



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

December 2, 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 Moon Reynolds was absent.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING (6-0)

Welcome

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 am, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CANCELLED

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A communication from Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., requesting that the City Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by the City Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

A communication from Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., requesting that the City Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the 2024 Citizen of the Year Award, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(10), 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 the Council convene a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing disposition and/or acquisition 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; and discussion concerning a protective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry in the Southeastern area of the City of Roanoke, 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)(5) and (A)(6), of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

Items listed on the 2:00 pm City Council Docket requiring discussion/clarification and additions/deletions to the 2:00 pm agenda. **None**

Topics for discussion by the Mayor and members of the City Council. **None**

BRIEFING:

Sheriff's Office Accreditation Presentation - Sheriff Hash - 20 minutes.

Adopted Resolution No. 43104-120224 appointing Valmarie Turner as City Manager of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, approving the City Manager's Employment Agreement documenting the terms and conditions of Ms. Turner's employment as City Manager and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Employment Agreement on behalf of the City. (6-0)

THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL STAND IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENE AT 2:00 pm, IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 450, NOEL C. TAYLOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING. (9:53 pm)



City of Roanoke, Virginia
CITY COUNCIL

2:00 PM

City Council Chamber
215 Church Avenue, SW

1. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL - All present

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 Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.

Welcome

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING (7-0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Brian Wells - Recognition as General Manager of the Year by the National Hotel & Lodging Association.

Mayor Lea recognized Mr. Wells for exemplary services and being named General Manager of the Year.

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, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the tree canopy and her work on the loss of forest area.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: (APPROVED 7-0)

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.

Request for a public hearing on tax exemption for personal property owned by Behavioral Health Navigators Center, Inc.

Request for a public hearing for tax exemption on real property owned by 530 Day, LLC, and 1018 Patterson, LLC (Restoration Housing)

Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Anita Price as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board to replace Karla Christian for a term of office ending June 30, 2027;

Lee P. Graves, Jr., as a Citizen-at-Large member of the Towing Advisory Board for a three-year term of office commencing November 1, 2022, and ending October 31, 2025;

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;

Joshua Orzel as a member of the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of office of Daniel Karnes ending December 31, 2026;

Edward Garner as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the unexpired term of office 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;

Margaret Lindsey as a member of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan, City of Roanoke Finance Board, and the Defined Contribution Board as an ex-officio member, by position; and

Margaret Lindsey as a member of the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center Commission to fill an unexpired term of office of Andrea Trent, ending June 30, 2028.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 5. **PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE**
- 6. **PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE**
- 7. **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS:**

INTERIM CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

Tinker Creek Greenway Construction – Utility Relocation

Adopted Ordinance No. 43105-120224. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE INTERIM CITY MANAGER

The Interim City Manager offered the following comments:

Wasena Skatepark Public Open House

The Wasena Skatepark Public Open House held last Wednesday, November 20th at the Green Goat was well attended by skaters, cyclists, and neighborhood residents. The most common feedback was excitement about the size and variety of features included in the design, which was more than many seemed to be expecting. The consultant team did not receive any major requests for changes or different features, so the design will move forward largely as presented. The project team is working on developing the stormwater management design to complete the permitting process before moving into construction in the new year.

Historical Marker Unveiling

We are collaborating with Nelson Harris to plan the unveiling of a historical marker for Edward Dudley on **December 12 at 2 PM**. The ceremony will take place at Gilmer and Gainsboro, followed by a reception at the Gainsboro Branch Library with remarks by Edward Dudley IV. A draft press release is attached for review.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Kathryn Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, reported on the following matters:

Washington Park Pool

Ms. Sylvia King expressed concern over children's safety as they crossed Orange Avenue to access the new Washington Park Pool. She also asked about the timeline for replacing the plastic on the roof of the caretaker's cottage.

Report Back:

The planning intent is for pedestrians to use the signalized intersections at Gainsboro and 5th Streets, which feature high-visibility crossings. Additionally, the crossing at Orange Avenue will be enhanced this summer as part of the two-way cycle track included in the ARPA-funded Gainsboro Neighborhood project. While there are potential remedies, such as Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) and mid-crossing pedestrian refuges, these measures do not offer the same level of safety as crossings at established intersections.

Several departments have been involved in the maintenance and preservation of the cottage, but no determination has been made yet regarding rewiring the structure.

Smith Park

Councilmember Fitzpatrick asked about vegetation along the Roanoke River at Smith Park. He mentioned that, in the past, there was a clear view of the river and restoring this would increase the beauty and usability along that section of the greenway.

Report Back:

Ms. McFall, Parks and Recreation Director, explained that maintaining this riparian area provides several benefits to the ecological system supported by the river. These include minimizing riverbank collapse, minimizing flooding and erosion, and supporting wildlife. The goal for the Stormwater Division and Parks and Recreation Department is to establish and maintain a 75-foot riparian buffer along the Wiley Drive section of the Roanoke River, including Smith Park. Additionally, there are some invasive species in the area, which will be addressed and removed this spring.

Paper Alley on Vermont Avenue

Ms. Barbara Reynolds has an alley adjacent to her home. Recently some trees fell across the alley and caused damage. Ms. Reynolds was trying to determine who held responsibility for maintenance of the alley as well as taking care of the trees.

Report Back:

The right of way (alley) is still City-owned. The surface is maintained by the Transportation Division if trash collection occurs in the alley, but never maintains vegetation. Both the Codes Compliance and Transportation Divisions confirmed that property owners are responsible for maintenance to the centerline of the alley. However, if trees that were growing on City property fell and damaged private property, the City will clean them up. The contact information for the Urban Forester was shared with Ms. Reynolds.

Renters' Concerns

Mr. Clarence Barber and Ms. Joy Truskowski both spoke regarding the lack of protections for renters and the ability of landlords to raise rent substantially without any increase in services or improvement in housing. Ms. Truskowski brought to Council's attention two anti-rent-gouging bills that will go before the state legislature.

Report Back:

Council voted unanimously to add HB 721 and SB 366 to the City's legislative agenda. These bills will allow a locality to adopt rent-gouging provisions to include a required written notice two months in advance of any rent increase and maximum allowable increases. Localities may also impose a civil penalty for failure to comply with these provisions. Ms. Molly Hunter, Neighborhood Services Coordinator, has been in touch with Mr. Barber and Ms. Truskowski about their rights as tenants and is organizing a series of events to inform and support renters.

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CITY ATTORNEY: NONE

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: NONE

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

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

Appointed Byron Hamlar as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace Betty Jean Wolfe for a three-year term of office, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

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

Appointed Joshua Johnson as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Dr. Eric Anderson ending March 31, 2025.

Appointed Vickie Meeks Miller as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office Sharon Toliver-Hardy for a term of office ending November 30, 2026.

Appointed Carla Terry as a member of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission to fill the unexpired term of office for Milton Hardy, Sr., ending November 30, 2025.

Appointed John Black as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of James Davis ending June 30, 2026.

Reappointed Chris Craft as a member of the Roanoke Civic Center Commission for a three-year term, commencing October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2027.

Reappointed Kianna Price Marshall as a member of the Roanoke Civic Center Commission for a three-year term, commencing October 1, 2024 and ending

September 30, 2027.

Reappointed Robert Arrington as a member of the Roanoke Civic Center Commission for a three-year term, commencing October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2027.

Appointed Vanessa Bohr 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 Captain Deputy Angela Traynham as a City representative (Elected Official) member of the Virginia CARES, Inc., for a term of office commencing November 1, 2024.

RECESSED - 2:36 pm

The City Council Meeting will stand in recess to reconvene on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 8:30 am, at the Berglund Center, Bella Vista Room for a City Council Summit; and on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 9:30 am, in the City Council Chamber to convene in a Closed Meeting for a personnel matter, being the annual performance evaluations of the Council-Appointed Officers.