



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

September 2, 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 YouTube Live at youtube.com/RoanokeVa. Council meetings are offered with closed captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL. Mayor Cobb was absent.

Welcome

ITEMS FOR ACTION:

A communication from Vice-Mayor Terry McGuire 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.

(6-0)

- City Planning Commission
- Fair Housing Board
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
- Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates
- Roanoke Arts Commission
- Towing Advisory Board

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.

(6-0)

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 Northwest area of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

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 code amendment, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

(6-0)

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 Vice-Mayor and Members of City Council. **None.**

BRIEFINGS: None.

AT 9:09 AM, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENED 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. Mayor Cobb was absent.

The Invocation was delivered by Elder Milton Hardy, Jr., Associate Pastor, Greater Prayer Temple.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Vice-Mayor Terry McGuire.

Welcome

Certification of Closed Meeting (6-0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Vice-Mayor McGuire 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 community theater and the opening night

for a play titled "Sylvia", and highly encouraged everyone to attend.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" Roanoke City Public Schools for the opening of the Community Empowerment Center and commented that it would be a great asset for the City.

Council Member Nash echoed the same sentiments, commented that it was a wonderful experience and mentioned that even before the ribbon cutting, the center helped over 300 families prepare students to go back to school.

Council Member Volosin acknowledged the Western Virginia Federation of Labor Unions for the Labor Day parade and former Council Member Trish White-Boyd, who hosted her annual fish fry event and advised that it was nice to see the community out in beautiful Villa Heights Park.

Council Member Powers "shouted-out" the Department of Sustainability and Parks and Recreation, who helped host the Southwest Virginia Bee Festival on August 23, to teach the importance of the bee population in the City of Roanoke.

Vice-Mayor McGuire thanked all first responders and Battalion Chief Trevor Shannon who responded to the extreme rainfall event in August in which the city received 4.27 inches of rain in two hours, once per five-hundred-year flood.

Proclamation declaring the week of September 8–12, 2025 as Disability Voting Rights Week.

Vice-Mayor McGuire read and presented the proclamation to Karen Michalski-Karney, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Independent Living Center.

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.

Ken Githire, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to flooding near his home and the lack of response from the Stormwater Division.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (6-0)

C-1. Minutes of the regular meetings of the City Council held on Monday, August 4, 2025 and on Monday, August 18, 2025.

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

C-2. Request to schedule a Public Hearing to be held on September 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm, or at such other date and time as determined by the City Manager, to receive comments prior to Council taking action to authorize General Obligation Bonds, a reimbursement request resolution, and bond action timeline for the fiscal year 2025–2026 Capital Improvement Plan projects as endorsed as part of the annual fiscal year 2025–2026 budget adoption.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-3.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Charlene Graves as member of the Roanoke Arts Commission, effective immediately.

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

- C-4.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Scott Terry-Cabbler as a member of the City Planning Commission, 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:

BRIEFING:

**FY26 July Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutes
Received and filed.**

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a.** Acceptance and Appropriation of Funds from Virginia Western Community College for the Shared Installation Cost of Pedestrian Safety Equipment, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons and Signs.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43259-090225. (6-0)
- b.** Acceptance and Appropriation of FEMA Disaster Assistance Funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43260-090225. (6-0)
- c.** Acceptance and Appropriation of Virginia Department of Fire Programs Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43261-090225. (6-0)
- d.** Execution of a Revocable License Agreement Between the City of Roanoke, Virginia and Blue Ridge Literacy.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43262-090225. (6-0)
- e.** Acquisition of temporary construction easements and drainage easements for a drainage improvement project in the vicinity of Clifton St NW.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43263-090225. (6-0)
- f.** Acceptance and Appropriation of the Fiscal Year 2026 Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Annual Street Payments for City of Roanoke.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43264-090225. (6-0)
- g.** Authorizing Request for Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Revenue Sharing Funds (FY 2029 - 2030).
Adopted Ordinance No. 43265-090225. (6-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

Artists Brandon Flowers and Katrina Leggin have begun painting a mural on the new Washington Park pool house. Participatory paint sessions were held over the past two weekends to engage community members in the process. Additionally, staff are working with artist Robyn Mitchell to develop a call for proposals for interactive art installations at the Eureka Recreation Center, currently under construction. Selected works will be installed in spring 2026 prior to the building's reopening.

Landscape Management is planning a pilot project at Valley Park to address persistent invasive plant growth along a retaining wall. Due to challenging terrain, traditional brush removal is both difficult and hazardous. As an alternative, the department is exploring a partnership with a local contractor that uses goats for targeted grazing. The plan includes rotating fenced grazing sections toward Oak Park Street. Preparation for this project includes neighborhood outreach via door hangers and direct communication with the Neighborhood Association. If successful, the grazing strategy may be repeated every 6–8 months and expanded to other difficult-to-maintain locations.

Last week, a coordinated effort between the Public Works Transportation Division and Parks & Recreation's Urban Forestry team addressed significant vegetation overgrowth along the right of way on Gus Nicks Boulevard and King Street. Crews worked to clear brush and prune trees, resulting in improved visibility of traffic signs and signals, enhanced street lighting reach, and safer line-of-sight conditions for motorists. This collaboration supports ongoing efforts to maintain roadway safety and ensure the accessibility of critical transportation infrastructure.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Amend Section 20-159, Law enforcement officers, Division 3, Operation, Article VII. - Mopeds, Bicycles and Electric Power-Assisted Bicycles, of Chapter 20, Motor vehicles and traffic, adding new Section 23-8, Designation and general duties of park patrol technicians, Article I, General, of Chapter 23, Police; and amending and reordaining Section 23-19, Sale – Generally, Section 23-20, Same – Of perishable or bulky property, Section 23-21, Same – Disposition of proceeds, Section 23-22, Retention for use by department, and Section 23-23, Exceptions from article, Article II, Property Seized By or Otherwise in Possession of Police Department, of Chapter 23, Police, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979).

Adopted Ordinance No. 43266-090225. (6-0)

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 \$400 million for Carilion Medical Center, in connection with the financing and refinancing of various projects of Carilion Medical Center located at 1906 Belleview Avenue, SW. Michael W.S. Lockaby, Counsel to the Economic Development Authority.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43267-090225. (5-0, Council Member Nash abstained from the vote due to a conflict of interest.)
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 Vice-Mayor and Members of City Council. **None.**
 2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council.

Reappointed Stephen Feather as a member of the Architectural Review Board for a four-year term of office, commencing October 2, 2025, and ending October 1, 2029.

Reappointed Bill Mason as a member of the Architectural Review Board for a four-year term of office, commencing October 2, 2025, and ending October 1, 2029.

Appointed Jatniel Rodriguez as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates to fill the unexpired term of office of David Parr ending September 30, 2027.

Appointed Christian Ashworth as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates to fill the unexpired term of office of Amazetta Anderson ending September 30, 2025; and for an additional three-year term of office commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

Appointed Raekwon Moore as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates to replace Alisha Grubb for a three-year term of office, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

Appointed Jeffrey Robertson as a member of the Towing Advisory Board to replace Walter Hinkley for a three-year term of office, commencing November 1, 2025, and ending October 31, 2028.

Appointed Senior Officer Kenneth Wilkerson as a (Law Enforcement) member of the Towing Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Sergeant Ray Shanks ending October 31, 2026.

ADJOURNED - 2:56 PM.

