



City of Roanoke, Virginia
**ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD**

April 7, 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. Council meetings are offered with closed captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL.

- City Council - **All present.**
- Architectural Review Board - **Commissioners Allen and Kronau were absent.**

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY THE CITY COUNCIL/ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD.

RECESS/ADJOURN. 9:50 AM

AT 10:00 AM, THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL RECONVENE TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR ACTION:

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)

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 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

Southeast area of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

(7-0)

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 a regional park in which the City is a partner, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting on a personnel matter requiring the discussion and consideration of current employees salaries and evaluation of the performance of the specific employees, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting 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.

(7-0)

Items Listed on the 2:00 pm City Council Docket Requiring Discussion/Clarification and Additions/Deletions to the 2:00 pm Agenda. (5 Minutes)

Topics For Discussion by the Mayor and Members of City Council. (5 Minutes)

Briefings:

- City Code Amendment regarding Chapter 2, Administration, Article XIII, Gifts, Grants, Devises and Bequests to City, Section 2-263, Acceptance or rejection, generally. (10 Minutes)
- Proposed City Code Amendments to Codify Real and Personal Property Tax Exemptions by Nonprofit Organizations. (10 Minutes)
- FY26 Proposed Budget Questions and Answers Summary. (15 Minutes)

AT 10:14 AM, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENED AT 11:00 AM, FOR SCHOOL BOARD INTERVIEWS.

City Council conducted the following interviews to appoint two Trustees to the Roanoke City School Board for three-year terms of office commencing July 1, 2025.

Mary "Franny" Apel – 11:00 am

Adam C. Markwood – 11:30 am

Joyce W. Watkins – 12:00 pm

AT 12:21 PM, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENED AT 2:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 450, NOEL C. TAYLOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING.



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 The Reverend Elizabeth N.H. Link, Executive Pastor, Second Presbyterian 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. (7-0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Shout-outs from City Council:

Council Member Powers commended the Department of Fire-EMS that battled the three-alarm fire in Roanoke and thanked them for their service.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" the citizens who protested the changes in the federal government over the weekend.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the Department of Fire-EMS that battled the three-alarm fire in Roanoke and thanked the citizens for their protest.

Vice-Mayor McGuire attended the Local Office on Aging Annual Luncheon and signed up to volunteer for the Meals on Wheels Program, and thanked the Unitarian Universalist Church for inviting him to speak on Earth Month.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the Department of Fire-EMS that battled the three-alarm fire in southeast Roanoke and thanked the Police Department for how they handled the citizen protest.

Council Member Hagen "shouted-out" the Department of Fire-EMS that battled the three-alarm fire in southeast Roanoke and to WaWa as he attended their community announcement to learn about plans for the region.

Mayor Cobb highlighted the launch of the City's ninth cohort of the Teen Apprentice Program through the Department of Human Resources to learn skills and, once graduated, become interns for City departments. He also thanked Jeffrey Powell, Jennifer White, John Sanders and all program participants.

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Proclamation declaring April 13 - April 19, 2025, as National Public Safety Telecommunicator Week.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the Proclamation to Sonya Roman, E-911 Manager.

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.

James Bullington appeared before the Council and asked that the Council reconsider increasing the meals tax.

Freeda Cathcart appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to protecting the public's rights; advised she was the President of the General Federation Star Women's Clubs (GFHW) and expressed upset with regard to the Antwon Brown situation and viewing the video footage.

Nathaniel Sloan appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the potential meals tax increase.

Brian McConnell appeared before the Council and announced the formation of a five-to-eight-participant group interfacing with MIT's You School now through the end of June and potentially to establish a core group. He added that it was at no cost to the City and invited citizens to reach out to him through Facebook or LinkedIn platforms.

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 the City Council held on Monday, March 3, 2025.

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

C-2. Request to schedule and advertise a public hearing for June 16, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider bids to award a naming, advertising, and sponsorship agreement for Berglund Center.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

C-3. Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

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;

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, 2025;

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

Briana Apgar as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board to replace Peter Wonson for a term of office ending December 31, 2028;

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

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;

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;

Tony Williams as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a three-year term of office, commencing October 1, 2023 and ending September 30, 2026;

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

Mark Kary as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a three-year term of office commencing October 1, 2024 and ending September 30, 2027;

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

Sally McQuinn 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; and

Christopher T. Link as a Trustee of the Roanoke City School Board, to fill the unexpired term of office of Natasha N. Saunders-Cotton ending June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY25 Byrne/JAG Grant for the Roanoke Sheriff's Office.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43167-040725. (7-0)
2. Presentation of the Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association "State of the Road" report. Valerie Brown, Executive Director, Spokesperson.
(Sponsored by the City Manager)
Received and filed.
3. Roanoke Valley Resource Authority to present its proposed 2025 - 2026 Annual Budget. Jon Lanford, Chief Executive Officer, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)
Adopted Resolution No. 43168-040725. (7-0)
4. Roanoke Regional Airport Commission to present its proposed 2025 - 2026 Operating Budget and Proposed Capital Expenditures. Mike Stewart, Executive Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)
Adopted Resolution No. 43169-040725. (7-0)

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFING:

February 2025 Budget and Actual Monthly Report - 15 minutes.

Received and filed.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Approval of a historical marker to recognize the contributions of Dr. Elbyrne Grady Gill.
Adopted Resolution No. 43170-040725. (7-0)
- b. Acceptance and appropriation of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG) funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43171-040725. (7-0)
- c. Adoption of Tax Year 2025 Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) Percentage.
Adopted Resolution No. 43172-040725. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

Parks and the Department of Social Services are participating in the Pinwheels for Prevention Campaign. There are several hundred blue pinwheels in Freedom Plaza along 2nd Street as part of the campaign. This initiative highlights the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. On a similar subject, I would like to highlight the adoption staff at the Department of Social Services. In March, they were able to successfully finalize 16 adoptions. Not only was this a record for the City, but this is the highest for one month anywhere in the state.

The Williamson Road Branch will collaborate with BankOn Roanoke Valley to host Roanoke Valley Saves Night on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. This event will serve as a key highlight of Roanoke Valley Saves Week, featuring a financial education program, dinner, gift card drawings, and representatives from BankOn member institutions available to discuss the financial products they offer. Plans are underway to introduce additional activities this Fall for Breckenridge students, aimed at supplementing existing financial education programs at local schools.

On March 21, 2025, employees completed an eight-week introductory Spanish course, which covered basic conversation skills, cultural knowledge, and job-specific vocabulary. With more than one in ten neighbors in Roanoke speaking Spanish, the course has been an important step in building connections with the community through language. There will be additional opportunities for employees in the future.

The Chance Crawford Softball Tournament is scheduled for April 11–13. This regional tournament will feature games played throughout the Valley, including at Wasena, Huff Lane, Norwich, and Fallon Softball Fields in the City. A total of 202 teams from 9 different states have been registered to participate this year. After communication and community engagement with the neighborhood, including signage, the lights for the fields have been extended past the 10:00 pm timeframe to support the tournament and its cause.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: None.

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. Repeal and Replace Ordinance No. 43155-030325, adopted March 3, 2025, to correct a scrivener's error in the budget revenue account number and adopting an Ordinance correcting the error, in connection with the acceptance of the 2025 Combatting Hate Crimes Grant Program.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43173-040725. (7-0)

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.

Reappointed Shenita Boukari as a member of the Fair Housing Board for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Reappointed Amazetta Anderson as a member of the Fair Housing Board for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Reappointed Garrett Brumfield as a member of the Fair Housing Board for

a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Reappointed Manuel Dotson as a member of the Fair Housing Board for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Reappointed Robert Lamour as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Reappointed Joshua Johnson as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Reappointed Catherine Koebel as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2028.

Reappointed Mark Jamison 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.

Reappointed Sherman Lea, Jr., as a member of the Roanoke Cultural Endowment, Board of directors for a three-year term of office commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027.

Appointed Nadirah Wright as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a term of office ending September 30, 2026.

Appointed David Parr as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a term of office ending September 30, 2027.

Appointed James Smith, Sr., for a one-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

Reappointed Dr. John Clements for a one-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

Appointed Angelica Wagner as a member of the Building of Fire Code Board of Appeals for a term of office ending June 30, 2026.

Appointed Jessica Prince as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board for a term of office ending November 30, 2026.

Appointed Isobel O'Hare for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2028.

12. ADJOURN. 3:36 PM

