



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

June 16, 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. Council Members Powers and Sanchez-Jones were absent.

The Invocation was delivered by Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor 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 Volosin "shouted-out" the City Council for declaring June 2025 as Pride Month and acknowledging the LGBT community and diversity in the City of Roanoke. He thanked citizens for attending the Juneteenth events this past weekend.

Council Member Nash thanked all citizens who attended the Juneteenth event at McCadden Park, providing a perspective of the massive size of McCadden Park and expressed excitement about the future of the park and support of Juneteenth events in the City.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted-out" all election workers, announced the Democratic Primary on June 17, encouraged everyone to get out and vote, and acknowledged Parks and Recreation and Police Department staff who rectified the situation at Washington Park.

Council Member Hagen echoed the sentiments of the previous Council Members and "shouted-out" the three graduations recently held for William Fleming and Patrick Henry High Schools and the Roanoke Higher Education Center.

Mayor Cobb "shouted-out" Virginia Western Community College and the 24 years of service of President Dr. Robert Sandel who will retire as of June 30, a celebration was held on Saturday, June 14 and an announcement made that the roundabout in the enter of the campus will be dedicated with his name.

Proclamation declaring Thursday, June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth.

Council Member Nash read and presented the proclamation to the Reverend Dr. David Jones, Pastor, Williams Memorial Baptist Church.

Proclamation declaring Friday, June 20, 2025, as World Refugee Day.

Council Member Volosin read and presented the proclamation to Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager and acknowledged Bethany Lackey, Roanoke Refugee Partnership, Marnie Mills, Director of Mission Advancement, Samjana Dahal, Resettlement Program Supervisor and Khalefia Dungee, Resettlement Program Supervisor, Commonwealth Catholic Charities.

Proclamation declaring the week of June 16–22, 2025 as Pollinator Week.

Vice-Mayor McGuire read and presented the proclamation to Leigh Anne Weitzenfeld, Sustainability Coordinator, and acknowledged Katherine Knopf, Roanoke Valley Garden Club; Vickie Bibee (not in attendance), Mill Mountain Garden Club; Courtney Carter Plaster, Clean Valley Council; and Kandyce Sherman (not in attendance), President of Roanoke Valley Beekeepers Association.

Proclamation declaring the week of June 16–24, 2025 as Waste and Recycling Workers Week.

Council Member Hagen read and presented the proclamation to Jeffrey Powell, Director, General Services, and Brian Haynesworth, Manager, Solid Waste Management and acknowledged Solid Waste Management staff in attendance.

Mayor Cobb recognized the Department of Real Estate Valuation who recently earned the CEAA - Certificate of Excellence in Assessment Administration from the International Association of Assessing Officers. He added that there are only a handful of jurisdictions in Virginia who have earned this distinction.

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.

Randy Pohlman appeared before the Council and spoke regarding the recently adopted budget and increase to the prepared food and beverage tax.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED, AS AMENDED. (5-0)

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, May 19, 2025 and on Monday, June 2, 2025.

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

- C-2.** 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 in an adjacent locality, the location of which will have an impact on the residents of the City, 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 the City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding a workers' compensation litigation settlement, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** Establishing Required Public Comment Period and Public Hearing on the HUD 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-5.** Establishing Required Public Comment Period and Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the HUD Citizen Participation Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

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

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;

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 20, 2028; and

Sherman P. 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-7. A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding a contract involving the City's Legislative Committee, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.**

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Concurred in the request.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. Acceptance and Appropriation of Funding for a Drug Prosecutor.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43210-061625. (5-0)**

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

- 1. City Manager:**

Briefings: None.

Items Recommended for Action:

- a. Acquisition of temporary construction easements for the Williamson Road/Hawthorne Road Project.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43211-061625. (5-0)**
- b. Acceptance of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Local Revenue Sharing Funding for multiple Drainage Improvement Projects.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43212-061625. (5-0)**
- c. Authorization to Acquire Temporary Construction Easements for the Kirk Avenue Drainage Improvement Project.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43213-061625. (5-0)**
- d. Appropriation of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Capital Improvement Plan debt-funded projects.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43214-061625. (5-0)**

Comments of the City Manager.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

In response to recent DUI-related fatalities within the City of Roanoke, the Office of Communications, the Roanoke Police Department, and the Community Engagement Teams have initiated a coordinated effort to develop a targeted DUI prevention campaign. Planning is currently underway, with initial brainstorming sessions in progress. ISTAR has been assigned to compile and analyze DUI arrest data to inform the development of strategic messaging tailored to key demographics. This data-driven approach will support effective outreach and public safety efforts. As more information becomes available, additional updates will follow.

Last week, the Western Virginia Water Authority responded to a significant water main break on Melrose Avenue NW near 31st Street. Following the

completion of repairs and initial cleanup by WVWA crews, a Stormwater street sweeping crew conducted follow-up work earlier this week to remove remaining sediment and debris before it could enter the storm drain system. Nearly one ton of debris was collected from the roadway shoulder and median. This proactive response helped prevent pollution from reaching Horton's Branch and underscores the vital role of street sweepers in protecting local water quality and maintaining clean, safe streets in the aftermath of crashes, spills, and infrastructure failures.

In recent weeks, a team of 38 members from Fire-EMS and community partners visited over 300 homes in Garden City, installing approximately 80 smoke alarms to enhance family safety. Representatives from the American Red Cross, Virginia Department of Health, Recruit Class 25-1, the Fire Marshal's Office, and the Community Risk Reduction Team conducted door-to-door visits, providing free smoke alarm installations, testing existing alarms, and sharing fire safety information with residents.

I am excited to share that Angie O'Brien, Deputy City Manager, will be representing the City at the upcoming State of GovTech 2025 conference, held June 17-18 at Amazon's HQ2 in Arlington, VA. This national event brings together top innovators, public sector leaders, and technologists to explore how technology can transform local governance, especially for smaller - to medium-sized underrepresented communities like ours.

Angie will be presenting alongside Parth Shah, CEO and Co-Founder of Polimorphic, and Instashan Chowdhury, Business Administrator of Englewood Cliffs, NJ. Their keynote session, titled "AI That Serves Everyone: Tackling Real-World Problems with Inclusive Innovation," will highlight how resource-constrained local governments can harness AI to improve service delivery, advance equity, and stay resilient amid cybersecurity threats and reduced federal support.

Then, on Friday, June 20, 2025, I will be representing the City at the Virginia Local Government Management Association Conference. Further, I will be speaking at the conference as a Pioneering Leader, joining William Johnson, City of Emporia, Joseph Quesenberry, Town of Warsaw, and Charles Hartgrove, Managing Director of the Virginia Institute of Government. This will be an inspiring session, as we are identified as trailblazing leaders who have made history in our communities. We will share our personal journeys, challenges, and triumphs as our "firsts" in our respective roles. Conference participants will hear our stories on resilience, innovation, and leadership. This will likely be a powerful and meaningful conclusion to the conference.

This is an exciting recognition for Roanoke and for positioning our City as a voice in shaping the future of government leadership nationwide.

Public Matters Follow-up

Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, reported on the following matters from the May 19 and June 2 City Council Meetings:

Traffic Calming

Following the Envision Williamson Road briefing, Ms. Sanchez-Jones asked about traffic calming measures in the neighborhoods surrounding Williamson Road.

Report Back:

In April, in response to community concerns about speeding near Sunrise and Roundhill Avenues on Oakland Boulevard NW, the Transportation Division implemented a traffic calming demonstration project. This initiative introduced horizontal deflection features, new crosswalks, and in-street “Stop for Pedestrians” signs to enhance pedestrian safety and reduce vehicle speeds. Since installation, the Transportation Division has closely monitored driver behavior. Speed radar panels show a 14 percent reduction in daily travel speed violations compared to previous conditions—an improvement directly linked to the new centerline deflection measures. Additionally, 85th percentile speeds have decreased by up to 2 MPH. Feedback from residents supports these findings. Many report that drivers are stopping more frequently for pedestrians and that overall vehicle speeds appear lower. These outcomes highlight the effectiveness of targeted traffic calming tools in improving safety and managing speed. Importantly, the success of this demonstration underscores how well designed traffic calming strategies can also serve as effective remedies for mitigating cut-through traffic concerns in nearby neighborhoods, such as those around Williamson Road.

Favorite Bus Stop

Dr. Hartman with Bus Riders of Roanoke Advocacy Group, encouraged residents to vote in the 2025 Favorite Bus Stop Contest.

Report Back:

The new pollinator-themed stop at Jamison East Bound at 14th Street is this year’s winner!

2. City Attorney:

- a. Amendment of Section 23.2-3, Procurement Authority, of Chapter 23.2, Procurement, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43215-061625. (5-0)

3. Director of Real Estate Valuation:

- a. Amendment of Division 5, Exemption of Certain Rehabilitated Real Property, Article II, Real Estate Taxes Generally, Chapter 32, Taxation, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43216-061625. (5-0)

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- 1. Comments on certain Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions in which City Council serve as liaisons or appointees.

Mayor Cobb advised that the Greater Roanoke Transit Company adopted the FY2026 Budget and made updates and appointments to the TPAC

Committee.

Council Member Volosin reported that the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission was in the middle of its strategic planning initiative and encouraged the Council to fill out surveys from the Commission as they would help determine how to improve the organization. He further advised that the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization approved a study for Elm Avenue, Franklin Road and Wonju Road, to determine the feasibility to create a full interchange at Franklin Road to ease traffic going into the Carilion Clinic.

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. None.**

12. RECESSED - 3:25 P.M.

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. Council Members Powers and Sanchez-Jones were absent.

The Invocation was delivered by Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America will be led by Mayor Cobb.

Welcome

Certification of Closed Meeting. **(5-0)**

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Mayor Cobb introduced Miss Virginia Carlehr "Carly" Swanson, a Charlottesville native who will be living in Roanoke for one year in honor of the 90th celebration of the Ms. Virginia Pageant. She performed the song "Get Here."

Recognition of Mason Scott, Local Artist.

Angelia Vernon, Executive Performance Administrator, introduced Mason Scott, a Roanoke native, who sketched portraits of the City Council members which were presented.

Presentation with regard to the National League of Cities Congressional Conference. **Anita Price, former City Council Member, along with Zariaya Bell and Lily Cuevas Quintana, Members, Youth Services Citizen Board, presented highlights of the National League of Cities Conference they attended in March, held in Tampa, Florida.**

15. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Revenue and Expenditure Budget Adjustments.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43217-061625. (5-0)

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 City Council.

Brandy Campbell appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to gun violence awareness and encouraged the City Council to keep trying and continue to make a difference and be a light in darkness.

ADJOURNED - 7:39 P.M.