



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

February 17, 2026
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.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Terry Kemp, Children's Pastor and Ministries Director, Fort Chiswell Church of God.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

Welcome

Mayor Cobb called for a Moment of Silence in the passing of The Reverend Dr. Jesse Jackson, on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

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 Black History Month Program at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" the Angels of Assisi ribbon cutting ceremony for its new, upgraded facility on February 10.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the Total Action for Progress (TAP) Black

History Month Program and the Angels of Assisi ribbon cutting ceremony on February 10.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted-out" the Roanoke Neighborhood Awards program and commented that the City's neighborhood groups were an important part of the landscape.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the Angels of Assisi ribbon cutting ceremony on February 10.

Council Member Hagen "shouted-out" the Total Action for Progress (TAP) Black History Month Program held at St. John's Episcopal Church on February 12.

Mayor Cobb commented that on January 29, four City firefighters were injured in a fire on Courtland Avenue, NW. All are home recovering. He wished them well, offered continued prayers, and thanked firefighters for the work they do in the City.

Proclamation declaring February 2026 as Black History Month and honoring the Harrison Museum of African-American Culture as a pillar in the African-American community.

Council Member Nash read and presented the proclamation to Anita Price, former City Council Member, and Charles Price, former Director, Harrison Museum of African—American Culture.

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.

Anita James Price appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the conflict with the City and the schools division.

Ryner Nash appeared before the Council and expressed dissatisfaction with the school funding reduced by City Council.

John Turnbull appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the school funding cuts.

Barbara Duerk appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the Connect Now, healthy communities program and presented a QR code associated with the Evans Spring and vape stores initiatives.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: (APPROVED 7-0)

- C-1.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel pertaining to actual or probable 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, as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-2.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, 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-3.** 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 a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the Northwest area of the City of Roanoke, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5), 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 concerning the sale of city property in the Southwest part of the City, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), Code of Virginia, (1950), as amended.

Withdrawn.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concur 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 concerning the sale of city property in the Northwest part of the City, 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 in-house and outside legal counsel regarding proposed new legislation requiring the provision of legal advice, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-7.** Request to schedule and advertise for bids on this matter and for opening of bids and a public hearing on Monday, March 16, 2026, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or such other date and time as deemed appropriate by the City Manager, for the consideration of a Parking Agreement for Unreserved Parking Permits for the Center in the Square Garage located at 11 Campbell Avenue, SE.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-8.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

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

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

Jennifer Eddy as a member of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors for a one-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

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:

BRIEFINGS:

Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update - 15 minutes

FY27 Budget Update - 20 minutes **(To be presented on March 2, at 9:00 a.m.)**

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a.** Appropriation of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Funding for the Tinker Creek Greenway.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43353-021726. (7-0)
- b.** Execution of a Naming, Advertising, and Sponsorship Agreement for Roanoke Civic Center with Berglund Management Group, Inc.
Adopted Resolution No. 43354-021726. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Kathryn Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, reported on the following matters from the January 20 and February 2, 2026 Council meetings:

Death at Melrose Towers

Debra Carter discussed concern regarding the response to a 911 call where a resident was later found deceased in his apartment.

Report Back:

The Fire Marshal reached out to Ms. Carter to report that Fire-EMS leadership has reviewed the incident. Because the original dispatch was for an unusual odor—not a wellbeing check—responding firefighters investigated by checking the complainant's plumbing, running water, and thoroughly assessing the surrounding area. The odor seemed to dissipate during the call, and at that time officials observed no conditions that warranted forced entry into the neighboring apartment. Based on the information available to

crews, established protocol was followed. We appreciate Ms. Carter's concerns and offer condolences to the family.

Transit Equity Day Community Engagement

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, was Fare Free Day across Valley Metro to recognize Transit Equity Day. This day is a tribute to Rosa Parks and is intended to promote the accessibility of public transit and encourage new riders to experience the convenience of the system.

- Valley Metro saw 5,404 riders during Fare Free Day 2026.
- On a typical Wednesday, the average ridership is 4,832.
- The average ridership for the seven days prior to Fare Free Day was 3,829.
- Fare Free Day ridership dropped by 296 this year.

2. CITY ATTORNEY:

- a. Amendment of the City Code Article X, Transient Occupancy Tax, Chapter 32, Taxation, to Align with Recent Changes to the Code of Virginia.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43355-021726. (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. An ordinance to adjust the salary of the City Treasurer, effective January 1, 2026.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43356-021726. (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. **None.**

12. RECESSED - 3:19 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 Amy Hodge, Pastor, Mt. Zion AME Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

Welcome

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

A resolution expressing sincere appreciation to Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney, on the occasion of his retirement, for his dedicated service to the citizens of the City of Roanoke, Virginia.

Adopted Resolution No. 43357-021726. (7-0) Mayor Cobb presented the Key to the City and a City gift to Mr. Spencer.

15. PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Authorization to Execute a Lease Agreement Between the City of Roanoke and The Orvis Company, Inc., for Retail Space in the Center in the Square Parking Garage.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43358-021726. (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.

Adrienne Ostrander, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to school budget cuts.

Victoria Shockley-Newton, appeared before the Council and spoke on behalf of teachers and students at James Madison Middle School and funding for the next school year.

Rebekah Murphy, appeared before the Council and spoke as an advocate for full and fair funding for RCPS.

Adalyn Smith, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the cut in P.L.A.T.O. and after-school programs.

Jeanette Anderson, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the cut in the P.L.A.T.O. program.

Listrik Stillman-Runyon, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the cut in P.L.A.T.O. and after-school programs.

Nenden Stillman-Runyon, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of no budget and program cuts for the school system.

Asalia Lafon, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the P.L.A.T.O. program.

Troy Eichelberger, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the Evans house in Washington Park.

Polly Branch, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the repair of the cottage in Washington Park.

Thomas Lewis, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the repair of the cottage in Washington Park.

Gregory Hunt, appeared before the Council and presented a proposal to purchase and restore the cottage in Washington Park.

Sylvia King, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of the restoration of the cottage in Washington Park.

Essie Manns, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to restoring history and keeping the community alive.

Katt Duncan, appeared before the Council and expressed disappointment with the changes to the funding formula for Roanoke City Public Schools and requested that Council revisit the policy.

Stacie Orris, appeared before the Council and spoke in support of restoration of school funding.

James Orris, appeared before the Council and spoke to save the P.L.A.T.O. program.

Tom Blanton, appeared before the Council and spoke in concern about upcoming budget decisions and asked that the tax rate remain at \$1.22.

Leslie Warden-Anderson, appeared before the Council in opposition to the proposed cuts to the school budget.

Andrew Edwards, appeared before the Council in opposition to the proposed cuts to the school budget.

Olive Copplestone, appeared before the Council and spoke to save the P.L.A.T.O. program.

Allison Shok, appeared before the Council and spoke with concern about the RCPS budget and asked that Council fully restore the school funding.

ADJOURNED - 8:20 PM.