



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

January 21, 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.

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

The Invocation was delivered by Elder Milton Hardy, Jr., Associate Pastor, Greater Prayer Temple.

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

Welcome

Mayor Cobb called for a Moment of Silence in memory of Dr. Frank Eastburn, former volunteer on the Roanoke Arts Commission from 1998 to 2011, and served two years on the Citizens Advisory Committee – City Wide Park Study the precursor to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, who passed away on January 8, 2025.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. **PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Proclamation declaring Tuesday, January 21, 2025, as the National Day of Racial Healing.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager.

Proclamation honoring the Clerk of Circuit Court on the milestone of 50 years of service with the City of Roanoke.

Withdrawn

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 she may deem appropriate.

Martha Good, 5300 Silver Fox Road, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Reverend Dr. Amy Hodge, 3802 Troutland Avenue, NW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Dotsy Clifton, 4235 Chesterton Street, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Laura Hartman, 1209 Campbell Avenue, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to public transit and expressed gratitude for the MetroFLX service.

Sherman P. Lea, Sr., Former Mayor, 1638 Lonna Drive, NW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Barbara Duerk, 2608 Rosalind Avenue, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the way forward and being a part of Team Roanoke.

Dr. Brenda Hale, P.O. Box 12362, Roanoke, 24020, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Suzanne Thornley, 6638 Sylvan Brook Road, Roanoke, 24018, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Cathy Greenberg, 1029 Oakwood Drive, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Evelyn Powers to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Anita James Price, 3101 Willow Road, NW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Robin Dearing, 1942 Maple Leaf Drive, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council and expressed concern with lack of handicap parking in downtown Roanoke.

Adele Carliss, 1830 Arlington Road, SW, appeared before the Council and

spoke in support of Evelyn Powers to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Lenai Clegg, 2012 Carroll Avenue, NW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Anthony Stavola, 1836 Greenwood Road, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Evelyn Powers to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Djuna Osborne, 4536 Greenlee Road, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED, AS AMENDED. (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.** A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb, requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to review the applications 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-2.** A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb, requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the appointment of a Trustee to serve on the Roanoke City School Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Natasha Saunders ending June 30, 2026, 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 a personnel matter, 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 the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding a certain legal matter regarding contract interpretation requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-5.** A communication from the City Attorney to request that City Council convene in a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing possible disposal 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.

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

- C-6.** Adoption of the Calendar of Events for Budget Development Activities for FY 2025 - 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Approved the attached budget calendar for 2025 -2026.**

- C-7.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Cecelia F. McCoy as City Clerk for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, for a two-year term commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2026;

Timothy R. Spencer as City Attorney for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, for a two-year term of office commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2026;

Kelvin C. Bratton as the Director of Real Estate Valuation for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, for a two-year term of office commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2026;

Troy A. Harmon as Municipal Auditor for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, for a two-year term of office October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2026;

Valmarie Turner as the City Manager for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, effective January 13, 2025; and

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-8.** **A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding a certain legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.**

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFING:

Real Estate Reassessment Briefing - 30 minutes

Received and filed.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Acceptance and Appropriation of a HazMat Team Grant from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)
Adopted Ordinance No. 43121-012125. (6-0)
- b. Acceptance and Appropriation of FY24 Southwest Virginia All Hazards Incident Management Team Grants
Adopted Ordinance No. 43122-012125. (6-0)
- c. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Tourism Corporation Grant to be used for the 2025 Roanoke GO Outside Festival.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43123-012125. (6-0)
- d. Amendment of Lease Agreement with the Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Network for the Lease of City-Owned Property located at 709 South Jefferson Street
Adopted Ordinance No. 43124-012125. (6-0)
- e. Approval of a historical marker to recognize the contributions of Lucy Addison
Adopted Resolution No. 43125-012125. (6-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

Although we addressed in early December, the number of individuals the City's Homeless Assistance Team was able to assist in housing, I'm proud to share they officially housed 304 individuals in 2024. Also, this year's Winter Point-in-Time (PIT) count will be conducted on the night of January 22, 2025. City outreach teams will be conducting the street count early in the morning of January 23, 2025. The Empowerment Fair will be held on January 24, 2025, from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Berglund Center.

The Engineering Division is exploring an alternative walking surface for the MLK Memorial Bridge. The current timber walking surface, replaced in 2008 as part of a major renovation, has not aged well due to snow plowing activities and is approaching the end of its useful service life. Rather than reinstalling a new timber walking surface, City staff is considering the installation of concrete planks that would closely resemble the existing timber in size and color. The next community stakeholder meeting will be held on February 6, at the Gainsboro Library at 5:30 pm.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP.

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

Tree Removal: Mixed Use Community East Orange Avenue

At the City Council summit on Tuesday, December 3, Council Member Vivian Sanchez-Jones inquired about a substantial number of trees being cut down associated with development of apartments along Orange Avenue. The project location is tax map number 7130106 and surrounding areas, near the intersection of Mecca Street and Orange Avenue

Report Back:

The "Mixed Use Community - East Orange Avenue" development was rezoned as a Planned Unit Development initially at the January 17, 2023 Council meeting and again

at the July 15, 2024 meeting. The Planning Department confirmed that the developer was working outside the scope of a proffered development plan (zoning violation), and without the proper land disturbance permitting in place. Planning contacted the developer directly and outlined specifically where they deviated from the approved plan and failed to follow the permitting process. A representative from Thomas Builders has acknowledged their errors and the City's expectation that they take specific steps to course correct by certain deadlines. The situation will be monitored for progress and escalated as appropriate.

Parking in Bike Lanes

Mr. David Hoopes shared his concern about vehicles parked in designated bike lanes. This creates a safety hazard for cyclists, as they must cross into traffic to avoid parked vehicles. He suggested some type of physical barrier for bike lanes, similar to how a curb separates sidewalk and pedestrians from traffic. As safety increases for cyclists, utilization of cycling as a method of travel will increase.

Report Back:

Mr. Ross Campbell, Director of Public Works, shared a video that was created with RVTV and Rob Issem, Vision Zero Coordinator. The video shows the different types of lanes cyclists may use, some of which are multi-use and can be used for parking and trash bins and was shared with Mr. Hoopes. Lt. Thompson, Northwest Zone Lieutenant, has already begun ticketing violating vehicles and will tow any inoperable vehicles, as well. The video and Lt. Thompson's efforts have been shared with Mr. Hoopes. He once again expressed his thanks to everyone working to make the City a safer place to travel by bike. "It doesn't go unnoticed or unappreciated."

Eureka Park

Mr. James Lynch asked that Council consider naming some part of the new Eureka Park Recreation Center after Mr. Brown and Ms. Killen.

Report Back:

The process of naming City properties requires Council approval, but Parks and Recreation is committed to receiving public input and feedback on some spaces in the new center, including the community room, the gym, and each of the two after school program classrooms. We are also trying to find out more information about the two individuals named by Mr. Lynch.

Vacant Council Seat

Two residents, EmilyKate Copenhaver and Samantha Newell, encouraged Council to appoint Danny Clawson to Council if a seat is vacated.

Report Back:

This recommendation has been entered into the record. If there is an open seat, once Council decides how this seat is to be filled, that information will be made available to the public.

CITY ATTORNEY: None

8. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE**
9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE**
10. **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Resolution to implement Free Fare Transit Equity Day service for Valley Metro on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

Adopted Resolution No. 43126-012125. (6-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones thanked the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) for recognizing her with the Community Service Award and remarked that it was truly a privilege to be recognized by a distinguished organization that was long dedicated to empowering the community, advocating for justice and equality. She further advised that Valley Metro has received two electric buses and two more will arrive in February and commented on how quiet the buses performed.

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

12. RECESSED - 3:49 PM

THE CITY 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, SW

13. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. All Present.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Amy Hodge, Pastor, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church.

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

Welcome

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING (6-0)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

2024 Youth Tackle Football Championship Teams Recognition - Milton Hardy, Athletics Coordinator.

Mayor Cobb recognized the 10U and 12U Tackle Football Teams and Milton Hardy, Athletics Coordinator presented trophies to each team.

2024 Neighborhood Awards Presentation

The Members of Council recognized and presented plaques to the winners.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of Rockwood Ranch, LLC, to repeal proffered conditions at 2945 Peters Creek Road NW, bearing Official Tax Map No. 6410103. The conditions proposed for repeal, adopted through the enactment of Ordinance No. 32658-092595, dated September 25, 1995, regulate the building height, architectural style, use, screening, stormwater management, access, and location of development on the property. Ben Crew, Agent, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43127-012125. (6-0)
2. Request of Riverdale Southeast, LLC; 1919 9th Street, LLC; Riverdale Med I, LLC; Riverdale WL, LLC; Riverdale Woods, LLC; and Industry Drive Partners, LLC, to rezone property located at 1912, 1919, and four parcels addressed as 0 9th Street SE; 1745, 1906, and 0 Progress Drive SE; and 943 Industry Avenue SE; bearing Official Tax Map Nos. 4170101, 4170104, 4170401, 4170107, 4170108, 4170402, 4170403, 4250301, 4250303, 4250305, and 4170106, respectively, from D, Downtown District with conditions, I-1, Light Industrial, and UF, Urban Flex District, to UC, Urban Center District, with a condition. C. Cooper Youell, IV, Agent, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43128-012125. (6-0)
3. Request of The Foundry Realty, LLC, to (i) close by vacation an approximately 0.0584 acre portion of Russell Avenue SW at the intersection with Penn Street SW being adjacent to property located at 2415 Russell Avenue SW, Official Tax Map No. 1420201; (ii) rezone the property located at 2415 Russell Ave SW; 614 and nine parcels addressed as 0 Bridge Street SW; and the portion of right-of-way to be vacated adjacent to Official Tax Map No. 1420201; bearing Official Tax Map Nos. 1420201, 1420307, 1420313, 1420312, 1420311, 1420310, 1420309, 1420308, 1420306, 1420305, 1420304 (respectively), from I-2, Heavy Industrial District, and I-1, Light Industrial District, to UC, Urban Center District with a condition. Ben Crew, Agent, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43129-012125. (6-0)

16. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:

The 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.

Tom Blanton, 5147 Meadow Valley Circle, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the reduction of tax assessment rates.

Duane Howard, 1221 6th Street, SE, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Evelyn Powers to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Candice Verwey, 3036 Corbieshaw Road, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Evelyn Powers to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

David Gifford, 1874 Arlington Road, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Evelyn Powers to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Emily Kate Copenhaver, 2218 Windsor Avenue, SW, appeared before the

Council and spoke in support of Trish White-Boyd to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council.

Freeda Cathcart, 2516 Sweetbrier Avenue, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Evelyn Powers to fill the vacancy on Roanoke City Council and the housing issues in the City.

17. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 1. Adopted Joint Resolution No. 43130-012125 of the City Council of Roanoke City, Virginia and the Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County, Virginia, expressing support for legislation authorizing the Board of Supervisors of Roanoke County, Virginia to acquire parcels in Roanoke County, Virginia and Bedford County, Virginia, known as "Explore Park". (6-0)**
- 2. Adopted Resolution No. 43131-012125 authorizing the City Attorney to draft an amendment to Section 2, paragraph B of the City Manager's Employment Agreement, to change the identified compensation plan from a deferred compensation plan under Internal Revenue Code Section 457 to a 401 (a) defined contribution plan and authorizing the Mayor to execute such amendment on behalf of the City. (6-0)**
- 3. Adopted Ordinance No. 43132-012125 amending the effective date of the pay increases set forth in Ordinance No. 43116-121624, adopted by City Council on December 16, 2024; from July 1, 2025, to January 1, 2025. (6-0)**

ADJOURNED - 8:27 PM