



City of Roanoke, Virginia
ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

August 4, 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
- Economic Development Authority - **Ollie Howie and Anita Reed were absent.**

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY THE CITY COUNCIL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

RECESSED/ADJOURNED - 9:40 am

AT 9:48 AM, THE COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED 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)

Fair Housing Board
Human Services Advisory
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates
Board of Zoning Appeals
Gun Violence Prevention Commission

Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals
Roanoke Arts Commission
Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority
Architectural Review Board
Roanoke Civic Center Commission
Roanoke Public Library Board
Towing Advisory Board

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 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 Sec. 2.2-3711 (A)(5), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing possible disposal of publicly owned property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), 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 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.

(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 contract obligations involving a City-owned facility in the Central part of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Sec. 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 Additions/Deletions to the 2:00 pm Agenda. **None.**

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

Briefings:

Proposed Code Amendment, Article VIII, Cigarette Tax, Chapter 32, Taxation - 10 minutes

Proposed City Code Amendment, Division IV, Hybrid Canines, Sections 6-55-57, Article II, Chapter 6, Animals and Fowl - 10 minutes

Hope and Home Homeless Taskforce - 15 minutes.

AT 10:31 AM, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR A 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. All Present.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Terry Kemp, Associate Pastor and Ministries Director, Fort Chiswell Church of God.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America will be 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 Nash "shouted-out" the National Night Out events and event planners and the Melrose Plaza grand opening. He encouraged everyone to visit the plaza.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" the Melrose Plaza and Richmond Vincent, Chief Executive Officer, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Inc.

Council Member Powers "shouted-out" the State of Virginia no tax weekend and the Walmart Pack the Bus school supply event.

Vice-Mayor McGuire acknowledged the Roanoke Arts Commission and the latest edition of the arts booklet.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones recognized the renovations in the Council Chamber, Dr. Lydia Patton's insight and the City Clerk's Office staff for clearing the room.

Council Member Hagen "shouted-out" Vice-Mayor McGuire's river and greenway cleanup over the past weekend.

Mayor Cobb "shouted-out" all the great work in the community and acknowledged J.D. Sutphin, owner, Six and Sky, who brought Roanoke Comic Con to the City of Roanoke. He pointed out that he met television legends Tony Danza, Morgan Fairchild and Tim Daly.

Recognition of the Roanoke Chapter NAACP Youth ACT-SO Program Participants.
Dr. Brenda Hale, President and Sheila Herron, Chair, Roanoke Chapter NAACP recognized the Youth ACT-SO program participants.

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.

Jan Keiser appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to hybrid canines and possible zoning amendments.

Anthony Stavola appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to possible zoning amendments and parking.

Lawrence Morgan appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to readdressing zoning changes.

Barbara Duerk appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to keys that unlock doors in the City and the citizens' choice art exhibit.

Freeda Cathcart appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the climate emergency and land destroyed for potential development.

Om Patel appeared before the Council and spoke regarding zoning amendments and referenced the Strong Towns Roanoke Group and invited the Council to their next meeting on August 14 at the Twisted Track.

Michael Gembola appeared before the Council and spoke regarding possible zoning amendments and urged the Council to keep what was in place.

Garrett Robinson appeared before the Council and spoke regarding possible zoning amendments and said he was in favor of current changes adopted last year.

Alison Blanton appeared before the Council on behalf of the Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation in support of Council Member Hagen's Initiative and expressed concern about proposed density and neighborhood assets.

Dianne Zeigler appeared before the Council and spoke regarding possible new development, and requested that neighbors be allowed to provide comment on changes to properties.

Duane Howard appeared before the Council and addressed the sound system in the Council Chamber as deplorable and noted that wolf dogs should not be allowed in the City of Roanoke.

Dr. Essie Manns appeared before the Council and expressed concern about damage to her property at 1826 10th Street due to a construction project by the Virginia Department of Transportation.

David Bowers appeared before the Council and spoke regarding Council member Hagen's initiative and campaign promise.

Adele Carliss appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to Council Member Hagen's initiative and expressed gratitude that he wanted to change the current zoning amendments.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

C-1. Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, July 21, 2025.

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

C-2. Request for a public hearing to be held on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or at such time as the matter may be heard, or at such other date and time as determined by the City Manager, to consider the lease of parcels for parking to the YMCA of the Roanoke Valley, Inc., located at 425 Church Avenue, S.W.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

C-3. A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of David Parr, Jr., as a member of Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates, effective immediately.

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER

1. City Manager:

Briefings:

June, 2025 Monthly Financial Report - 15 minutes.

Annual Arts and Culture Briefing and FY 2026 Public Art Workplan - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a.** Approval for Acquisition of Real Property Parcels Along Tinker Creek.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43239-080425. (7-0)
- b.** Acceptance and Appropriation of additional funds for the FY 2025 Greater Roanoke & NRV Small Business Development Center.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43240-080425. (7-0)
- c.** Acceptance and Appropriation of Grant Funds for City Market Awnings from Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43241-080425. (7-0)
- d.** Approval of the HUD 2025-2029 5-year Consolidated Plan and 2025-2026 Annual Plan.
Adopted Resolution No. 43242-080425. (7-0)

- e. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Roanoke FY26 Safer Communities Program Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43243-080425. (7-0)
- f. Approval of the recommended financial entity for Line of Credit debt facility for deferred maintenance capital projects.
Adopted Resolution No. 43244-080425. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

I want to take just a moment to offer a sincere thank you, and to shine a light on some outstanding work that's taken place quietly, but powerfully, behind the scenes over the past two weeks! If you've stepped into the Council Chambers today and thought, "This looks fantastic," you're not alone. What you're seeing is the result of an extraordinary team effort, and it deserves recognition. To our General Services team, especially Facilities & Custodial Services, you truly led the charge in transforming the City Council Chambers. You coordinated across departments, managed vendors and contractors, and kept an ambitious timeline on track. Fourteen days may sound short, but we know the planning and preparation behind this transformation began well before that. From finding a new home for the old seating, to carpet removal, flooring abatement, painting, installing new floors and seating, upgrading the audio system, and making sure everything was seamlessly connected to RVTv, it was a tremendous lift. And yet, everything came together, on time, and with care. So, if you played a role in this effort, whether you're part of Facilities & Custodial Services, another City division or department, or one of our contractor partners. On behalf of the Administration, thank you. Your professionalism, teamwork, and dedication to this space are clearly visible, and your service to the City of Roanoke is deeply appreciated.

- 2. CITY ATTORNEY: None.
- 3. DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE VALUATION: None.

8. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- 1. A report of the Economic Development Authority recommending the issuance of revenue bonds, not to exceed \$40 million, for Virginia Lutheran Homes, Inc., in connection with the expansion of Brandon Oaks located at 3804 Brandon Avenue, Michael W.S. Lockaby, Counsel to the Economic Development Authority.
Adopted Resolution No. 43245-080425. (7-0)
- 2. Comments on certain Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions in which City Council serve as liaisons or appointees. **None.**

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.

- Council Member Initiative - "Creation of Business Operating Fee for Vape-Only Retailers" - Presented by Council Member Nash
- Council Member Initiative - "Repeal and/or Amending of Ordinance Nos. 42902-031824 and 43049-091624" - Presented by Council Member Hagen

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

Appointed Rachel McKinley as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board to replace William Bestpitch for a four-year term of office, commencing December 1, 2025, and ending November 30, 2029.

Appointed Dawn Mullins as a member of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan to fill the unexpired term of office of Jackie Clewis ending June 30, 2026.

Appointed Wesley Cook as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board to replace Bradley Stephens for a term of office ending November 30, 2028.

Reappointed Sandra Vincent as a member of the Roanoke Civic Center Commission for a three-year term of office, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

Reappointed Rachel Hale as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a three-year term of office, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

Appointed Anthony Jennings as a member of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority for a four-year term office, commencing September 1, 2025, and ending August 31, 2029.

Reappointed Lee Graves, Jr., as a member of the Towing Advisory Board for a three-year term of office, commencing November 1, 2025, and ending October 31, 2028.

12. RECESSED FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING - 5:06 P.M.

13. RECONVENED - 6:18 P.M.

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

14. ADJOURNED - 6:21 P.M.