



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

July 21, 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 Joseph Butler, Priest-in-Charge, St. James Episcopal Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

Welcome

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Cobb announced that the City, in partnership with Blue Ridge Independent Living Center (BRILC), was excited to celebrate the 35th ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Anniversary this morning at the Henrietta Lacks Plaza. A proclamation was issued commemorating landmark civil rights legislation that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including employment, education, transportation, and public accommodations, which was signed into law on July 26, 1990, by President George H.W. Bush, known as the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

He recognized the Blue Ridge Independent Living Center under the leadership of Karen Michalski-Karney, Executive Director, and expressed appreciation for the organization's work to assist individuals with disabilities to live independently and how they serve the community at large by helping to create an environment that is accessible to all. He

thanked Jessica Swanson on the Board of Directors for her heartfelt remarks and service to the board, Kid Again Ice Cream & Sweets and all city staff who made this event possible.

Mayor Cobb also announced that Roanoke City Council meeting live streams will be moving to the [City's YouTube channel](#) beginning in August 2025. The final meetings to be streamed to Facebook will be on July 21. Beginning August 4, YouTube will serve as the new home for livestreaming, ensuring continued accessibility and transparency for the public. City Council meetings will continue to air live on Roanoke Valley Television, Channel 3 on Cox, Channel 7 on Shentel, and RVTV.org. Recordings will re-air on public access channels on Thursdays at 7:00 PM and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM, and will be available for replay on [RVTV's YouTube channel](#).

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 Roanoke Public Library and the Cupcakes with Council event.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Roanoke Outside and USA Cycling and all that helped out with the 2025 USA Cycling Endurance Mountain Bike National Championship event held in Roanoke from July 14-20.

Council Member Nash echoed the comments of Council Member Volosin and commented on how he met some amazing cyclists from all across the country.

Vice-Mayor McGuire echoed the comments of the Council and expressed pride in the positive feedback received from the cyclists on the greenway and hikers on the beauty of the City of Roanoke. He "shouted-out" the staff of Solid Waste Management and their efforts to pick up refuse in a timely manner and added that he spoke to residents recently about properly disposing of their trash.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the staff of the Planning, Building and Development Permit Center for their hard work and dedication while being short-staffed.

Council Member Hagen echoed the comments of his colleagues and "shouted-out" the department of Solid Waste Management.

Mayor Cobb thanked the Council, recognizing that it was great to see the agility and flexibility of Elmwood Park used as a short track for cycling and thanked everyone who was a creative part of that event. He advised that the Gun Violence Prevention Commission plant trees in honor of cold-case gun

violence victims and over the weekend a tree was planted in Perry Park in memory of Jakolbi Taylor.

Recognition of Roger Davis as the National Automotive Fleet Association's (NAFA) Technician of the Year.

Wayne Farley, Fleet Manager, and Mayor Cobb recognized and presented a Roanoke Star to Mr. Davis.

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.

Jeanette Morris appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to an issue with code enforcement and residents leaving trash on properties and grass clippings on the sidewalk. She stressed the importance of more code enforcement officers.

Ken McLeod appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to PedalSafe Roanoke to promote mobility for cyclists and called attention to a "Week Without Driving" event in September.

Sharon Fritz appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to a "Week Without Driving" event and noted that eleven percent of households function without a vehicle.

Sylvia King appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the bus stop at the Valley View Walmart location and the "Week Without Driving" event.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

C-1. Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, July 7, 2025.

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

C-2. A communication from the City Attorney that City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding a certain legal matter regarding utility services provided to City residents and any impacts 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

C-3. A communication from City Attorney to request 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 Central part of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Jackie Clewis as a member of the City of Roanoke Pension Plan, Board of Trustees, effective July 1, 2025.

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

- C-5.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Amazetta Anderson as a member of the Fair Housing Board, Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates, and Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, effective immediately.

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

- C-6.** City Manager Transfers Quarterly Report for the quarter ended June 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

- C-7.** Annual report of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

- C-8.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Carla Terry 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;

Donna Davis as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

John Cornthwait, Jr., as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

Alicha Grubb as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a three-year term of office commencing October 1, 2022 and ending September 30, 2025;

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

Becky Carr as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

- 5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.**

- 6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Victim Witness Program Grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43226-072125. (7-0)
2. Acceptance and Appropriation of Total Action for Progress (TAP) Funds by the Sheriff's Office.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43227-072125. (6-0, Council Member Hagen abstained from the vote.)

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFINGS:

Update on Grant Ready Roanoke - 15 minutes

Update on Opioid Abatement Funds - 15 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Approval of the Five-year Budget for Opioid Settlement funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43228-072125. (7-0)
- b. Acceptance and Appropriation of 2026 Opioid Settlement Funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43229-072125. (7-0)
- c. Acceptance and Appropriation of FY26 Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43230-072125. (7-0)
- d. Appropriation of Department of Justice Federal Asset Sharing Program funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43231-072125. (7-0)
- e. Appropriation of State Asset Sharing Program funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43232-072125. (7-0)
- f. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY 2026 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43233-072125. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- g. Acceptance and Appropriation for 2026 Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF) Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43234-072125. (7-0)
- h. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY26 School Security Officer Continuation Grant (SSO).
Adopted Ordinance No. 43235-072125. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones abstained from the vote.)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

- a. The City Manager offered the following comments:

Our Emergency Management team recently took part in a regional training exercise organized by the Virginia Department of Health. The goal was to practice how we'd respond to a potential measles outbreak and to strengthen coordination between local agencies. These kinds of

exercises are essential, as they help us find and fix gaps in our plans, improve communication across teams, and make sure we're ready to act quickly to protect public health if an actual emergency occurs.

Last week, our Building Safety personnel participated in a specialized training session focused on fire alarm systems and the growing risks associated with lithium-ion batteries. Led by nationally recognized safety instructors, the session emphasized the importance of staying ahead of emerging hazards, especially as energy storage technologies like lithium-ion batteries become more common in homes and businesses. Trainings like this are key to ensuring our team remains prepared to identify risks, respond quickly, and help keep our community safe.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP. **None.**

2. CITY ATTORNEY: None.
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. 43236-072125. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones abstained from the vote.)
2. Comments on certain Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions in which City Council serve as liaisons or appointees.
Mayor Cobb reported that GRTC was excited for a potential resolution for a bus shelter at Valley View Walmart; in the coming years, farebox replacement will take place as they move forward to mobile ticketing. All bus signs are currently being replaced to reflect information on the VMGO app; ridership increased three percent this year and in the fall the city will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Valley Metro.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.**

10. **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. Amendment to Resolution No. 43119-010725 which established a meeting schedule for City Council commencing January 1, 2025, and terminating December 31, 2025, to reflect a meeting date change.
Adopted Resolution No. 43237-072125. (7-0)

11. **MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council.
Council Member Powers commented that she received emails regarding derelict wolf dogs in the Deyerle area of the City and wanted to take a proactive approach to address the issue.
2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council. **None.**

12. **RECESSED - 3:53 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 Vannie Harrell, Lead Pastor, Church Alive International.

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)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Recognition and Pedro Szalay.

Mayor Cobb presented a Key to the City to Mr. Szalay and recognized his partner, Mark Shepherd for his work in dance performance for over 20 years.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Receive comments from citizens on Fiscal Year 2025–2026 request for approval of a Line of Credit Bond Anticipation Note (LOCBAN) to fund the deferred maintenance scope of work approved as part of the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 annual budget adoption.

Adopted Resolution No. 43238-072125. (7-0)

2. Receive views of citizens on the HUD 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan and 2025 Annual Action Plan.

No action taken.

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.

Duane Howard appeared before the Council and spoke regarding the 35th anniversary of the ADA and commented that the City of Roanoke was grossly behind in addressing issues for persons with disabilities.

Victor Banks appeared before the Council and spoke regarding a proposed facility on Melrose Avenue for mentoring and tutoring.

Jamie Henderson appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the Champs Boxing Gym and asked for the City's support of the new facility.

Donte Dunnaville appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the Champs Boxing Gym and asked for the City's support of the new facility.

Jason Dunn appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the Champs Boxing Gym and asked for the City's support of the new facility. He invited the Council to a competition to be held at the Berglund Center on September 27, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm, in the Special Events Center.

Nyron Nichols appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the Champs Boxing Gym and noted that he was very impressed by the group, and they needed more equipment and a better facility.

ADJOURNED - 7:48 PM.