



City of Roanoke, Virginia
ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
ROANOKE REDEVELOPMENT
AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

May 5, 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 RVT 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](https://www.facebook.com/RoanokeVa). Council meetings are offered with closed captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. Council Member Sanchez-Jones was absent.

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.

(6-0)

A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the two upcoming vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board expiring June 30, 2025, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

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 the community, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

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 outside legal counsel, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

JOINT MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND ROANOKE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL.

- City Council - **Council Member Sanchez-Jones was absent.**
- Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority - **All present.**

COMMENTS BY THE CITY COUNCIL/ROANOKE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.

AT 9:48 AM, CITY COUNCIL RECESSED FOR CLOSED MEETING/ROANOKE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY ADJOURNED.

AT 11:11 AM, THE COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

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

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

Briefings:

FY 2025 - 2026 Budget Study - 30 minutes

City Code Amendments to Classify Blighted and Derelict Property as a Separate Classification of Property for Local Taxation - 20 minutes

AT 12:13 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. Council Member Sanchez-Jones was absent.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Carter Mundy, Pastor, Redemption 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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Shout-outs from City Council:

Council Member Powers recognized non-profit organizations and referred to a fundraising event over the weekend for Renovation Alliance.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport for securing a second flight to Chicago via American Airlines to begin in August.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the Department of Social Services who hosted a foster family banquet to honor individuals who participate in the foster care program.

Vice-Mayor McGuire thanked the Southeast Neighborhood Forum who sponsored a cleanup at the Gish House and everyone who pulled together the Pride in the Park event.

Council Member Hagen expressed appreciation to the Department of Fire-EMS for addressing a gas leak in his apartment building and the amazing response time of two to three minutes.

Mayor Cobb commended the City Departments and in particular the Department of Human Resources on the Teen Apprentice Program to learn skills and, once graduated, become interns for City departments. He thanked Jeffrey Powell, Jennifer White, John Sanders, Nariq Bailey and all program participants.

Proclamation declaring May 2025 as Building Safety Month.

Vice-Mayor McGuire read and presented the proclamation to Jillian Papa, Director, Planning, Building and Development.

Proclamation declaring May 2025 as Preservation Month.

Council Member Hagen read and presented the proclamation to Jillian Papa, Director, Planning, Building and Development; Katharine Gray, Principal Planner, and Colette Baumgarnder, City Planner III.

Proclamation declaring May 4 - 10, 2025 as Resilience Week.

Council Member Nash read and presented the proclamation to Sarah Kate Brownmiller, Prevention and Wellness Specialist, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare.

Proclamation declaring May 4–10, 2025 as National Small Business Week.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Amanda Forrester, Executive Director, Small Business Center, and Angelia Vernon, Executive Performance Administrator.

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.

David Garland appeared before the Council and shared concerns about the real estate tax rate at \$1.22, contrary to a state law rate reduction to keep tax revenue in parity with the prior year.

Guy Byrd, Jr., appeared before the Council and requested reconsideration of a grant request that was declined.

Bill Bestpitch appeared before the Council appeared before the Council in support of funding for the school division and advised that the same formula be kept.

James Bullington appeared before the Council in opposition of an increase in the meals tax.

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 meeting of the City Council held on Monday, April 7, 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 Monday, May 19, 2025 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider the conveyance of Permanent and Temporary Easements to the Western Virginia Water Authority across City-Owned Property Bearing Roanoke Official Tax Map No. 2031801.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-3.** Request to Schedule and Advertise for a public hearing to be held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., on Proposed City Code Amendments to Classify Blighted and Derelict Property as a Separate Classification of Property for Local Taxation.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Andrew Raduly as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals, effective April 25, 2025.

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

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

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

Isobel O'Hare as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board to replace Jane Field for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

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; and

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Transmittal of the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026 Budget. Scott Ramsburg, Cable Access Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)
Adopted Resolution No. 43181-050525. (6-0)
2. Refund of Erroneously Assessed Taxes Previously Paid by Fleetmaster Express, Inc.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43182-050525. (6-0)
3. Refund of Erroneously Assessed Taxes Previously Paid by Agastya Khayal LLC.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43183-050525. (6-0)

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFING:

March 2025 Budget and Actual Revenue and Expenditure Report - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Acceptance and Appropriation of \$70,000 Grant Funds from the National Main Street Center for Unlocking Capital on Main Street Program.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43184-050525. (6-0)
- b. Acceptance of Additional Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Funds, Authorization to Execute VDOT Documents, and Appropriation of Funds for the Greenway Connection along Riverland Road Project.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43185-050525. (6-0)
- c. Aviation Drive/Valley View Pedestrian Improvements – Subsurface Utility Exploration Amendment.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43186-050525. (6-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

In response to persistent damage caused by truck traffic at the eastbound and westbound off-ramps of I-581 along Orange Avenue, the Transportation Division implemented infrastructure improvements to enhance pedestrian safety and mobility. The damage, resulting from trucks with 53-foot trailers frequently riding over the curb and sidewalk due to the cloverleaf interchange geometry and exit speeds, prompted the installation of a 7-inch-thick reinforced concrete apron between the new mountable curb and the sidewalk. The upgrades included over 300 linear feet of new curb and gutter and more than 700 square feet of new sidewalk, all completed during nighttime hours to minimize traffic disruption.

Virginia Infrastructure has commenced construction of a new exterior concrete ramp at the Municipal South Building to provide ADA-compliant access to the Treasurer, Real Estate Valuation, and Commissioner of the Revenue offices via the Church Avenue entrance. Scheduled for completion within 90 days, the project is a significant step in improving accessibility to municipal services for individuals with mobility challenges. As part of a broader initiative to enhance public infrastructure, additional improvements planned for this summer include updated pavement markings along Church Avenue to establish an ADA-accessible parking space near the new ramp.

A total of 266 tires were removed through the hard work, coordination, and dedication of the Planning, Building, and Development Team. This effort marks a significant step forward in improving the safety and cleanliness of the city. The success of this major cleanup initiative highlights the commitment and collaboration of all involved. The efforts demonstrated the shared dedication to maintaining safe, clean, and vibrant communities.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

- a. Amendment of the City Code Article I, In General, Chapter 32, Taxation, Code of the City of Roanoke Creating New Section 32-8.6, Providing for Tax Exemption of Real and Personal Property Owned by Nonprofit Organizations.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43187-050525. (6-0)

- b. Amendment of the City Code regarding Chapter 2, Administration, Article XIII, Gifts, Grants, Devises and Bequests to the City, Section 2-263, Acceptance or rejection generally.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43188-050525. (6-0)

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. 43189-050525. (6-0)

2. **Adopted Resolution No. 43190-050525 appointing Mary "Franny" Apel and Joyce W. Watkins as Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board for terms commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028. (6-0)**
3. **City Council authorized the scheduling and advertising of a public hearing for Monday, May 19, at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to amend the City's FY 2024 - 2025 budget to appropriate \$17, 874, 219 to Roanoke City Public Schools for educational purposes in order to fund certain budget shortfalls in Fiscal Year 2025.**

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.**

Reappointed Yvonne Johnson as a member of the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

Reappointed Robert Pilkington as a member of the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

Appointed Richard Kegley as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board to replace Mary Kegley for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

Appointed Amy Thompson as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to replace Jared Rigby for a term of office ending March 31, 2028.

Reappointed Allison Oakey as a member of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors for a one-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

Reappointed Jennifer Eddy as a member of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors for a one-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

Reappointed Michael Loveman as a member of the Western Virginia Water Authority for a four-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2029.

12. **ADJOURNED - 3:31 PM**