



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

January 7, 2025
2:00 PM
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:

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. Council meetings are offered with closed captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing.

The January 6, 2025, 2:00 pm, Roanoke City Council Meeting was declared in recess until Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 2:00 pm, due to lack of a quorum.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. All Present.

1. Statement of Purpose - Mayor Joseph L. Cobb
Mayor Cobb advised that the purpose of the meeting was for the newly elected Council Members to take their seats.
2. Report from the City Clerk advising of the qualification of the Honorable Joseph L. Cobb, as Mayor, and the Honorable S. Terry McGuire, Phazhon Nash and Nicolas Hagen as Members of the Roanoke City Council for terms of four years, each, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2028.
Received and filed.
3. Resolution recognizing the Honorable Joseph L. Cobb to be Mayor of the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Resolution No. 43116-010725. (6-0)
4. Resolution recognizing the Honorable S. Terry McGuire as a member of the City Council and Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Resolution No. 43117-010725. (6-0)
5. Resolution recognizing the services of the Honorable Joseph L. Cobb as the Vice-Mayor of the City of Roanoke for a term of office ending December 31, 2024.
Adopted Resolution No. 43118-010725. (6-0)

6. A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb recommending certain committee assignments for the Members of City Council.

Received and filed.

7. Resolution establishing a meeting schedule for City Council commencing January 1, 2025, and terminating December 31, 2025.

Adopted Resolution No. 43119-010725. (6-0)

ADJOURNED - 2:12 pm.

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (2:14 pm)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. **CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. All Present.**

The Invocation was delivered by Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

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

Welcome

2. **PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Recognition of City employees who achieved 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50 years of service in the calendar year 2024.

Mayor Cobb recognized the service of employees with 30 - 50 years of service with the City of Roanoke.

3. **HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:**

The 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 the Council, as he may deem appropriate.

Barbara Duerk, 2605 Rosalind Avenue, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to open doors and open minds; and presented keys to the Council Members to symbolize the work of the City.

Glen Zedney, 206 Monterey Avenue, NE, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to low-cost immigration services provided by the Immigrant Connection, a faith-based non-profit organization accredited by the Department of Justice.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (6-0)**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Members of the 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 meetings of the City Council held on Monday, November 18, 2024; Monday, December 2, 2024, recessed until Tuesday, December 3, 2024, recessed until Wednesday, December 11, 2024; and on Monday, December 16, 2024.

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

- C-2.** A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb requesting that 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.

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

- C-3.** A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the process for selection of a candidate for the interim City Council Member position, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

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

- C-4.** A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb tendering his resignation as a Member of Roanoke City Council, effective December 31, 2024.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Accepted resignation with regret; and received and filed the communication.**

- C-5.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

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

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

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;

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

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.

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: None

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION: None

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

Sam Roman, Deputy City Manager thanked the Department of Public Works for their great efforts during the recent inclement weather event.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: None
8. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE**
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
 1. The Director of Real Estate Valuation briefed the Council on real estate assessment information for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
10. **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**
 1. Resolution directing the City Attorney to file petition to fill a vacancy on Roanoke City Council.
Adopted Resolution No. 43120-010725. (6-0)
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. **None**
12. **RECESSED - 2:45 PM**
13. **RECONVENED - 3:40 PM**

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING (6-0)

Mayor Cobb announced the processes for filling vacancies on the Roanoke City Council and Roanoke City School Board.

Roanoke City Council Vacancy

The Council of the City of Roanoke is seeking applicants for a vacancy on City Council, the term of which office runs through December 31, 2026. City Council will fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Joseph L. Cobb, by appointment. Statements of Interest should be provided to the Office of the City Clerk, Room 456, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S.W., Roanoke, Virginia, and filed with that Office by 5:00 p.m., January 17, 2025. Applicants must be residents of the City and eligible to vote in the City of Roanoke. The Statement of Interest will be made public, if requested under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. On January 21, 2025, Council will meet in closed session to review applications and further discuss need for interview, Council will announce the names of all persons being proposed for the interim appointment and shall make available for inspection each person's statement of intent in accordance with Virginia Code § 24.2-228. On February 3, 2025, Council may interview select candidates and/or appoint successful candidate to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

Roanoke City School Board Vacancy Notice - Unexpired term of office

As of January 1, 2025, a vacancy exists on the Roanoke City School Board.

The City Clerk's Office is accepting applications to fill the unexpired term of office until January 17, at 5:00 pm. Please submit applications to the City Clerk's Office by PDF, mail, fax (540-853-1145) or in person.

For more information, contact the City Clerk's Office at (540) 853-2541 or at clerk@roanokeva.gov.

ADJOURNED - 3:43 PM