



City of Roanoke, Virginia
CITY COUNCIL
ROANOKE CITY SCHOOL BOARD

March 3, 2025
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.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

City Council - **All present.**

Roanoke City School Board - **Trustee Christopher Link was absent.**

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL/SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

Presentation by Roanoke City Public Schools.
Received and filed.

Presentation by Valmarie Tuner, City Manager, City of Roanoke.
Received and filed.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

RECESSED/ADJOURNED - 10:28 a.m.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

AT 10:46 a.m., THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR ACTION:

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb, 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.

(7-0)

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

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 concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(7-0)

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that the 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 and regarding actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open 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.

(7-0)

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

Items Listed on the 2:00 pm City Council Docket Requiring Discussion/Clarification and Additions/Deletions to the 2:00 pm Agenda. **None.**

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

Topics For Discussion by the Mayor and Members of City Council. **None.**

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

Briefings:

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Budget Briefing - 15 minutes

Received and filed.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

At 11:46 a.m., the Council meeting was declared in recess for a closed meeting; and thereafter reconvened at 2:00 pm, in the City Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]



City of Roanoke, Virginia
CITY COUNCIL

2:00 pm
City Council Chamber
215 Church Avenue, SW

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

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

The Invocation was delivered by the Reverend Joseph Butler, Priest-in-Charge, St. James Episcopal Church.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

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

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

Welcome

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

Certification of Closed Meeting (7-0)

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Proclamation declaring March 2025 as American Red Cross Month.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Sandra Pratt, SW Chapter Vice-Chair, The American Red Cross of Southwest Virginia.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

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.

Brian McConnell, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to leadership in the midst of disruption.

Greg Mackey, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to citizen and business owner concerns about safety in South Roanoke and asked for solutions.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

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 Monday, February 3, 2025; recessed until Monday, February 10, 2025; and the Special Meeting of City Council held on Friday, February 14, 2025.

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

C-2. A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Christopher T. Link as a member of the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals, effective immediately.

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

- C-3.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Kevin Berry as a member of the City Planning Commission, effective March 31, 2025.

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

- C-4.** Report of qualification of The Honorable Evelyn W. Powers as an Interim Council Member of the Council of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, to fill the unexpired term of office of Joseph L. Cobb, ending December 31, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1.** Annual update on activities of the Roanoke Regional Partnership. John Hull, Executive Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)
Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

- 1.** City Manager:
Briefings: None.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

Items Recommended for Action:

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

- a.** Revision of FY2023 VDOT State of Good Repair Grant Award for ADA Ramp Improvements in Downtown Roanoke.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43153-030325. (7-0)
- b.** Adoption of a resolution to update the membership of the Community Policy and Management Team.
Adopted Resolution No. 43154-030325. (7-0)
- c.** Acceptance and Appropriation for the 2025 Combatting Hate Crimes Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43155-030325. (7-0)

Comments of the City Manager.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

The Star Trail Parking Lot will be closed beginning March 10, 2025. The Roanoke Parks Foundation is working on a project to build trails on Mill Mountain. While work is underway, the parking lot will be closed to the public. The closure is only expected to be a couple of months.

Parks staff have continued emergency response caused by the winter weather events and flooding on February 12–20, 2025. Over the past week, crews worked diligently to reopen Fishburn Parkway, which opened on February 26, as well as cleaning up and reopening sections of the Roanoke River Greenway. The Roanoke River Greenway between Wasena and Rivers Edge is back open. The City still has downed trees to address as well as flood damage and sand debris along the Roanoke River, Tinker Creek and Garden City greenways. Damage assessments are still taking place as walkways, fences and other infrastructure are cleaned and inspected. It is estimated that cleanup will continue well into the spring.

March is Women's History Month! We have several opportunities both inside and outside the organization, starting with She Leads Virtual Forum on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. This dynamic event is designed to empower and connect leaders and changemakers who are enthusiastic about driving innovation and making a meaningful impact in their organizations and communities. We have over 80 women in the City who have signed up to participate. The event will be held at 5 Points Sanctuary. Also, the Library Foundation and the Grandin Theater are offering four free films to residents that represent waves of feminism.

Angelia Vernon, Executive Performance Administrator, invited the public and business owners to attend the Mayor's Business Summit in partnership with the City's Economic Development Department, Small Business Center and Total Action for Progress (TAP), to be held on Monday, March 10, 2025, from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm, at the Dumas Center. It is an opportunity to learn more about business licenses, taxes, marketing, funding resources, and a finale titled "Small and Mighty", a panel consisting of business owners in the community. Pre-registration is required at www.roanokeva.gov/mayorssummit.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]

2. City Attorney:

- a. Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing a Public-Private Partnership for the License of Portions of Office Space to Community Partners at the Community Empowerment Center at the Booker T. Washington Building.

Adopted Resolution No. 43156-030325. (7-0)

- b. Amending and reordaining Chapter 2, Administration, Article XIV Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees Generally of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, to add a new Division 3, Advisory Boards.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43157-030325. (7-0)

3. Director of Real Estate Valuation: None.

8. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- 1. A report of the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of funds for various educational programs; and a report of the City Manager recommending that City Council concur in the request. Donna Caldwell, Director of Accounting,

Spokesperson.

Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43158-030325. (7-0)

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: None.

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.**

Appointed Sheriff Antonio Hash as a member of the Court Community Corrections Program Regional Community Criminal Justice Board for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028.

Reappointed Deputy Chief Puckett as a member of the Court Community Corrections Program Regional Community Criminal Justice Board for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028.

Appointed Briana Apgar as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board to replace Peter Wonson for a term of office ending December 31, 2027.

Appointed Juan Carlos Mejia as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Phazhon Nash ending December 31, 2025.

Appointed Sally Quinn as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Ilsa Saavedra-Rogan ending December 31, 2026.

Appointed Valerie Koeppel as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Shakira Williams ending March 31, 2026.

Reappointed Valmarie H. Turner as a member of the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission for a four-year term of office, commencing April 13, 2025, and ending April 12, 2029.

Reappointed Jennifer Oakes as a member of the Local Office of Aging Advisory Board for a one-year term of office, commencing March 1, 2025, and ending February 28, 2026.

Appointed Virginia Sweet as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board to replace Paula Prince for a term of office ending November 30, 2028.

Appointed David Calhoun as a member of the Human Services Advisory

Board to replace Bradley Stephens for a term of office ending November 30, 2028.

Reappointed Alexander Barge as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a three-year term of office, commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Appointed Francis Maguire as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Debbie Pitts ending March 31, 2026.

Reappointed John Clements as a member of the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission for a four-year term of office, commencing March 10, 2025, and ending March 9, 2029.

Appointed John Clements as a member of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of office of Lutheria Smith ending June 30, 2025.

Adjourned - 3:03 p.m.

[IGNORE_NUMBERING]