



City of Roanoke, Virginia
CITY COUNCIL
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

July 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. All Present.

- City Council - **All present**
- Board of Zoning Appeals - **Board Member Miller was absent.**

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY CITY COUNCIL/BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.

RECESSED/ADJOURNED - 9:56 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 the Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. **(7-0)**

- Human Services Advisory Board
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals
- Gun Violence Prevention Commission
- Mill Mountain Advisory Board
- Youth Services Citizen Board

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. **(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 the Northeast 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 involving utility services provided to City residents and any impacts that may be caused by the location of a business or industry to the region, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended. **(7-0)**

Items listed on the 2:00 pm City Council docket requiring discussion/clarification and addition/deletions to the 2:00 pm agenda. **None.**

Topics for discussion by the Mayor and Members of City Council.

Mayor Cobb called attention to a walk-on item to be presented at the 2:00 pm meeting regarding the composition of the Board of Fire Code Appeals.

Briefings: None.

AT 10:14 am, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENE AT 2:00 pm, 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.

Moment of silence in memory of the late Senator Granger MacFarlane who passed away on June 23, 2025.

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

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

1. 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 Hagen "shouted-out" the Roanoke Public Library and the Cupcakes with Council event.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones also "shouted-out" the Roanoke Public Library and the Cupcakes with Council event and advised that it was nice to meet with the community and hear their concerns.

Vice-Mayor McGuire acknowledged all who helped the City of Roanoke have a nice Fourth of July holiday, "shouted-out" the Roanoke River Floatilla event and the 102nd Celebration of Washington Park event.

Council Member Nash recognized the Friends of Washington Park's 102nd Celebration of Washington Park, noted it was a nice event and advised that he threw the first pitch at the Salem Red Sox Heritage game sponsored by the Humble Hustle Company. He "shouted-out" Humble Hustle and all the "Not Your Average" events which help to keep Roanoke a viable, livable and enjoyable place.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" Virginia's 250th Celebration and the 20 minutes of fireworks that were added on to the City's existing event held on July 3.

Council Member Powers agreed with the sentiments of the Council Members and "shouted-out" all City departments and all their hard work in the previous fiscal year, especially as it was the beginning of a new fiscal year.

Mayor Cobb echoed the comments of the Council, recognizing that although it was mid-calendar year, the City had over 80 events, acknowledged the Miss Virginia Pageant had the largest attendance ever, the downtown car show, Star City Slide, and Great American Car Race around the same time, which required many street closures and coordination of many City departments.

Proclamation declaring July 2025 as Parks and Recreation Month.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Cindy McFall, Director, Parks and Recreation and staff in attendance.

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.

Freeda Cathcart appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to flood resiliency and expressed concern about a development across from

Washington Park on Orange Avenue, NW.

Victor Q. Banks, on behalf of the Melrose Athletic Club, Inc., appeared before the Council and asked for assistance in the coordination of a building project, construction of a 7,500 square foot building at 1627 Melrose Avenue, NW.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

- C-1.** Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on Monday, June 16, 2025.

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

- C-2.** Request for public hearing to be held on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., to provide comments to Council prior to Council taking action to authorize FY 2025-2026 debt issuance for Deferred Maintenance projects.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

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

Mary Apel and Joyce Watkins as Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board, for three-year terms of office, each, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

Clare Callaghan as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

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;

Amya Matthews as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission to replace Lauren Woodson for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

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

Nicole Dempah as a member of the City Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Kevin Berry ending December 31, 2026;

Husain Alam as a member of the Architectural Review Board for a four-year term of office, commencing October 2, 2024, and ending October 1, 2028;

Dominic Harden as a member of the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission to replace William Hackworth for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

Angelia Vernon as a member of the Defined Contribution Board for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June, 30, 2028;

Brian Haynesworth as a member of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

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; and

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Receive public comment and vote on proposed amendments to the City's HUD Citizen Participation Plan.

Adopted Resolution No. 43218-070725. (7-0)

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY26 School Resource Officer (SRO) Grant.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43219-070725. (7-0)

2. Presentation of the Project Lifesaver Program. Sergeant Timothy Young, Roanoke City Sheriff's Department. (Sponsored by Council Members Sanchez-Jones and Hagen) 20 minutes.

No action taken.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFING:

May, 2025 Monthly Financial Report - 10 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Acceptance and Appropriation of a Donation from the Moose Lodge of Vinton for the Rapid Engagement of Support in the Event of Trauma (RESET) Champions of Change Boxing Program.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43220-070725. (7-0)
- b. Recommendations of the Roanoke Arts Commission for Funding of Qualified Agencies for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43221-070725. (7-0)
- c. Recommendations of the Human Services Advisory Board for Funding to local Non-Profit Agencies for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43222-070725. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

My City Academy is a no-cost leadership program aimed at supporting Roanoke's refugee and immigrant communities in learning how local government works and how to get involved. Participants gain insight into city services and community resources designed to improve daily life and build stronger connections. My City Academy begins on July 15, 2025, offering monthly sessions in collaboration with Blue Ridge Literacy. These will alternate between Advanced and Post-Advanced classes. The program will include presentations from city departments and local organizations, plus field trips and hands-on activities. After that, monthly meetings explore important topics like food security, advocacy, leadership, mental health, adult education, and workforce support. While participants are encouraged to have solid English skills, the program also offers chances to discuss in native languages and access translated materials.

Construction began on Monday, June 30, 2025, on the highly anticipated Gainsboro Road Streetscape Project. This \$2.2 million investment will enhance the corridor between Salem Avenue and Orange Avenue with a range of safety and mobility improvements. Upgrades will include high-visibility crosswalks, pedestrian signals, curb extensions, ADA-compliant access, on-street parking, and a dedicated mobility track for cyclists and scooter users. A new pedestrian and bicycle detection system has already been installed at Orange Avenue to support safer crossings at this key intersection. Designed with input from local residents and businesses, the project aims to meet neighborhood needs while enhancing access to nearby destinations such as the Gainsboro YMCA, Washington Park Pool, and the Roanoke River Greenway. Work will proceed in phases, led by contractor EC Pace, with full completion expected by spring 2026. Gainsboro Road will remain open throughout the project, though occasional lane closures and traffic delays should be anticipated.

A new commemorative bench has been installed along the Roanoke River Greenway near Hamilton Terrace in honor of Guy Byrd, a longtime board member of Pathfinders for Greenways. The bench, donated by Pathfinders for Greenways, celebrates Byrd's 30 years of service. A small dedication ceremony is scheduled for Monday, July 28, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

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.

Council Member Volosin reported on the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Commission's completion of the electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation Strategy, a regional look at how localities should update their charging infrastructure and the installation of three pollinator art bus stops in the Belmont/Fallon target area. He reminded the Council that the Commission was still in the strategic planning process.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.**

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution approving a revised City Council Travel Policy, effective July 1, 2025.
Adopted Resolution No. 43223-070725. (7-0)
2. A resolution approving the City Council's Electronic Participation Policy.
Adopted Resolution No. 43224-070725. (7-0)
3. A resolution in support of funding for repairs and strategic implementation of the Blue Ridge Rising Program along the Blue Ridge Parkway.
Adopted Resolution No. 43225-070725. (7-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council.
 - Council Member Initiative - "YouTube" - Presented by Council Member Nash

Mayor Cobb announced that the previously scheduled walk-on item has been withdrawn and will be addressed at a later date.

3. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council.

Reappointed James Davis as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

Reappointed Lianiz Cuevas as a member of the Youth Services Citizen Board for a one-year term of office commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

ADJOURNED - 3:38 PM