



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

November 3, 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. All present.

Welcome

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)**

- Architectural Review Board
- City Planning Commission
- Roanoke Arts Commission
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Economic Development Authority
- Fair Housing Board
- Gun Violence Prevention Commission
- Human Services Advisory Board
- Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates
- Roanoke Public Library Board
- Towing Advisory Board

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) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. **(7-0)**

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. (7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel regarding a 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. (7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting on personnel matters requiring the discussion involving the annual performance evaluations of Council-Appointed officers, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. (7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry, where no previous announcement has been made involving an Economic Development project in collaboration with the Regional Partnership, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. (7-0)

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

BRIEFINGS: None.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 am, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. (9:12 am - 9:37 am)

AT 9:37am, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENE 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. All present.

The Invocation was delivered by Bishop Mark Chadwick, Roanoke Ward, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

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 staff at Round Hill Elementary School and the Halloween Trunk or Treat Event that served over 750 kids.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" election workers and reminded everyone to vote on Election Day, November 4, 2025, encouraged everyone to take advantage of Valley Metro's Free Fare Day and noted the recent meeting held by Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission at Explore Park.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" all organizations that executed trunk or treat events across the City and referenced the recently held Gun Violence Prevention Commission stakeholders meeting, which provided great conversation and information.

Vice-Mayor McGuire thanked everyone for safe Halloween events, and thanked the team at Roanoke City Public Schools for the tour of the installation of the solar panels at Patrick Henry High School, which will save \$47 million and will be the largest solar project in the State.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the Free Fare Day for Valley Metro buses and thanked all election workers for their efforts.

Council Member Hagen "shouted-out" I Heart SE for their successful Trunk or Treat event.

Mayor Cobb commented about the Day of the Dead Celebration at the Taubman Museum, he was the guest of honor for the Roanoke Marine Forces Reserve for the 250th birthday celebration of the Marine Corps, and honored the memory of Terri Baucom, owner of B & D comics for over 40 years whose memorial service was held on November 2.

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.

Ben Byrd appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the homeless population and stated that he was willing to do the work to help find a solution.

Chris Craft, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the successful Sheriff's and Police Department's Halloween event at the Berglund Center and exclaimed that the casino is the wrong choice for the City of Roanoke.

Bruce Boteler appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the casino, noting that it would be great for City revenue, but detrimental to the community living paycheck to paycheck.

Anita Atkins appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the casino in the City and provided statistics on local casinos.

John Dove appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the casino and advised that it would not add to the quality of life for the citizens.

Sara Kate Brownmiller appeared before the Council as President of the Roanoke Prevention Alliance for teen substance abuse and advised that she would email the Council additional information.

Bryan Smith appeared before the Council in opposition to the casino in the City of Roanoke and referenced the potential decline of businesses and an increase in addiction.

Susan Edwards appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the casino in the city, noting that opposition from surrounding localities operating casinos was likely because of the saturation of the market.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

- C-1.** A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb recommending revised committee assignments for the Members of City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

- C-2.** Authorize and schedule a public hearing to be held on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or such later date and time as the City Manager may determine, to consider the Real Property Tax Exemption for Old Southwest, Inc.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-3.** Authorize and schedule a public hearing to be held on November 17, 2025, at 7:00 pm or at such time thereafter as the matter may be reached, or at such later date and time as the City Manager may determine, to consider granting easements to the Western Virginia Water Authority across City-owned property in Roanoke County bearing County Parcel Identification No. 0.37.13-04-03.00-0000.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-4.** Authorize and schedule a 30-day public comment period to begin October 31 and a public hearing to be held at City Council's regular meeting on November 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or

such later date and time as the City Manager may determine, with regard to a substantial amendment to the HUD Entitlement PY25 Annual Action Plan.

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

C-5.

Authorize and schedule a 30-day public comment period to begin October 31, 2025, and a public hearing to be held on November 21, 2025, at 3:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or such later date and time as the City Manager may determine, in accordance with the Citizen Participation Plan, with regard to the development of the HUD Entitlement PY26 Annual Action Plan.

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFINGS:

September Monthly Budget and Actual Report - 15 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

a. Acquisition of Real Property Rights for Mountain Avenue, NW Culvert Repair Project.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43307-110325. (7-0)

b. Acquisition of Property Rights for Downtown Jefferson 2 Drainage Improvements Project.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43308-110325. (7-0)

c. Approval of the Mill Mountain Trail Plan — Renaming of Trails.

Adopted Resolution No. 43309-110325. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

I'm pleased to share that Roanoke City Parks and Recreation recently hosted the 2025 Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS) Annual Conference, held here in Roanoke from October 26 through 29. This event brought together more than 400 parks and recreation professionals from across the Commonwealth for four days of learning, networking, and celebrating the best in their field.

Conference highlights included a Disc Golf Tournament Pre-Con, guided tours of the City's evolving outdoor spaces, including In River Park, the Skatepark, and the Eureka Recreation Center construction sites, an E-Bike Tour of the City, and a Walking Art Tour of Downtown. The conference concluded with the VRPS Awards Banquet, recognizing outstanding programs, facilities, and individuals

from across Virginia. I'm proud to share that Roanoke City Parks and Recreation received two distinguished honors:

- The Best New Renovation or Addition of a Greenway, Park, or Trail award for the Tinker Creek Greenway Phase 2A, and;
- The VRPS President's Award, recognizing the Department's exceptional contributions in organizing and hosting this year's statewide conference.

I want to extend sincere appreciation to our Parks and Recreation team for their leadership, dedication, and professionalism in showcasing Roanoke as a model for recreation excellence in Virginia.

I'm pleased to share that at the 2025 International City/County Management Association (ICMA) Conference held in Tampa, Florida, the City of Roanoke received a Program Excellence Award for the Roanoke Pollinator Partnership, a Bee City USA initiative. This recognition highlights the City's strong commitment to creating pollinator-friendly habitats, promoting biodiversity, and engaging our community in environmental stewardship. Through the Roanoke Pollinator Partnership, the City and its partners have developed and maintained pollinator gardens, provided educational programming for residents and schools, and built collaborative partnerships with local organizations to advance pollinator conservation efforts throughout the community. Mr. Roman and I had the honor of accepting this award on behalf of the organization at the ICMA Conference, and it was truly a pleasure to see Roanoke's leadership and innovation recognized on a national stage.

I'm pleased to report the completion of the pedestrian steps replacement project at Laurel Street and Belleview Avenue in Southeast Roanoke, led by the Public Works Engineering Division. This project strengthens a vital pedestrian connection between the Riverland and Walnut Hill neighborhoods and the Roanoke River Greenway, enhancing accessibility and safety for residents and visitors alike. The previous concrete steps had significantly deteriorated over time and were replaced with a durable new structure designed to meet current safety and accessibility standards. Improvements include tread and riser dimensions optimized for safety, handrails that meet modern codes, and surface treatments that increase traction and reduce slip hazards in wet conditions. In addition, the historic stone pillars at the base of the steps were carefully preserved and integrated into the new construction, maintaining the character and historic identity of the neighborhood while incorporating modern engineering and safety features. This project supports the City's ongoing goals of promoting walkability, expanding greenway access, and ensuring long-term maintenance of neighborhood infrastructure, reflecting our commitment to safe and vibrant community spaces.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: None.

3. DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE VALUATION: None.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

1. A report of the Roanoke City School Board requesting appropriation of funds for various educational programs; and a report of the City Manager recommending that City Council concur in the request. Donna Caldwell, Director of Accounting, Spokesperson.

Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43310-110325. (5-0, Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Sanchez-Jones 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.
Vice-Mayor McGuire advised that he would have to step away from serving as the liaison to the Roanoke Valley Regional Television Committee and the Roanoke Valley Transportation Policy Organization because of increased work obligations.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution designating a Voting Delegate and Alternate Voting Delegate for the Annual Business Meeting of the National League of Cities City Summit.
Adopted Resolution No. 43311-110325. (7-0)

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.

Appointed Nancy Dye as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of James Davis ending June 30, 2028.

Appointed TaQuadri Johnson as a Youth Representative on the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for a term of office ending March 31, 2027.

Appointed Elizabeth Hale as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Susan Reese ending November 30, 2028.

Appointed McKinley Forrest as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Amazetta Anderson ending March 31, 2027.

Appointed Barbara Smith as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Charlene Graves ending June 30, 2028.

Reappointed Shane Spradlin (Tower) 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 - 3:06 PM.

13. RECONVENED - 5:48 PM.

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

RECESSED - 5:50 PM.

The City Council Meeting will be declared in recess to be reconvened on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at 9:00 am, in the City Council Chamber, 215 Church Avenue, SW, 4th Floor, Room 450, for a budget planning retreat.