



City of Roanoke, Virginia
**ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
GUN VIOLENCE
PREVENTION COMMISSION**

February 2, 2026
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 Facebook Live at facebook.com/RoanokeVa. Council meetings are offered with closed captioning for the deaf or hard of hearing.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL.

- City Council - **All present.**
- Gun Violence Prevention Commission - **Commissioners Elliott Major and David Howard were absent.**

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY THE CITY COUNCIL/GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMISSION.

Overview of Gun Violence Statistics
Highlights from the December 2025 Report
Direction/Next Steps for the Commission

RECESS/ADJOURN. 10:10 a.m.

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.
(10:21 am - 10:55 am)**

AT 10:55 am, THE COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

Adoption of a resolution ratifying the City Manager's declaration of a local emergency; conferring emergency powers in the City Manager as Director of Emergency Management.

Adopted Resolution No. 43344-020226. (7-0)

An ordinance approving, affirming and ratifying the waiving of parking fees for City parking garages and on-street parking from January 24–30, 2026, due to an incoming winter storm.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43345-020226. (7-0)

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 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 involving the cooperation between governmental agencies, 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 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 certain legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney regarding a real estate transaction in the Southwest part of the City, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that 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.

(7-0)

Topics for discussion by the Mayor and Members of City Council. **None.**

Items listed on the 2:00 pm City Council docket requiring discussion/clarification and addition/deletions to the 2:00 pm agenda. **None.**

BRIEFINGS:

Council Member Initiative — Amendments to Zoning Ordinance Text — 20 minutes

Code Amendment (Transient Occupancy Tax) — 10 minutes

FY 2027 Budget Update - 20 minutes.

AT 12:29 pm, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENED AT 2:00 P.M., 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 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:

Roanoke Police Department celebrates 10th CALEA Accreditation.

Travis Parrish, Director of Client Services and Relations for the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) presented a plaque to Scott Booth, Chief of Police and several police officers and police department staff in attendance.

Recognition of Alicia Cundiff, Department of Economic Development.

The City Manager recognized Ms. Cundiff, who received the 2025 Rising Star Award from the Virginia Economic Development Association.

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" February as Black History Month, advised that there were so many events taking place this month to honor national and local black history, and encouraged the public to check out

the Grandin Theater, Harrison Museum of African American Culture and Arts Reach for events.

Council Member Volosin thanked everyone who worked in the Department of Public Works on the snow removal over the past week and "shouted-out" everyone who assisted with the Point-in-Time count and warming shelters for the homeless population.

Council Member Powers "shouted-out" the Department of Public Works, the City Manager's Office and public safety staff who all worked together through the recent snow event and commented that the citizens were fortunate to live in a City where everyone cares for each other.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted-out" City staff, the Department of Public Works and the Department of Parks and Recreation, who kept the greenways clear and commented that he was impressed with how neighbors came together to help those who couldn't clear driveways and sidewalks.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the Department of Public Works and all the City staff that kept things running, and thanked the residents for their patience.

Council Member Hagen echoed the sentiments of his colleagues and commented that he did not recall a past storm involving snow, ice and bitter cold for so long.

Mayor Cobb thanked the agencies that created warming shelters for the homeless, which included Red Cross, Rescue Mission, RAM House, The Least of These Ministries, Belmont Presbyterian Church and the House of Hope.

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 Carter Mundy appeared before the Council and spoke to encourage the Council, thanked the staff for their hard work and commented that when Council succeeds the City succeeds.

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

C-1. Request to schedule an advertisement for a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard or determined by the City Manager, to receive public comment on the proposed lease agreement between the City of Roanoke and The Orvis Company, Inc., for approximately 3,000 square feet of retail space within the Center in the Square Garage, located at 11 Campbell Avenue SE, Roanoke, Virginia.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

C-2. Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

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

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;

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; and

Christopher Miller as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals for a three-year term of office, commencing January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFING:

December Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

a. Acceptance and Appropriation of Helene Business Recovery Initiative Funds for the Greater Roanoke & New River Valley Small Business Development Center.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43346-020226. (7-0)

b. Acceptance and Appropriation of Funding for Additional Child Protective Services Staff.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43347-020226. (7-0)

c. Acceptance and Appropriation of Redistributing Local Bonus Funds from the Virginia Department of Social Services.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43348-020226. (7-0)

d. Adoption of a Resolution Initiating Amendments to the City's Zoning Code.

Adopted Resolution No. 43349-020226. (7-0)

e. Adoption of a Resolution Initiating a Review and Update of the Evans Spring Plan.

Adopted Resolution No. 43350-020226. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

I want to take a moment to publicly thank the City staff for their incredible efforts during Winter Storm Fern. From snow fighters working around the clock, to solid waste, parks, fire, and emergency management teams keeping our streets safe and emergency services operational, every department demonstrated dedication and resilience. I also want to recognize the Community Engagement and Homeless Assistance teams for keeping residents informed and supporting vulnerable populations through warming centers and outreach. Thanks to their coordinated work, critical services were maintained, emergency access was preserved, and our community came through this challenging storm safely.

I'd like to highlight some upcoming Black History Month programs at Roanoke Public Libraries. The Williamson Road Library will host a trivia challenge on February 11, and the Gainsboro Branch Library will present a program on February 12 about the Booker T. Washington Birthplace Memorial, featuring newly uncovered historical photographs. Every Thursday in February, the Main Library will offer movie nights, including *Hidden Figures*, *The Great Debaters*, *The Butler*, and *Selma*. Additionally, the Gainsboro Branch will host a beginner-friendly African American genealogy workshop on February 21 to help residents explore their family history. I encourage everyone to participate and take advantage of these engaging and educational opportunities.

I want to take a moment to remind everyone that the Williamson Road Library play area in Esperanza Plaza will officially open with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, February 6, at 10:00 a.m. This safe, family-friendly space was made possible through the Safer Communities Grant and provides a great opportunity for community connection. I encourage everyone to join us in celebrating this wonderful new addition to our library.

The Eureka Recreation Center renovation continues on track for a planned Spring 2026 completion. Interior systems like heating, cooling, and plumbing are now substantially complete, allowing the installation of sensitive finishes such as the hardwood gym floor. The roof-mounted solar array, which will generate clean energy and help reduce long-term operating costs, has begun installation. Additional interior features, including basketball goals and a retractable court divider, are now in place, marking the transition from major construction to final finishing and commissioning. This renovation represents an important investment in our community and the City's sustainability goals.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

- a. Execution of a Tax Collection Services Agreement between the Roanoke City Treasurer and Taxing Authority Consulting Services, PC.
Adopted Resolution No. 43351-020226. (7-0)

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. **None.**

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.**

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. A resolution appointing Laura M. Carini as City Attorney for the City of Roanoke, Virginia, effective March 1, 2026.

Adopted Resolution No. 43352-020226. (7-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

Waived residency requirement for 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. Ronald Marsh as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Debra Carter ending December 31, 2028.

Reappointed Jennifer Oakes as a member of the Local Office of Aging Advisory Board for a term of office commencing March 1, 2026, and ending February 28, 2027.

Appointed Dustin Eshelman as a member of the Roanoke Cultural Endowment, Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of office of Victoria Thornton ending December 31, 2026.

Appointed Omaira Perry as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board to replace Cyndi Jones for a term of office ending June 30, 2028.

Reappointed Mandy Cribb as a member of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee for a term of office commencing April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2029.

12. RECESSED FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING - 3:06 PM.

13. RECONVENED - 3:42 PM.

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

14. ADJOURNED - 3:45 PM.