



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

September 15, 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 Carter Mundy, Pastor, Redemption 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 presented gifts to the City of Roanoke from his visit to Wonju, Korea, to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Sister City's relationship.

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 City Clerk's Office staff for the extra amenities, decorations, and all the behind the scenes work they do.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra event on September 13 in Elmwood Park and Senator Mark Warner for hosting a housing conference in Richmond and for getting 12 percent more Lytec to

finance affordable housing projects.

Council Member Powers echoed the same sentiments about the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra event, thanked the City of Roanoke and Gentry Locke and Hawk for sponsoring the event and "shouted-out" the Berglund Center for hosting a training session on job duties and operational procedures for staff.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted-out" Molly Hunter, Neighborhood Coordinator and all the neighborhood groups she works with and encouraged citizens to reach out to Ms. Hunter if their neighborhood desired to have a neighborhood group.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" Deputy City Manager Sam Roman and staff for completing the handicap ramp in front of the Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building.

Council Member Hagen "shouted-out" Cardinal News for hosting the House District 40 Forum, stressed the importance of being informed about the November elections and commended the Registrar for the work on early voting which begins this week.

Mayor Cobb "shouted-out" the organizers of the 9-11 Memorial Stair Climb event with first responders who attended from all over and climbed 110 stories. He noted that Roanoke does not have a building that contains 110 stories, so the Wells Fargo Tower building, consisting of 22 stories, is climbed five times. He stated that it not only honors the memory of all who died on 9-11, but also a celebration of public safety officials in the community and the hard work they do.

Proclamation declaring September 13 - 21, 2025 as Welcoming Week.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager.

Proclamation declaring September 16 - 20, 2025 as Try Transit Week.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Kevin Price, General Manager, Valley Metro, Ron Parker, Assistant General Manager, Valley Metro and Laura Hartman, representing BRAGG.

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.

Barbara Duerk appeared before the Council and thanked the Council for attending the Girl Scout Skyline event, invited everyone to the Let Freedom Ring Constitution Day and Constitution Week event to be held on September 17 in Freedom Plaza at 4:00 pm.

Adam Mastrangelo appeared before the Council to address the hybrid canine ordinance to be adopted at the 7:00 pm meeting and expressed support in removing hybrid canines from the City.

John Donohue appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to corruption taking place at the Roanoke Rescue Mission.

Scott Roper appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to poor conditions at the Roanoke Rescue Mission and asked the Council to investigate.

Dr. Laura Hartman, representing BRAGG, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the week without driving from September 29 to October 5, and encouraged the Council not to drive during this time.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED, AS AMENDED (7-0)

- C-1.** Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025.

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

- C-2.** 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-3.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss a personnel matter regarding tenure of a council-appointed employee, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), 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 requiring the provision of legal advice by outside legal counsel involving the legal standards for financing of the schools, 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 Clerk advising of the resignation of Victoria Thornton as a member of the Roanoke Cultural Endowment, effective immediately.

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

- C-6.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Debra Carter as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board, effective immediately.

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

- C-7.** Reports of qualification of Anthony Jennings as member of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority to replace Drew Kepley for a four-year term of office commencing September 1, 2025, and ending August 31, 2029; and 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-8.** 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 an Economic Development project 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.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Discussion of the Roanoke City Council Code of Ethics and Conduct.
Approved. (7-0)

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFINGS: None.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION: None.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

The City of Roanoke is launching a comprehensive Parking Study to better understand current and future parking needs in our community, and we want input from the public to help guide this process. To support this effort, we're hosting a Public Workshop on Monday, October 27th, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Berglund Center in Berglund Hall, located at 710 Williamson Road NE. This is a valuable opportunity for residents, business owners, and stakeholders to share their experiences and ideas around parking in Roanoke. We encourage everyone to attend, and we also have a project website where people can stay informed and participate. A community survey will be launching soon through that website, which can be accessed at roanoke-parking-study-fishbeck.hub.arcgis.com. Your engagement is essential as we work together to shape a more accessible and well-planned future for parking in Roanoke.

The City of Roanoke Fleet Services Management has been ranked as the 42nd Green Fleet in the Nation by the NAFA Fleet Management Association as part of the 2025 Green Fleet Awards. This annual recognition honors fleets across

North America that demonstrate exceptional leadership in sustainability and environmental stewardship. NAFA, the fleet industry's largest membership organization, celebrates top-performing public and private fleets that implement forward-thinking strategies to reduce emissions, enhance operational efficiency, and adopt alternative energy solutions.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Katie Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, reported on the following matters from the August 18 and September 2 City Council Meetings:

Dogs at Large

Brett Lovell has had ongoing issues with his neighbor's dogs escaping their yard. He has recorded over 150 instances in the last 5 years and this has led to his dog and his fiancé being bit and needing medical attention. He has called the animal warden and filed charges with the Magistrate's Office, but the issues persist.

Report Back:

Sgt. Noel, who supervises the Animal Control and Protection Unit, was familiar with this case and said that the Animal Wardens are continuing to follow it. They have documented all of Mr. Lovell's calls and investigated the situation. One of the Animal Wardens has also been in touch with the Commonwealth's Attorney regarding the issue. Unfortunately, as the code is currently written, none of these incidents carries a charge beyond a Class IV Misdemeanor. The charges that were previously brought against the neighbor were dismissed in court.

Monitoring Property

Dr. Perneller Chubb Wilson shared that a neighbor fenced in part of her property while she was hospitalized. Dr. Wilson asked that a program be put in place where the City monitors the properties of senior residents who are hospitalized, in rehab facilities, or in assisted living.

Report Back:

There is not currently any type of program or inspection for properties like this. However, the Department of Planning, Building, and Development is exploring options to address these types of concerns.

Manns Property

Dr. Manns shared that her home on 10th Street has been neglected by City officials, citing water issues and failure to install a concrete driveway.

Report Back:

In speaking with several City departments and staff members involved with the 10th Street project, it appears that the City did offer to install a driveway at the property at the time of construction. However, the offer was declined. While the concern may stem from a misunderstanding or a change in circumstances, the City did make the offer in good faith.

Bulk Set Out Tags

Mr. Howard shared his concern that the pink tags put on inappropriate bulk and brush items can easily be blown away or overlooked by residents. He

suggested something more visible, like door hangers.

Report Back:

The Communications team is working with Solid Waste to create these door hangers and to launch a social media campaign reminding residents of the parameters for bulk and brush set outs and highlighting the new door hangers.

Flooding Concerns

Mr. Githire shared concerns on behalf several residents in the Fairland neighborhood. Their area sees flooding with increasing frequency. As a result, home values have decreased while property taxes have increased. Residents are also paying for flood insurance.

Report Back:

Ian Shaw, Stormwater Manager, met with both Mr. Githire and the co-owner of this property at their home immediately following the Council meeting. The house is located in the FEMA floodplain for Tinker Creek, so addressing flooding concerns is not a simple matter of improving local drainage.

The Tinker Creek tributary saw the biggest impact from the August 21 storm, with the nearby Airport rain gauge (about one mile away) recording the highest rainfall totals. The team discussed with Mr. Githire the possibility of including this property in a future application for acquisition of repetitive loss properties. While there is not an open grant application period right now, he expressed appreciation for being considered in a future funding round.

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

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

1. Legislative Committee Meeting.
At 3:10 pm, the City Council Meeting was declared in recess for the Legislative Committee Meeting. At 4:09 pm, the City Council Meeting reconvened.
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:

1. A resolution approving and affirming the action taken by the Greater Roanoke Transit Company (GRTC) d/b/a Valley Metro to implement Fare Free Election Day Bus Service for Tuesday, November 4, 2025.
Adopted Resolution No. 43268-091525. (7-0)
2. Repeal and replace Ordinance No. 43230-072125 accepting and appropriating FY26 Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Funds, to correct a scriveners' error.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43269-091525. (7-0)
3. A resolution appointing Duke Baldrige as a Director of the Economic Development Authority for the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Resolution No. 43270-091525. (7-0)

4. A resolution appointing Ollie Howie as a Director of the Economic Development Authority for the City of Roanoke.

Adopted Resolution No. 43271-091525. (7-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council.
 - **Council Member Initiative — "Reutilization of the Virginia Recreational Facilities Authority (VRFA) for regional outdoor asset needs" — Presented by Council Member Volosin**
2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council. **None.**

12. RECESSED - 4:22 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 Jerome Bonds, Pastor, Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church.

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)

Mayor Cobb announced that starting October 1, Roanoke City Council is accepting nominations for the 2025 Citizen of the Year. Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to make our community a better place? Now's the time to recognize them!

To view the nomination criteria and complete a nomination form, visit www.roanokeva.gov/citizenoftheyear, or stop by the City Clerk's Office (Room 456, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue SW) between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

All nominations must be submitted by 5:00 PM on Friday, November 21, 2025. Please note: nominees must be residents of the City of Roanoke.

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Presentation of the Annual Report of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for the year ended June 30, 2025.

Molly Hunter, Neighborhood Services Coordinator and members of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates presented the annual report.

Presentation from Roanoke Valley Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc.

Lena Hill, Lead Teen Advisor, and members of Roanoke Valley Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., presented information on Carole Robertson.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of Charter Foods, Inc., to rezone property located at 2657 Peters Creek Road, NW; Official Tax Map No. 6370101; from CN, Commercial-Neighborhood District, to CG, Commercial-General District, with conditions. Fritz Alderman, Agent, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43272-091525. (7-0)
2. Receive the views of citizens on the draft Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).
No action taken.
3. Receive citizen 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.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43273-091525. (7-0)
4. Proposed City Code Amendments amending and reordaining Section 6-11, Public nuisance animal; Section 6-22, Definitions; Section 6-23, Running at large prohibited; Section 6-28, Impoundment; Section 6-50, Dangerous dog(s); Section 6-50.1, Vicious dogs; Section 6-51, Registration of dangerous dog or hybrid canine; Section 6-52, Keeping of dangerous dogs or hybrid canines permitted under section 6-50.2; conditions; Section 6-53, Violations and penalties; Section 6-54, Exceptions under Chapter 6 - Animals and Fowl, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended; and creating a new Section 6-50.2, Hybrid canines prohibited, penalties, of Chapter 6 - Animals and Fowl, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43274-091525. (7-0)

16. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: None.

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.

RECESSED - 8:32 pm.

The City Council Meeting will stand in recess to reconvene on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 1:00 pm, at the Blue Hills Communications Center, 1801 Blue Hills Drive for a City Council Retreat.