



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

August 18, 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 YouTube Live at youtube.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 Preston Tyler, Pastor, Hill Street Baptist Church.

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 annual Festival of India held on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at Elmwood Park. The event, organized by the India Heritage Society, featured a celebration of Indian culture through food, music, dance, and art. She thanked city staff for their assistance at the event.

Council Member Volosin thanked Coca-Cola Consolidated and Council Member Powers for her assistance packing book bags for needy children and expressed appreciation for other companies' participation.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the First Impressions Barbershop for offering free back-to-school haircuts on Sunday, August 17. He also thanked other community groups who provided school supplies for students.

Vice-Mayor McGuire gave a "shout-out" to all schools, including teachers and support staff, and wished everyone a good school year. He toured the Empowerment Center, which offered resources for those searching for information as schools reopen.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the schools and extended well-wishes for a successful school year and thanked the Roanoke City Schools for the best convocation of all time.

Council Member Hagen gave thanks and echoed others regarding the School Convocation, Festival of India, and all the happenings in the City.

Mayor Cobb acknowledged that the 20th year First Impressions Barber Shop and Stylist Salon next door has been offering haircuts to students as they begin the new school year; 150 students received haircuts. He gave a "shout-out" to George "Dink" Harrington, a teacher at the Charles W. Day Technical Center (DAYTEC). Four of his students provided haircuts at the event. This shows the value of learning skills and trade at an early age and being able to practice and make a difference in the community.

Recognition of the Roanoke City Police Department, 2025 National Lawfit Challenge. Chief Booth recognized five members of the Roanoke Police Department who competed in the 2025 National Law/Fit Challenge in South Haven, Mississippi, where elite officers from across the nation go head-to-head pushing their limits in strength, endurance, and tactical readiness: Investigator Anna Volk, Sergeant Kelsey Trivellin, Officer Shane Irwin, Detective Katrina Romano, and Officer Emily Black.

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.

Brett Lovell appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to fear of safety due to nuisance dogs, which has resulted in property damage and numerous vet bills.

Dr. Perneller Chubb-Wilson appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to an issue with a neighbor who stole a portion of her property, and asked City Council to investigate the issue and possible problems for other elderly residents.

Barbara Duerk appeared before the Council and spoke on behalf of Dr. Essie Jeanette Manns, regarding her property on 10th Street, N.W. She requested the following be addressed: the sewer connection, land leveling following construction more than a year ago, and redesign of the driveway.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

- C-1.** A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb requesting that the City Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the 2025 Citizen of the Year Award, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(10), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-2.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that the City Council convene 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-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 the City Attorney concerning contract obligations involving a City-owned facility in the Central part of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-5.** A communication from the City Attorney 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-6.** Request to schedule a public hearing on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard and to open a 15-day public comment period on the draft Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-7.** Annual report of the Economic Development Authority for the City of Roanoke for the year ending June 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

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

Jonathan Lloyd as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board

for a three-year term of office, commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2027;

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;

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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Goodwill Industries of the Roanoke Valleys, Inc., to present an overview of collective initiatives connected to the newly opened Melrose Plaza and its partners, Market on Melrose, Bank of Botetourt, the Excel Center, the Wellness Center, and the Harrison Museum of African American Culture. Richmond Vincent, President and Chief Executive Officer, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Mayor Cobb)
Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFING:

Real Time Crime Center - 15 minutes

Received and filed

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Acceptance and Appropriation of Increased Funds to the Greater Roanoke & NRV Small Business Development Center for America's SBDC and [Google.org](https://www.google.org) AI U Program.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43246-081825. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones not present when the vote was recorded)
- b. Acceptance and Appropriation of Commonwealth of Virginia Compensation Board bonus funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43247-081825. (7-0)
- c. Acceptance and Appropriation of a One-Time Bonus and Cost of Living Adjustment from the Virginia Department of Social Services.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43248-081825. (7-0)
- d. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43249-081825. (7-0)
- e. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Conference and Education Assistance Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43250-081825 (7-0)

- f. Execution of an easement to the Western Virginia Water Authority for the Water Vault on Official Tax Map No. 2231601, belonging to the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43251-081825. (7-0)
- g. Acceptance and Appropriation of a 2025 Virginia Brownfields Assistance Fund Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43252-081825. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

The regular pool season concluded yesterday, Sunday, August 17. While there were some initial bumps in the road early on, it turned out to be a great season overall. We're proud to have made a positive difference in the lives of our community members, providing a fun and safe space for families to gather and enjoy the summer. Beginning the week of August 18, Fallon and Washington Park Pools will now be closed Monday through Friday and open only on Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Both pools will fully close for the summer on September 1.

On August 12, Blue Ridge Sign completed the installation of the new sign commemorating Dr. Sandel Circle at the intersection of Colonial Avenue SW and McNeil Drive SW. The sign is double-sided to ensure visibility and readability from both directions along Colonial Avenue.

A partnership between Parks and the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) has been established to support a water line replacement project along North Avenue NE in northeast Roanoke. Eastgate Park will be utilized as a temporary construction laydown area during the project. Minimal disruption to park visitors is anticipated.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, reported on the following matters from the July 21 and August 4 City Council Meetings:

Zoning Amendments

A dozen residents shared feedback regarding the City's recent zoning text amendments in response to Council Member Hagen's Council Member Initiative. Comments ranged from support of the current language to requests to repeal the changes to recommendations for amending the zoning ordinances.

Report Back:

While there was no definitive resolution to this initiative, Council decided to conduct a workshop during the October 6th Council meeting; other members can send recommendations and observations to Council Members Hagen and Volosin. There were concerns shared that the most recent zoning amendments are in opposition to City Plan 2040. However, the Neighborhood Choice priority

under the theme of Interwoven Equity includes the following action items:

- Reconsider housing policies. . . such as exclusionary zoning districts that exclude all but single-family houses
- Review and reexamine how and where zoning codes permit group care facilities and group homes
- Promote complete neighborhoods, so all neighborhoods have a broad range of housing types

Champs Boxing

Victor Banks, President of Melrose Athletic Club, as well as trainers, boxers, and mentors from Champs Gym, shared about their new building and upcoming events.

Report Back:

The new Champ's Gym will be located at 1627 Melrose Avenue, NW. Before construction can begin of the new 7,500 square-foot facility, the current building must be demolished and the site prepared for construction. An online donation platform has been created to raise \$50,000 for the demolition phase.

Here is the link: <https://gofund.me/550196a6> Mr. Banks also shared about an upcoming event that will take place on September 27, 2025 at the Berglund Special Events Center. The Return of the MAC III is one of the largest amateur belt shows in boxing history. General admission tickets cost \$30 and ringside tickets cost \$50. Doors open at 1:00 pm and the show begins at 2:00 pm.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

BRIEFING:

Code Amendment - Public Safety and Unclaimed Property - 15 minutes

Received and filed.

- a. Amend and reordain Sections 32-188, Definitions, 32-189, General Powers of the Director of Finance, 32-191, Method of payment; appointment of agents to affix stamps, 32-192, Preparation and sale of stamps generally, 32-193, General duties of dealers, agents and sellers with respect to stamps, 32-195, Cancellation of stamps, 32-196, Redemption of stamps, refund for destroyed stamps, 32-197, Dealer's and seller's records generally, 32-198, Examination of books, records, 32-199, Seizure of unstamped cigarettes, 32-200, Administration of oaths, examination of witnesses, etc., for enforcement of article, 32-203, Same-Prohibited acts enumerated, Article VIII, Cigarette Tax, Chapter 32, Taxation, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979).
Adopted Ordinance No. 43253-081825. (7-0)
- b. Amend Section 7-7, Building and fire code board of appeals created; composition, Article II, Building Code, Chapter 7, Building Regulations, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979).
Adopted Ordinance No. 43254-081825. (7-0)
- c. Approval of Purdue Pharma and Sackler Family Opioid Litigation Settlement.
Adopted Resolution No. 43255-081825. (7-0)

- d. Acceptance of Smaller Opioid Settlement Claims against the Manufacturers.

Adopted Resolution No. 43256-081825. (7-0)

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: None.**

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

- 1. **Adopted Resolution No. 43257-081825, appointing the Hope and Home Task Force to develop comprehensive, actionable, and measurable recommendations to guide the City Council and City Administration in addressing homelessness. (7-0)**

11. **MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

- 1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council. **Council member Volosin inquired about the "Point in Time" homelessness presentation. The City Manager replied that the presentation was scheduled for the September 2, Council Meeting.**
- 2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council. **None.**

12. **RECESSED - 4:00 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 Catina Martin, Pastor, Belmont Christian Church.

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

Welcome

14. **PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: None.**

15. **PUBLIC HEARING:**

- 1. Receive the views of citizens on the consideration of the lease of Official Tax Nos. 1113408, 1113409, 1113410, 1113411, 1113412, 1113413, 1113512, 1113513, 1113514, 1113515, 1113516, 1113510, 111351, to the YMCA of the Roanoke Valley, Inc., located at 425 Church Avenue, S.W., for the use of patron

parking spaces with PARK Roanoke.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43258-081825. (7-0)

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.

Adam Holt appeared before the Council and shared his dismay at how the Planning and Zoning Department communicates and notifies citizens of the upcoming application for amendments.

E. Duane Howard appeared before the Council and shared the YouTube channel is not accessible and he can not open the site; narrowing of streets is not effective as it causes trouble for pedestrians and motorists; bulk pickup in Southeast is a problem and citizens are not placing items to the curb on designated day.

17. RECESSED FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING - 7:29 PM

18. RECONVENED - 7:43 PM

Certification of Closed Meeting (7-0)

ADJOURNED - 7:49 PM