



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

February 18, 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 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 Joseph L. Cobb.

Welcome

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Cobb advised that, going forward, the 2:00 pm meeting would begin with the Council Members providing "shout-outs" or announcing community events recently attended. The Council Members made the following announcements:

Council Member Hagen advised that he recently attended the grand opening of The Toebean Cat Cafe, and the café offers cat adoptions and time spent with cats as well as a wonderful cup of coffee.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones expressed appreciation for living in such a welcoming community and thanked everyone who supported the protest at the Poff Federal Building and immigration efforts.

Vice-Mayor McGuire announced that he toured the new fire training center in the Riverdale area and was grateful for the efforts to protect the City's

rivers and areas affected by flooding.

Council Member Nash thanked the City Manager, Carol Corbin, Communications Manager, and the Department of Communications for their efforts to promote Black History Month. He further advised that he recently attended the Client of the Quarter celebration hosted by the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, as part of the Jobs Plus program which helps citizens find and retain jobs.

Council Member Volosin thanked the team from public works for clearing the streets during the recent snowstorms and warned citizens not to drive into high floodwaters.

Council Member Powers thanked the public works, Police Department and Fire-EMS staff and appreciated their efforts to keep citizens safe.

Mayor Cobb commended AEP for restoring power during emergency situations.

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Youth National League of Cities (NLC) Tampa FL 2024 presentation - 15 minutes. **Josh Johnson, Youth Development Specialist, Roanoke City Public Schools presented information with regard to the experience at the conference and recognized the students in attendance.**

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, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, SW, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to never underestimating the power of a "Roanoker", welcomed and offered a "key to the City" to Council Member Powers.

Stephen Niamke, P.O. Box 6166, Roanoke, Virginia, appeared before the Council and invited everyone to attend an upcoming training session on nonviolence sponsored by Metta Peace Team and Pax Christi USA; and advised that he was working to bring a chapter of Metta Peace Team and Pax Christi USA to the City of Roanoke.

Stephanie Moon Reynolds, 4501 Oakland Boulevard, NE, appeared before the Council and congratulated the Council on taking their seats and shared a brief history of how previous Interim Council Members were selected.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

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 meeting of City Council held on Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

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

- C-2.** A communication from the City Manager requesting that City Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the disposition of City-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-3.** 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 requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney, pursuant to Sec. 2.2-3711(A)(7), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Debbie Pitts as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, 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 Ahondryea Brooks as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board, effective immediately.

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

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

Angela Traynham as a City representative of (Elected Official) to the Virginia CARES, Inc., Board of Directors for a term of office commencing November 1, 2024;

Valmarie H. Turner as a member of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan as an ex-officio member, by position;

Valmarie H. Turner as a member of the Western Virginia Water Authority, Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of office of Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton ending June 30, 2027;

Valmarie H. Turner as a member of the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton ending April 12, 2025;

Valmarie H. Turner as a member of the Western Virginia's Regional Industrial Facility Authority to fill the unexpired term of office of Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton

ending February 3, 2028;

Christopher Ramey as a member of the Towing Advisory Board for a three-year term of office, commencing November 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2027; and

Ross Campbell as a member of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization for a term of office ending June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Amendment of City Ordinances pertaining to the Removal of Hazardous or Illegally Parked Vehicles.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43142-021825. (7-0)
2. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY24 State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) Award Reimbursement Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Office for the Roanoke Sheriff's Office.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43143-021825. (7-0)

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS:

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Budget Briefing - 15 minutes.

January, 2025 Budget and Actual Monthly Report - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Acceptance and Appropriation of an Emergency Management Performance Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43144-021825. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- b. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43145-021825. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- c. Adoption of Ordinance to amend the Regional Extraterritorial Arrest Agreement.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43146-021825. (7-0)
- d. Resolution to designate Census Tracts 22 and 27 as Revitalization Areas pursuant to Section §36-55. 30:2.A. of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.
Adopted Resolution No. 43147-021825. (7-0)
- e. Acceptance and Appropriation of \$20,000 Contribution for Greenway Murals.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43148-021825. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

In celebration of Black History Month, the Office of Communications and Roanoke Public Libraries have created opportunities for employees to attend a Gainsboro Walking Tour. The tours are scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2025, at 10 am and/or 1 pm. The tours are open to all city employees and will start at the Gainsboro Branch Library at 15 Patton Avenue. Historian Jordan Bell will lead the guided tours through the Gainsboro neighborhood, providing in-depth narratives about its history and significance. These tours will cover various historic sites, offering a comprehensive understanding of the community's heritage.

I'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank the incredible teams here in Roanoke who have worked tirelessly to keep our city safe and running smoothly throughout this challenging winter season. In the most recent winter storm, our Snow Fighter team was deployed to tackle a winter storm system that brought snow, freezing rain, and rain across our region. These dedicated men and women worked around the clock, applying over 8,800 gallons of anti-ice brine and 1,760 tons of salt to ensure our roads were safe for travel. Alongside them, our Parks and Urban Forestry team has been working hard to clear downed trees, especially in areas like South Roanoke and Mill Mountain, where the weight of the freezing rain caused significant damage. Their efforts, even in the face of trees tangled in power lines, have been nothing short of heroic. I also want to acknowledge the ongoing efforts of our emergency personnel, who continue to monitor conditions closely and provide support to the community in any way they can. On top of these challenges, we were faced with localized flooding over the weekend. Winter is not over yet, and we remain vigilant as temperatures fluctuate and the potential for snow and freezing rain continues. It's been a busy winter, filled with challenges, but our teams have responded with incredible professionalism, dedication, and commitment. We couldn't have asked for better service to keep our community safe, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP.

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

Fare Free Day

Dr. Hartmann of the Bus Riders of Roanoke Advocacy Group reminded Council that February 4 was a fare-free day for Valley Metro, and Mr. Hagen wanted to know if this resulted in any increase in ridership.

Report Back:

Transit Equity Day 2024—5750

Tuesday, January 28, 2025—4553

Tuesday average for 12 months—4896

Transit Equity Day 2025—5700; an increase in 804 riders over the 12-month average

Transit Equity Day was created by a network of unions in 2017 and first celebrated federally in 2021. February 4 is the birthday of Civil Rights leader Rosa Parks, who famously refused to give her seat to a white man on a Montgomery, Alabama bus in 1955. Mrs. Parks' actions helped spark the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which eventually led to the desegregation of public transit.

While Transit Equity Day is observed in honor of Mrs. Parks' actions, there were notable Roanokers who also took a stand against segregated transit. Sarah Craig and Mary Walters both refused to move to the back of the city bus on separate occasions in early 1941. Ms. Craig appeared before a judge because of her actions. Ms. Walters was fined ten dollars and given a six-month suspended jail sentence.

Margie Jumper was on a city trolley on her way home from work in 1946 when she also refused to give up her seat to a white man. Ms. Jumper was arrested and paid a fine for violating the city ordinance requiring racially segregated seating. In 2003, the Roanoke Chapter of the NAACP honored Ms. Jumper with the Rev. R.R. Wilkinson Memorial Award for Social Justice.

In 1946, William Simmons boarded a Greyhound bus traveling from Roanoke to North Carolina, and like the previous people mentioned, refused to move to the back of the bus. He later sued Atlantic Greyhound for \$20,000. He won his case in 1947, but was awarded only \$25.

While we honor the sacrifice and courage of Rosa Parks on Transit Equity Day, there were so many other brave men and women who fought for equal rights and integrated public transit. Roanoke should be proud of the role her residents played in seeing this come to fruition.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

- a. Briefing on proposed City Code amendments to codify City Advisory Boards to one location within the City Code - 10 minutes.
No action taken.
- b. Amendment of Resolution No. 42871-011624 to authorize the School Board of City of Roanoke to Enter into a Public Private Partnership with Subsidiaries of Secured Futures, LLC, for Lease of School Property for Installation of Solar Panels.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43149-021825. (7-0)

3. DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE VALUATION: None.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. Resolution naming the front plaza of the Oliver W. Hill Justice Center to the Onzlee Ware Plaza, in honor of the late Judge Onzlee Ware.
Adopted Resolution No. 43150-021825. (7-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

Council Member Powers inquired about a citizen who submitted an application for appointment, but hadn't received feedback from the City Clerk's Office. The City Clerk will provide information to Council Member Powers.

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

12. RECESSED - 3:46 PM

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, SW

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

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Elizabeth Link, Executive Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Scouting America Pack 11, Blue Ridge Mountains Council.

Welcome

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING (7-0)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Recognition of the Roanoke Valley Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Teens. **Angelia Vernon, Executive Performance Administrator, introduced the teens in attendance.**

Presentation by Members of Pathfinders for Greenways.

Frank McGuire, Greenway Coordinator, and Pathfinders for Greenways presented the Council with a donation of \$20,000 for murals on the greenways.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of Homes for America, Inc, to (i) repeal all conditions proffered as part of a previous rezoning on property located at 632 Bullitt Avenue SE, Official Tax Map No. 4013018, enacted through Ordinance No. 37876-082007, (ii) repeal all conditions proffered as part of a previous rezoning on property located at 624 Bullitt Avenue SE, Official Tax Map No. 4013015, enacted through Ordinance No. 38461-051809, and (iii) rezone the property located at 612, 624, 632, 704, 708, 710, 712, 716, and six parcels addressed as 0 Bullitt Avenue SE; 703, 705, 709, 711, 715, 727, 729, and eight parcels addressed as 0 Jamison Avenue SE; and 0 6th Street SE; bearing Official Tax Map Nos. 4013014, 4013015, 4013018, 4013113, 4013115, 4013116, 4013117, 4013118, 4013011, 4013012, 4013112, 4013114, 4013119, 4013120, 4013102, 4013103, 4013105, 4013106,

4013107, 4013109, 4013110, 4013002, 4013003, 4013004, 4013009, 4013101, 4013104, 4013108, 4013111, and 4013010, respectively, from IN, Institutional District; MX(c), Mixed Use District with conditions; and RM-2, Residential District to RMF, Residential District with conditions. Ben Crew, Agent, Spokesperson.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43151-021825. (6-1, Council Member Hagen voted no)

2. Public Hearing to Consider Appalachian Power Company's Request for an Easement Across City-Owned Property Bearing Tax Map Nos. 1040302 and 1040401.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43152-021825 (7-0)

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.

Blaire Barton, 16 Old Woods Avenue, SE, appeared before the Council and asked for consideration of expanded protections for the immigrant community in Roanoke.

Ayushi Ambekar, 16 Old Whitmore Avenue, SW, appeared before the Council and asked for consideration of expanded protections for the immigrant community in Roanoke.

Austin Fitzgerald, 131 Campbell Avenue, SW, appeared before the Council and asked for consideration of expanded protections for the immigrant community in Roanoke.

Chris Craft, P.O. Box 12804, Roanoke, Virginia, appeared before the Council and expressed disappointment with City Council and advised that the City is wasting money.

ADJOURNED - 9:12 PM