



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

November 17, 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. (Council Members Hagen (2:20 pm) and Sanchez-Jones (2:22 pm) arrived late)**

The Invocation was delivered by Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor 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" all City of Roanoke employees for the hard work they do and especially for keeping the city clean and the Strong Towns group of individuals who are trying to learn the City processes such as budget, etc. and looked forward to being invited back to another meeting.

Council Member Volosin thanked all election workers and everyone who rode the Valley Metro bus for free and made their voices heard by voting.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" City employees and staff that put up the

large Christmas tree in Nolan Plaza downtown.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted-out" the Harrison Museum of African American Culture on their soft-opening in Melrose Plaza and the JB's Crew of Jack Brown's restaurant, along with iHeart Southeast and the Roanoke Plawkers, and picked up trash around the Tinker Creek Greenway.

Mayor Cobb commented about the increase in ridership on Valley Metro buses by 1,400 people in connection with Fare Free Day; and thanked the City of Roanoke and Virginia Tech on a partnership called Grant Ready Roanoke, in which nine local non-profit organizations participated to increase capacity. He attended the graduation ceremony and said that it was great to see a seed become a non-profit and make a profound difference in the life of a community.

Recognition of Heather Fay, Director and Executive Regional Administrator, Virginia Small Business Development Center, Greater Roanoke and New River Valley.

The City Manager recognized Ms. Fay and her staff.

Recognition of Curtis Joachim, The Joachim Group - 2025 Veteran Small Business of the Year — Presented by Greater Roanoke & NRV Small Business Development Center.

The City Manager and Heather Fay, Director, Greater Roanoke and New River Valley Small Business Development Center recognized Mr. Joachim and his staff.

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.

Garrett Robinson, on behalf of PedalSafe Roanoke, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to keeping the greenway accessible to bike riders and open during the Wasena bridge construction.

Sylvia King, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to solar panel companies being a top-tier scam and also announced the 50th anniversary of Valley Metro on November 18.

Barbara Duerk, appeared before the Council as a bicycle advocate and spoke with regard to bicycle safety legislation and the reenactment of Virginia Code section 46.2.905.

Duane Howard, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the City producing a magazine to advise citizens about happenings in the City as well as a mail out to the southeast neighborhood organization.

Nicholas Houck, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the city annexing his property to the County of Roanoke, for it is located in both localities and very cumbersome to pay taxes.

Ralph Smith, appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to a city

casino and asked the Council to pass a resolution to deny the proposal.

Nell Boyle, appeared before the Council in support of the city's proposed energy initiatives and the implementation of the Climate Action Plan.

Rebekah Murphy, appeared before the Council to inquire about the capital fund balance reallocation removal from the Council agenda and the true-up funds. She thanked Vice-Mayor McGuire, Council Members Hagen and Powers for meeting with the Council of PTA's and referenced future meetings with the remaining Council Members.

Emily Casey, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the consulting firm the City used to evaluate its finances and the city's contribution to Roanoke City Public Schools should increase to account for the changes that have occurred in the school system over the past ten years.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

- C-1.** Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, October 20, 2025.

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

- C-2.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss a personnel matter regarding the City Attorney position, 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 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.

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 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-6.** 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-7.** 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-8.** Request to advertise and schedule a public hearing on December 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard or at such later date and time as the City Manager may determine, to consider joining the Virginia C-PACE Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-9.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Tim Harvey as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission, effective November 18, 2025.

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

- C-10.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Robert Lamour as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission, effective immediately.

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

- C-11.** A communication from Mark Chadwick, Chief Executive Officer, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, requesting that Council ratify the reappointment of Patrick Kenney as an at-large member of the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Board of Directors, commencing January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

- C-12.** Reports of qualification of Wesley Cook as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board to replace Bradley Stephens for a term of office ending November 30, 2028; and Rachel Hale as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates for a three-year term of office, commencing October 1, 2025, and ending September 30, 2028.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Presentation from Secure Solar Futures and Roanoke City Public Schools to share information with regard to potential cost-saving options through a solar power purchase agreement. Matt McFadden, Director of Business Development, Secure Solar Futures. (Sponsored by Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Nash)
Received and filed.
2. Presentation from Downtown Roanoke, Inc., to share information with regard to its current activities and future initiatives. Tina Workman, Executive Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Mayor Cobb)
Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFINGS: None.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

Acceptance and Appropriation of Regional Fire Service Training Facilities Grant.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43312-111725. (7-0)

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) – Funding for Tinker Creek Greenway.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43313-111725. (7-0)

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) – Urban Construction Program Reconciliation.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43314-111725. (7-0)

Acceptance of State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) consent agreement for a Data Protection System for the City of Roanoke Technologies.

Adopted Resolution No. 43315-111725. (7-0)

Acceptance and Appropriation of Operation Funds for the Greater Roanoke and New River Valley Small Business Development Center CY 2026.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43316-111725. (7-0)

Approval of a historical marker to recognize the contributions of Junius Blair Fishburn in the Roanoke community.

Adopted Resolution No. 43317-111725. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

I'd like to remind the City Council that Valley Metro is celebrating 50 years of service to Roanoke Valley with a community event at Third Street Station on

tomorrow, Tuesday, November 18, at 10:30 am. The celebration will highlight Valley Metro's half-century of providing safe, reliable, and affordable transportation since 1975. Valley Metro will also showcase key advancements in transit, including the VMGO real-time app for route and arrival updates, Roanoke's first electric bus supporting a cleaner fleet and ongoing in accessibility and rider education including a new riding the bus information video. This celebration is both a reflection of the past and a look ahead to a smarter, more sustainable and more connected future for public transportation in the region.

I'm excited to announce the City's holiday tree is being delivered today. Urban Forestry staff have coordinated with the Roanoke Police Department to provide an escort into downtown and fleet services has arranged for the rental of a crane to safely position and secure the tree. The tree, which is a 25-foot Frasier Fir from West Jefferson, North Carolina, will be decorated by facilities staff once installation is complete. The annual tree lighting ceremony is scheduled for Friday, December 5.

Following the budget retreat on Saturday, November 8, City staff is seeking your guidance on the most appropriate approach for proceeding with external agency applications. The staff is prepared to share the application at your discretion and will conduct an information session on Friday, November 21, 2025, at 1:00 pm, and a subsequent session is scheduled for December 5, 2025, at 10:00 am.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Helen Ferguson, Strategic Coordinator and Grants Manager, reported on the following matters from the October 20 and November 3 City Council Meetings:

Fare Free Day

Tuesday, November 4, was a Fare Free Day for Valley Metro due to Election Day. On Election Day, there were 5,663 boarders across the entire system. The previous Tuesday, October 28, 2025, there were 4,670 boarders. On November 4, 2024, there were 5,249 boarders. This shows an increase of nearly 1,000 boarders on Fare Free Day.

Brandon Avenue/Greater Deyerle Traffic

Adam Mastrangelo, President of the Greater Deyerle Neighborhood Association, and Gary Stein both shared concerns about increasing traffic along Brandon Avenue and Deyerle Road due to new town homes and the construction of a hotel in the area.

Report Back:

Ian Coffey, the City's Traffic Engineer, shared data from several streets and intersections in this area. While the neighborhood may see a slight increase in traffic volume, Brandon Avenue currently has the capacity to absorb more input due to its five-lane cross-section. Any additional traffic signals from cross streets would only formalize delays experienced during peak hours.

Public Apology

Jordan Bell shared recommendations for the Urban Renewal Apology, which were received in writing and passed on to the Equity and Empowerment Advisory

Board.

Brandon Avenue Traffic Notes

Stratford Park Town homes - Approximately 80–100 vehicles (1,300 daily) are added during peak hours due to the town home project. Aside from turn lane warrants on Brandon at the proposed driveway, no other traffic improvements, such as a traffic signal, are recommended due to the minimal impact on peak-hour volumes and beyond. Further, traffic will be distributed to two separate driveways along Brandon, facilitating the absorption of traffic into the street network. The intersections between Keagy and Peters Creek were analyzed with the level of service remaining at acceptable or similar conditions as currently reported.

Stratford Hotel – Approximately 40–50 vehicles (639 daily) are added during peak hours due to the hotel project. No Traffic Impact Assessment was required for this project, as the trip threshold is below the 100/1000 benchmark. The expectation is that traffic volumes below the 100/1000 threshold will be absorbed into the existing street network as is.

A signal warrant at Deyerle/Brandon was performed as part of the early discussion for this project. The result is that a signal is not warranted at this time, even with the additional vehicles from the developments.

The current estimated daily traffic volume for the subject street segment is 21,000, with a peak of up to 1,800 vehicles per hour. However, the side streets and driveways are well below the threshold warranting a traffic signal or other measures. In practice, Brandon can be viewed as a corridor with more than enough capacity to absorb more input due to its five or more lane cross-section. In other words, to date, Brandon Ave remains underutilized in its potential, and the most recent development contributes in a minor way to its future expansion potential. This is not to say that side streets and driveways will not experience delays when attempting left turns onto Brandon during the peak hours. Additional traffic signals along the corridor would only formalize those delays.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: None.
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.
Mayor Cobb commented on the 50th Anniversary of Valley Metro on November 18; advised that the Transportation Passenger Advisory Committee (TPAC) appointments were made; and briefly commented on snow removal at bus stops, an increase in ridership, and MetroFLX has reached capacity on Sundays.

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 Mayor and Members of City Council.

- Council Member Initiative — "Evans Spring Development Plan" — Presented by Council Member Nash

2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council. None.

12. RECESSED - 4:06 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 Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by the Webelos Den at Pack 2, sponsored by Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church.

Welcome

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Recognition of winners of the 22nd Annual Fire Prevention Week Art Contest.

Mayor Cobb, David Hoback, Fire-EMS Chief, and Hope Escobar, Fire Prevention Specialist, recognized the contest winners and presented certificates and city gifts.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. 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.
Vote failed (2-5, with Mayor Cobb and Council Member Volosin voting in favor)
2. Public Hearing on the Proposed Substantial Amendment on the Program Year 25 Annual Action Plan.
No action taken.
3. Public Hearing on Tax Exemption Request for Real Property owned by Old Southwest, Inc.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43318-111725. (7-0)
4. Public Hearing to consider granting an easement to the Western Virginia Water Authority (WVWA) on Roanoke County Parcel Identification No. 0.37.13-04-03.00-0000.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43319-111725. (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.

Thanh LeNguyen-Bean, appeared before the Council and requested that Council prioritize the school division's capital fund balance.

Kathleen Jennings, appeared before the Council and spoke with concern about PFM Consulting's recommendations for school funding and reallocating the funds back to the school division.

Misty Vickers, appeared before the Council to advocate for funding for the school division and the expansion of Valley Metro routes to the Department of Motor Vehicles location.

Angela Bird appeared before the Council and advised that the Council provided continual disappointment about the slashing of the school division budget and commented that Valley Metro needs bus routes to the Department of Motor Vehicles location.

17. RECESS FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING - 8:40 PM.

18. RECONVENED - 9:03 PM.

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

ADJOURNED - 9:04 PM.