



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

December 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 RVTN 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 Alexander MacPhail, Rector, Christ Episcopal 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 Powers "shouted-out" non-profit organizations and churches who reached out and assisted residents in need.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" the department of Public Works on their fast response in maintaining the streets during the recent snowfall event and the new operations center for the Police Department which will make the community a safer place.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the crime center which will protect

citizens and the police and advised that local entrepreneurs Xavier Duckett and Bryce Cobbs were honored by the Black Chamber of Commerce in Richmond, Virginia.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted-out" the recent Christmas tree lighting and thanked Downtown Roanoke, Inc., for the Dickens of a Christmas, events and Old Southwest, Inc., parlor tour.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" City staff for their support during this difficult time.

Council Member Hagen "shouted-out" the Downtown Roanoke Inc., Dickens of a Christmas parade and pet parade and encouraged citizens to attend.

Mayor Cobb "shouted-out" organizations that provided warming shelters during this cold time and advised that information was available on social media.

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.

Anthony Stavola, appeared before the Council and submitted information with regard to the zoning amendments and advised he had a positive meeting with Council Members Hagen and Volosin.

David Hoopes appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to illegal parking on the greenway in the Garden City area.

Spurgeon Vaughn appeared before the Council in opposition of the casino proposal.

Ralph Smith appeared before the Council in opposition to the casino proposal.

Bryan Smith appeared before the Council in opposition to the casino proposal and read a proposed resolution to the Council.

Susan Edwards appeared before the Council and urged the Council not to pursue the opening of a 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, November 17, 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 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.

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
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Mill Mountain Advisory Board
Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates
Roanoke Public Library Board
Towing Advisory Board
Youth Athletics Advisory Board

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-3.** 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-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 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-5.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose 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 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-7.** Report of qualification of 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Presentation from the Friends of Mountain View to share the Parks and Recreation Mountain View Park Vision Plan and provide an update on the documentary created about the Mountain View home and capital campaign for restoration. Alison Blanton, Board Member, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Volosin)
Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFINGS:

Council Member Initiatives Update — 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Acquisition of Real Property Rights for the Downstream Wiley Drive Bridge Replacement Project.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43324-121525. (7-0)
- b. Acceptance and Appropriation of the FY 2024 HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Award – CoC Planning.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43325-121525. (7-0)
- c. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development - Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) Grant Award.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43326-121525. (7-0)
- d. Acceptance and Appropriation of FY26 United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge funding for the Bank On Roanoke Valley Program.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43327-121525. (7-0)
- e. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management FY26 NG911 Additional Funding Grant Award.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43328-121525. (7-0)
- f. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management FY26 CHE Shared Call Handling Equipment Grant Award.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43329-121525. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

Bagged leaf collection has been extended through January 15, 2026, in response to recent service delays caused by wintry weather conditions.

The City's Homeless Assistance Team has made a remarkable impact this year, successfully helping 226 individuals secure housing in 2025. Their dedication and hard work are a critical part of our ongoing efforts to address homelessness in Roanoke.

I want to encourage everyone to register for the 2026 Roanoke 100 Miler, a community wellness challenge starting this January. Participants can walk, run, or hike 100 miles in 100 days, with the option to substitute one mile with 30 minutes of any human-powered activity to ensure accessibility for all fitness levels. This program is a great way to build community connections, develop long-term healthy habits, and enjoy some friendly motivation. Plus, participants are eligible for weekly prize drawings, and the challenge is open to everyone in the community.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Kathryn Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, reported on the following matters from the November 17 and December 1 City Council Meetings:

Preakness Court

Nick Houck brought concerns to Council regarding his property on Preakness Court. The property is partially in the City and partially in the County, and Mr. Houck was requesting that a boundary line adjustment be made.

Report Back:

Mr. Collins, Deputy City Attorney, shared the process for a voluntary boundary line adjustment according to the Code of Virginia. Generally speaking, both localities would need to prepare a written statement agreeing to a boundary line adjustment, a public hearing would take place, and the court would need to authorize the agreement. In the past, these adjustments have usually been made for large-scale projects or at the request of the owner of a very large parcel of land. A conversation with the resident will happen soon.

Greenway Access

Garret Robinson, a member of Pedal Safe Roanoke and Strong Towns, spoke about the low water bridge at Smith Park and its value for cyclists and other greenway users. He requested that the greenway in this area remain open and accessible during construction of the Wiley Drive low water bridge.

Report Back:

This request has been shared with Renee Powers, Trails and Greenways Coordinator, and updates will be shared with Mr. Robinson and Pedal Safe as they become available.

School Budget and Potential Casino

Many residents shared concerns over the last couple sessions about school

funding and a potential casino. While there are no specific action items requested or updates to share, the City would like to express appreciation for the number of residents who make time to share concerns before Council. Our Mayor, Council, and staff work incredibly hard to make our City the best it can be, and feedback from residents makes this possible. While there is not usually dialogue during the Hearing of Citizens, all comments, requests, and concerns are heard and addressed as appropriate. Part of the purpose of this report is to publicly share what often happens behind the scenes, and to remind our residents that we greatly value their time and thoughts.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: None.

3. DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE VALUATION: None.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

1. Presentation of the Annual Report of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board. Angela Penn, Chair, Spokesperson.

Received and filed.

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 Mayor and Members of City Council.

Council Member Hagen inquired about the changes in the parking service after the implementation of gateless garages. Brian Mann, Executive Enterprise Administrator, advised that the garages feature license plate reading technology that can process payments and identify non-payment.

2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council. **See page 7.**

12. RECESSED - 4:20 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 Mayor Cobb.

Welcome

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

14. NEW BUSINESS:

Appointed Captain Jennifer Boswell as a member of the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of office of Josh Orzel ending December 31, 2026.

Appointed Dr. Ryan Calder as a member of the City Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Scott Terry-Cabbler ending December 31, 2028.

Appointed Brandy Campbell as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Tim Harvey ending March 31, 2027.

Appointed David Howard as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Robert Lamour ending March 31, 2028.

Appointed Oneida Huntington as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates to fill the unexpired term of office of Amazetta Anderson ending September 30, 2028.

Appointed Sandra Rorrer as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates to fill the unexpired term of office of Alichia Grubb ending September 30, 2028.

15. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Presentation by Jackson Gunter.

Received and filed.

Recognition of the 2025 Citizen of the Year.

Adopted Resolution No. 43330-121525. (7-0) The Mayor recognized Dr. Robert M. Brown as the 2025 Citizen of the Year and presented him with a ceremonial copy of the resolution, Key to the City and a personal plaque.

Presentation by the Bradley Free Clinic.

Janine Underwood, Executive Director, Bradley Free Clinic updated the Council on the activities and initiatives of the Clinic.

16. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 1. Request of Bank of Botetourt to amend the Institutional Planned Unit Development Plan ("Plan") as part of a previous rezoning at 1809 Franklin Road SW, bearing Official Tax Map No. 1040102, through the adoption of Ordinance No. 39887-072114, on July 21, 2014. Mike Woolwine, Agent, Spokesperson. Adopted Ordinance No. 43331-121525. (7-0)**
- 2. Public hearing for consideration of a request for tax exemption for parcels of real property located at 5732 Airport Road, NW, owned by HeartCry Missionary Society, Inc. Ordinance Defeated. (2-4, Council Member Volosin abstained from the vote)**

3. Public Hearing for consideration of the City of Roanoke to join the Virginia C-PACE Program, a Commercial Clean Energy Financing Program, for property owners who want to upgrade their buildings with efficiency, renewable energy, and resiliency systems.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43332-121525. (7-0)

17. 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.

Matthew Placido, appeared before the Council and requested that the Council revisit the budget and restore Roanoke City Public Schools to receive 40 percent of the City's revenue.

Owen McGuire, appeared before the Council with disappointment in the process of the Planning Department to report on the previously adopted zoning amendments and cited a pleasant meeting with Council Members Volosin and Hagen.

Dr. Jack Leff, appeared before the Council in opposition of the 6 percent reduction in the City's portion of the Roanoke City Public Schools budget.

Stephen Fowler, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the lengthy permit process for contractors and requested that the process be reviewed for improvement.

Michelle Brooks, appeared before the Council in opposition to the 6 percent reduction in the Roanoke City Public schools budget.

Rebekah Murphy, appeared before the Council and requested that the Council restore Roanoke City Public Schools to receive 40 percent of the City's revenue.

RECESSED - 8:35 PM.

The City Council meeting was declared in recess to meet in Closed Session for the sole purpose of interviewing prospective candidates for the position of City Attorney. Such Closed Meeting will be held at an undisclosed location within 15 days after this announcement, and vote on the motion for Closed Meeting as permitted by Subsection (b) of Section 2.2-3712, Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.