well as the public. Ms. Vanessa Bohr, Chief Information Officer, and Mr. Jared Anthony, IT Manager, shared more information about the process and showed examples of similar projects in Arlington, Texas; Tempe, Arizona; and Glendale, Arizona.

Report Back:

Council Member Moon Reynolds asked about other cities in Virginia that are utilizing similar systems. The best current examples are in Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Norfolk. The cities of Williamsburg, Chesterfield, and Arlington have data dashboards, but they are organized and utilized differently than Roanoke will use them. QR codes below link to dashboard examples from the City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and the City of Norfolk.

3. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council.

Reappointed Michael Waldvogel as a member of the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare Board of Directors for a three-year term of office, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Appointed Edward Garner as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Sue Ellen Agresta ending December 31, 2024; and for an additional three-year term of office commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Reappointed Scott Terry-Cabbler as a member of the City Planning Commission for a four-year term of office, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2028.

Appointed Betty Jean Wolfe as a member of the City Planning Commission to replace Sarah Glenn for a four-year term of office, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2028.

Appointed Adetoye Oshoniya as a member of the City Planning

Commission to replace James Smith for a four-year term of office, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2028.

Reappointed Jonathan Lloyd as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board for a three-year term of office, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Reappointed Bethany Lackey and Cedric Wilson as members of the Human Services Advisory Board for four-year terms of office, each, commencing December 1, 2024, and ending November 30, 2028.

Appointed Natesha Ross as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board to replace Dorothy Yancey for a term of office ending June 30, 2027.

Appointed Lianiz Cuevas as a Youth member of the Youth Services Citizen Board for a term of office ending June 30, 2025.

ADJOURNED - 3:28 pm