



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

May 19, 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:

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.

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:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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 Powers "shouted-out" the Local Colors Festival and Fire-EMS staff that helped with training hosted by the Treasurer's Association of America, at the Fire-EMS training center.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" the Local Colors Festival, especially Lisa Spencer and all staff and volunteers; and to the Roanoke Diversity Center's annual event over the past weekend.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the Gainsboro Block Party and all

the staff for their work on an awesome event.

Vice-Mayor McGuire thanked staff for the Local Colors Festival and Parks and Recreation staff for the Compost Festival in Wasena Park.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the Local Colors Festival and Gainsboro Block Party staff and Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, for leading the City as a welcoming city.

Council Member Hagen "shouted-out" the Local Colors Festival, Gainsboro Block Party and Compost Festival all held over the past weekend.

Mayor Cobb echoed the sentiments of the Council members and recognized the Gun Violence Prevention Commission's Planting Peace Ceremony on Saturday, May 17, in which two trees were commemorated in honor of two cold case victims.

Proclamation declaring the week of May 18–24, 2025, as National Public Works Week.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Ross Cambell, Director of Public Works and staff.

Mayor Cobb read a proclamation and declared May 2025 as Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Month.

Recognition of the Department of Fire-EMS.

Richmond Vincent, Executive Director, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Inc., expressed appreciation to Fire-EMS staff from Station 14 for life-saving services rendered to him; and Chief Hoback recognized the Fire-EMS staff from Station 14.

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.

Susan Evans-Brown appeared before the Council to share with the Council members the significance of preserving the City's history.

Laura Hartman, representing BRAGG, appeared before the Council to invite them to vote for their favorite bus stop and introduced bus drivers Charles and Arnetta Saunders, who recently retired from Valley Metro with 50 and 41 years of service, respectively.

Freeda Cathcart appeared before the Council with regard to the struggle against racism and the five-year anniversary of Roanoke's George Floyd protest.

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, April 21, 2025.

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

C-2. 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.

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

C-4. Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

James Smith, Jr., as a member of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors to replace Malcolm Quigley for a one-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026;

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; and

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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

**1. Presentation by Chris Sanchez, Executive Director, Christiansburg Institute, Inc., with regard to the BIPOC Grant and the Washington Park Caretaker's Cottage.
Received and filed.**

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

**1. City Manager:
BRIEFINGS:**

Envision Williamson Road - 20 minutes

Received and filed.

Parks and Recreation update to the Master Plan - 20 minutes

Received and filed.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Burn Building Grant.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43199-051925. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

On May 9, 2025, the Roanoke Police Department recognized and congratulated the 13 graduates of the 2025 Advanced Citizens Police Academy. Over the course of 11 weeks, participants engaged in an in-depth educational experience covering key public safety functions, including the Community Response Bureau, Fugitive Taskforce, and emergency vehicle operations. The program also included guided tours of the Roanoke Police Department, the jail, and the dispatch center, offering firsthand insight into law enforcement operations in the City of Roanoke.

We are very excited about the upcoming summer season, as Fallon Park Pool has been filled and is currently being balanced in preparation for inspection. Washington Park Pool is on track for its ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 6, with the opening day scheduled for June 7.

In recent weeks, Parks staff have worked closely with Doug Jackson, the Arts and Culture Coordinator for the City of Roanoke, to update the art installations along the Elmwood Park Art Walk. The theme for the 2025 art submissions, "Larger than Life," celebrates the 15th anniversary of Ann Glover's iconic Trojan Dog sculpture, located in Grandin Village near Fire Station 7. To date, four new pieces have been installed, with additional installations planned in the coming weeks, further enhancing the park's artistic landscape. If you haven't had a chance to see the new art I encourage everyone to visit the areas.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, reported on the following matters from the April 7 and May 5 City Council Meetings:

April 7 State of the Road

Valerie Brown, Executive Director of the Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association, presented the State of the Road at the April 7 meeting. Councilwoman Sanchez-Jones requested a list of the current members of WRABA.

Human Services Advisory Board

At the May 5 meeting, Mr. Byrd, Director of Philanthropy for the Adult Care Center in Salem, requested a reversal of the decision of the Human Services Advisory Board regarding a grant application.

Report Back:

Jennifer Sorrels, secretary of the Human Services Advisory Board, sent this response: "Mr. Byrd attended an appeal with the board on Friday, May 2, 2025. Although he did not submit his budget, which did not disqualify him, his score was very low. Following the appeal, the board did not reach a consensus regarding funding."

2. City Attorney: None.
3. Director of Real Estate Valuation: None.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

1. Comments on certain Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions in which City Council serve as liaisons or appointees. **None.**

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Ordinance No. 43198, on second reading, adopting a Pay Plan for officers, employees, Council-Appointed Officers and Constitutional Officers of the City; and authorization for certain salary adjustments and merit increases and monthly stipends for certain board and commission members, effective July 1, 2025.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43198-051925, on second reading. (7-0)

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.

Mayor Cobb presented a City Council Initiative Form to the City Manager to explore logistics.

Mayor Cobb advised he received a request for water to be turned on at the Thrasher Dog Park.

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

12. RECESSED - 5:10 pm.

The City Council Meeting will stand in recess; and thereafter reconvene at 7:00 pm, in the City 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 AME Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Boy Scout Troop 17, sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church.

Welcome.

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: None.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of William H. Chapman, Jr., representing Sunlight Bakery Building, LLC, to repeal all conditions proffered as part of a previous rezoning at 501 Salem Avenue SW, bearing Official Tax Map No. 1111315. The conditions proposed for repeal, adopted through the enactment of Ordinance No. 37957-111907, dated November 19, 2007, regulate the number of residential units, location of fencing, and retention of buildings on the property. William H. Chapman, Jr., Agent, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43200-051925. (7-0)
2. Public Hearing on the 2025-2029 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Consolidated Plan and the 2025 Annual Action Plan.
No action taken.
3. Execution of an easement to the Western Virginia Water Authority for water and sewer distribution lines across Official Tax Map No. 2031801, belonging to the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43201-051925. (7-0)
4. Amend Article II, Real Estate Taxes Generally, Chapter 32, Taxation, Code of the City of Roanoke to Allow by Classification and Assessment of Blighted and Derelict Property at a Higher Tax Rate.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43202-051925. (7-0)
5. Amendment to the Roanoke City Public Schools (RCPS) FY 2024-2025 Budget.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43203-051925. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones recused herself from the vote.)

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 City Council.

Bernadette Lark, appeared before the Council and advised that the City Manager and Chief of Police failed to contact her with regard to police brutality which involved her son.

Jimmy Cook appeared before the Council with regard to the increase in rent at Hurt Park Townhomes.

Brenda Randolph appeared before the Council with regard to the increase in rent at Hurt Park Townhomes.

ADJOURNED - 7:54 pm.

