



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

October 20, 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 RVT 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 Julio H. Reyes, Pastor, St. Gerard Catholic 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 Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the Melrose Fall Festival, Blue Ridge Literacy Celebration and presented a proclamation to the Philippino American community.

Vice-Mayor McGuire thanked the Department of Parks and Recreation and all the teams that helped with GO Fest this past weekend. He also "shouted-out" Jason Raines and Paul Shaw, new parks service unit officers with the Roanoke City Police Department working in City parks and greenways.

Council Member Hagen echoed the sentiments in acknowledging GO Fest and the Melrose Fall Festival. He looked forward to attending the great event next year.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the Melrose Fall Festival and Mike Hamlar of Hamlar Curtis Funeral Home and Hamlar Properties, who successfully renovated an old on Loudon Avenue, NW, and will soon begin to renovate a second home. He thanked everyone who is helping the City to tackle the City's housing crisis and acknowledged all federal workers who have been furloughed due to the government shutdown.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" all the City staff that helped put together the Virginia Municipal League Conference, which was held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center and the Roanoke Blacksburg Regional Airport, because he was able to make it from the Uber to the plane in five minutes.

Council Member Powers "shouted-out" the 30th Anniversary of the Discovery Shop and presented a proclamation in honor of the thirty years the shop has raised over ten million dollars for a cure for cancer.

Mayor Cobb commented that he recently greeted guests who were in the City attending the Neonatal-Perinatal 9th Annual Collaborative Summit and was happy to share the great progress of the locally based organizations such as the Grove on Patterson, Huddle Up Moms, CHIP of Roanoke Valley and Urban Baby Beginnings.

Proclamation declaring October 19–25, 2025 as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Jillian Papa, Director of Planning, Building and Development and staff in attendance.

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.

Reverend Bryan Smith, appeared before the Council and spoke regarding the possible casino and asked the Council to consider other ways to increase revenue.

Brian McConnell, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to prospects for rapid transformation and governance and leadership within the City.

Chris Craft, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the possible casino and expressed that he felt slapped in the face by the plan, asked the Council to consider collaborating with the City of Salem.

Anita Atkins, appeared before the Council in opposition of the possible casino in the City of Roanoke.

Ralph Smith, appeared before the Council and expressed concern regarding the possibility of a casino in Roanoke and asked for consideration of joining the City of Salem.

Sarah Kohler, appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition of the possible casino in the City of Roanoke.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

- C-1.** Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, October 6, 2025.

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

- C-2.** A communication from the Mayor requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the Council's Code of Conduct and Ethics, as well as each Council Member's obligations thereunder as permitted, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), 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 actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing possible disposal of publicly owned property in the Central part of the City, 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-5.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing possible disposal of publicly owned property in the Central part of the City, 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-6.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding the City's legal options involving City property in the South Roanoke area of the City, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-7.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing possible disposal of publicly owned property in the Central part of the City of Roanoke, 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Concurred in the request.**

- C-8.** FY2026 City Manager Transfer Report for the quarter ended September 30, 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1.** Appropriation of funds as reimbursement to the City Treasurer as a Licensed Agency of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) – DMV Select Program.

Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43287-102025. (7-0)

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

- 1.** City Manager:

BRIEFINGS:

Roanoke City and Alleghany Health Districts Annual Report — 15 minutes

Received and filed.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a.** Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY26 "Four-For-Life" Payment.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43288-102025. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- b.** Acceptance of Virginia Department of Emergency Management Pass-Through Funding.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43289-102025. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- c.** Acceptance and Appropriation of Kinship Support Funds from the Virginia Department of Social Services.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43290-102025. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- d.** Acceptance of the FY2026 Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) State of Good Repair Grant Award for ADA Ramp Improvements and Paving for Williamson Road NW.
Adopted 43291-102025. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- e.** Acquisition of property rights in connection with Public Works Service Center improvements.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43292-102025. (7-0)

- f. Acceptance and appropriation of the FY2026 Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Highway Safety Grant - City of Roanoke Walk and Roll to School Spring Safety Campaign.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43293-102025. (5-0, Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Sanchez-Jones abstained from the vote.)
- g. Execution of Amendment No. 3 to the contract (C22-4120-054) with Alta Planning and Design, Inc.
Adopted Resolution No. 43294-102025. (7-0)
- h. Acceptance and Appropriation of Increased Funds for the Greater Roanoke and New River Valley Small Business Development Center for calendar year 2025.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43295-102025. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- i. Acceptance and Appropriation of Additional Funds for the Greater Roanoke and New River Valley Small Business Development Center for Fiscal Year 2026.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43296-102025. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)
- j. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) PY25 Entitlement Funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43297-102025. (7-0)
- k. Acceptance of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43298-102025. (7-0)
- l. Approval and Acceptance of Parks and Recreation Five-Year Master Plan Update.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43299-102025. (7-0)
- m. Approval of the Creation of New Full-Time Employee Positions.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43300-102025. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

On October 13, 2025, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) contractors began upgrading intersections along Hershberger Road, Lafayette Blvd, and Liberty Road. This work aims to enhance safety for motorists and pedestrians by implementing a combination of high-visibility backplates for traffic signals, ADA-compliant curb ramps, curb extensions along Lafayette Blvd, pedestrian signals at signalized intersections, and crosswalk pavement markings. The City's Public Works Transportation Division and VDOT selected these corridors because of crash volume and limited transportation infrastructure.

As college application season begins, support is being offered by the Williamson Road Branch Library to guide students through the difficult process. Workshops will be held to assist with FAFSA completion, essay writing, and career planning. These efforts will lead up to a local college fair this Wednesday, October 22, from 5 to 7 PM, where students and families will be

encouraged to speak with representatives from area colleges. The goal is to reduce stress and make college planning more accessible for all.

On October 10, 2025, the RPD iSTAR unit was recognized as the Virginia Crime Analysis Team of the Year by the Virginia Crime Analysis Network. Following a comprehensive review of crime analysis units across the Commonwealth, including several specialized State Police units, the iSTAR team was selected for this prestigious award in recognition of outstanding performance. The honor reflects the unit's success in solving and advancing numerous cases, producing strategic bulletins, conducting in-depth analysis, supporting problem-solving initiatives, and providing interagency assistance throughout the year. The team's work has made a measurable impact on crime reduction in the City of Roanoke, as well as among regional and federal partners. In addition, an RPD crime analyst received the Virginia New Analyst of the Year award for exceptional tactical analytical contributions that directly resulted in arrests and case closures. These recognitions highlight the continued excellence and regional influence of the department's crime analysis capabilities.

The Public Works Transportation Division's Landscape crews have completed the annual fall aeration and overseeding of City medians and rights-of-way, a key component of the City's landscape maintenance program. Fall provides optimal growing conditions, with cooler temperatures and increased soil moisture promoting strong seed germination and root development. Aeration relieves soil compaction, improving oxygen, water, and nutrient penetration to the root zone, which supports deeper, more resilient turf growth. Overseeding addresses bare or thin areas, increasing turf density, improving uniformity, and enhancing the overall aesthetic of City corridors. Maintaining healthy, vibrant medians and rights-of-way not only contributes to community beautification and civic pride but also has measurable economic impacts by creating attractive gateways that support property values, encourage business investment, and enhance the experience of residents and visitors alike. This proactive landscape work ensures long-term sustainability of the City's public spaces while reinforcing the visual identity and economic vitality of our community.

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

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

BRIEFINGS: None.

- a. Amendment of the City Code by Addition of New Section 2-206.1, Authority to refund taxes paid due to erroneous assessment; Authorizing the Treasurer to Issue Refund of Erroneously Assessed Taxes That Have Been Paid.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43301-102025. (7-0)
- b. Amendment of the City Code Section 32-101.31, Definitions, and Section 32-101.33, Abatement terms, Division 5C, Hotel Real Estate Tax Abatement Program, Article II, Real Estate Taxes Generally,

Chapter 32, Taxation.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43302-102025. (7-0)

- c. Refund of Erroneously Assessed Taxes Previously Paid by Nicus Software, Inc.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43303-102025. (7-0)

3. DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE VALUATION: None.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

1. Presentation of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission Annual Report.
Received and filed.
2. Legislative Committee Meeting.
4:31 p.m. - 4:57 p.m.
3. 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. Repeal and replace Ordinance No. 43260-090225 accepting and appropriating FEMA disaster assistance funds, to correct a scriveners' error.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43304-102025. (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded.)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council. **None.**
2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council. **None.**

12. RECESSED - 4:58 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

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Presentation of the Ramey Art Collection.

Sheila Umberger, City Librarian, presented the Ramey Art Collection and introduced staff that worked on the project.

Proclamation declaring October 2025 as Arts and Humanities Month.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Doug Jackson, Arts and Culture Coordinator and William Penn, Chair, Roanoke Arts Commission.

Doug Jackson presented the *Pilgrims at the Creek*, 4th Floor Art Project and thanked the Roanoke Arts Commission.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of CSW Associates Roanoke, LC, and CSW Brandon Frontage, LLC, to: (1) repeal all conditions proffered as part of a previous rezoning on property located at 3840 Stratford Park Drive, SW, Official Tax Map No. 5200122, enacted through Ordinance No. 33098 (2) repeal all conditions proffered as part of a previous rezoning on property located at 0 Brandon Avenue, SW, Official Tax Map No. 5200104, enacted through Ordinance No. 25825 and (3) place conditions on a portion of the property at 3840 Stratford Park Drive, SW, and the entirety of 0 Brandon Avenue, SW; bearing Official Tax Map Nos. 5200122 and 5200104, respectively. Ben Crew, Agent, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43305-102025. (7-0)
2. Request of Mar Roanoke, LLC, to rezone the property located at 5060 Valley View Boulevard, NW, Official Tax Map No. 2490111, from CG, Commercial-General District, to INPUD, Institutional Planned Unit Development District. Ben Crew, Agent, Spokesperson. **Matter was continued until the November 10, 2025, City Planning Commission Meeting.**
3. Public Hearing for Boundary Amendments to the City of Roanoke Enterprise Zone.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43306-102025. (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.

Waynette Anderson, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the influx of unhoused citizens in the area.

Monique Bishop, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to BRAGG and trying public transit.

Virginia Pannabecker, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to BRAGG and the week without driving event.

Jordan Bell, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to a potential urban renewal apology from the City of Roanoke.

Emma Kauffman, appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the casino proposal in the City of Roanoke.

Jessica King, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to her

experience as a previous unhoused person and the resources of the Roanoke Valley.

Ananya Mishra, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to caring for the unhoused population as a local physician and advocated for the unhoused population.

Adam Mastrangelo, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to increased traffic volume caused by the new development along Brandon Avenue, SW.

Rebekah Murphy, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to concerns about the location of the proposed casino and its ramifications on the citizens of Roanoke.

Mary Frazier, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to fear of the unhoused population and reconsideration of the proposed casino in the City of Roanoke.

Stephen Paul, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the curb and gutter workaking place in the City.

Graeme Anderson, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to crime and the unhoused population.

Tiffany Sandifer, appeared before the Council to serve as a voice for the unhoused population and spoke on poverty and social disease.

Jessica Bookout, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the City's housing crisis.

Keely Meadows, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the treatment of the unhoused and not to hate people.

Rita Joyce, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to a request for funding for the FedUp organization.

Gary Stein, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to housing on Apperson Drive and suggested a roundabout for the area.

Danny Clawson, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to housing solutions and not dehumanizing the unhoused community.

Catina Wright, appeared before the Council and spoke on behalf of the Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition to offer solutions with regard to the housing issue in Roanoke.

Rob Kevin, appeared before the Council and spoke on behalf of the Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition to offer solutions with regard to the housing issue in Roanoke.

Jessica Woods, appeared before the Council and spoke on behalf of the Virginia Harm Reduction Coalition.

Doug Hancock, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the rights of people.

RECESSED FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING - 8:46 PM.

RECONVENED - 9:10 PM.

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

ADJOURNED - 9:11 PM.