



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

March 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 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 City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting for the purpose of discussing possible disposition and acquisition of property in the Southeast 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)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel pertaining to a possible breach of contract by a city contractor requiring the provision of legal advice pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), Code of Virginia.

(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 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.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to discuss possible acquisition of property in the Southwest 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)

Taven Davis, a student, appeared before the Council with regard to the school budget decision and asked Council not to cut the school budget.

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:

FY 2027 Budget Update - 20 minutes.

FY 2027 Strategic Priorities - 15 minutes.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 AM, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. (9:10 AM - 10:12 AM)

AT 11:37 AM, 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. Council Member Hagen was absent.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Joanna Paysour, Pastor, Greene Memorial United Methodist 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. (6-0)

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 Sanchez-Jones recognized Battalion Chief Doug Rorrer on his recent retirement after 34 years of service.

Vice-Mayor McGuire acknowledged the community visioning walk in the 11th Street Neighborhood Center on Saturday, February 21, for a tour of the 11th Street neighborhood center and asked for input on how the area should change and grow. Also, thanks for the reminder to wear purple and green for Women's History Month recognition.

Council Member Nash offered condolences to the family of Mrs. Kimberly Sue Lee, who was tragically shot over the weekend. He also acknowledged all those who have family members in the military during this volatile time in our nation.

Council Member Volosin acknowledged the Virginia Asian Advisory Board's visit to Roanoke on Saturday, February 28 at the South Roanoke Library.

Council Member Powers "shouted-out" Women's History Month and acknowledged Laura Carini's appointment as the City's first female City Attorney. She also recognized the City Libraries for the many events and programs they host.

Mayor Cobb "shouted-out" the Young Docs Gala held at the Holiday Inn on February 28th. This event was in recognition of young African Americans from Roanoke who are interested in a career in medicine. Also, thanks to Marian Ware and Cheryl Mosely who hosted this year's event. Dr. Diana Cejas was awarded the Henrietta Lacks Legacy Award.

Proclamation declaring March 2026 as American Red Cross Month.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Sandra Pratt, Board Vice-Chair, Local Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Proclamation declaring March 2026 as Women's History Month.

The City Manager introduced the recipients and Council Members Powers and Sanchez-Jones read and presented the proclamations to Natasha Dudley, Dr.

Brenda Hale, Kat Paschal, Iliana Sepulveda, Isabel Thornton, Laura Carini and Sharon Ponce.

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 she may deem appropriate.

- 1. Owen McGuire, appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the deed amendment for the Fishburn Cottage and requested an investigation of the Van Blaricoms that purchased the building.**

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (6-0)

- C-1.** Minutes of the regular meetings of City Council held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, Monday, February 2, 2026, and Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

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

- C-2.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Jatniel Rodriguez as a member of the Roanoke Neighborhood Advocates, effective immediately.

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

- C-3.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Laura M. Carini as City Attorney for the City of Roanoke, a term commencing March 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2026;

Dustin Eshelman as a member of the Roanoke Cultural Endowment to replace Victoria Thornton for a term of office ending December 31, 2026;

Jennifer Oakes as a member of the Local Office on Aging Advisory Board for a one-year term of office commencing March 1, 2026 and ending February 28, 2027;

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

Duke Baldrige as a member of the Economic Development Authority for a four-year term of office, commencing October 21, 2025, and ending October 20, 2029;

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

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Update from 211 Virginia and presentation of a proclamation which declared Wednesday, February 11, 2026, as 211 Virginia Day. Alison Jorgensen, President and Chief Executive Officer, Council of Community Services, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Mayor Cobb)
Amanda Holcomb, Director, Council of Community Services, presented information with regard to 211 Virginia and Mayor Cobb presented a proclamation referring to February 10, 2026, as 211 Virginia Day.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFING:

January Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Adoption of the 2025 Roanoke Valley - Alleghany Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan which includes the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Resolution No. 43359-030226. (6-0)
- b. Acceptance and Appropriation of VBR Sports and USA Cycling Event Proceeds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43360-030226. (6-0)
- c. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Operation Ceasefire Supplemental Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43361-030226. (6-0)
- d. Approval of an agreement to modify the deed to the Special Warranty Deed conveying approximately 1.1 acres and improvements for the former Fishburn Park Caretaker's Cottage at 2424 Brambleton Avenue, S.W.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43362-030226. (6-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

Public Works' Stormwater Utility will begin two downtown drainage improvement projects this spring to address recurring street ponding during heavy rain.

- 1st Street Downtown project, is the first, additional stormwater inlets along 1st Street Southwest, between Luck Avenue and Kirk Avenue. These improvements will increase system capacity and improve runoff removal during heavy rainfall.

- A second project will take place on Kirk Avenue, between Jefferson Street and Market Street. This project will add three new stormwater inlets to further enhance downtown drainage during major rain events.

- Project scheduling has been carefully planned to avoid impacts to Martin's St. Patrick's Day event and to ensure completion before the Blue Ridge Marathon

in April.

- Together, these projects provide targeted, near-term improvements to downtown stormwater management while continuing to support local businesses and major community events.

Last week, staff removed shrubbery at the Municipal Building near the 2nd Street entrance as part of our continued efforts to improve both the appearance and functionality of this important civic space. In the coming weeks, crews will level and mulch the beds in preparation for new plantings scheduled for spring. These updates will refresh and modernize the entrance while also improving the visibility of building signage and creating better access to the adjacent lawn area. Overall, these enhancements will result in a cleaner, more welcoming, and more accessible entry point for residents, visitors, and staff.

Last month, I shared that the Skatepark ribbon cutting was scheduled for Friday, March 6, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. To ensure that our community partners who helped make this project possible are able to attend, we have made one final adjustment to the date. The ribbon cutting has been rescheduled for the last time and will now take place on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. We look forward to celebrating this exciting addition to our community together.

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.

Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43363-030226. (4-0, 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.
Council Member Nash advised that at the most recent meeting of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Executive Director David Bustamante reported that RRHA no longer received monthly crime reports from the Police Department for the housing properties and the information must be obtained by FOIA request. Council Member Nash asked the City Manager to look into the matter.

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

- Appointed Annemarie Carroll as a member of the Architectural Review Board to replace Brenda Allen for a term of office ending October 1, 2029.

- Appointed Timothy Spencer as a member (City Retiree Representative) of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan for a two-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2028.
- Appointed Deputy Chief Michael Crawley as a member (Police Department Representative) of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan for a two-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2028. Council waived the residency requirement.
- Appointed James Yancey as a member (Roanoke Regional Airport Representative) of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan for a four-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2030. Council waived the residency requirement.
- Appointed Edena Reese-Atmore as an ex-officio member by position of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan.
- Appointed Dawn Erdman as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace Andrew Raduly for a term of office ending December 31, 2026.
- Appointed Edena Reese-Atmore as an ex-officio member by position of the City of Roanoke Finance Board.
- Appointed Edena Reese-Atmore as an ex-officio member by position of the Defined Contribution Board.
- Reappointed Valerie Koepfel as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2029.
- Reappointed Deputy Chief Adam Puckett as a member of the Regional Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029. Council waived the residency requirement.
- Appointed John Wiercioch as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission to replace Charlene Graves for a term of office ending June 30, 2028.
- Reappointed Dr. Nathaniel L. Bishop as a member of the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission for a four-year term of office commencing March 10, 2026, and ending March 9, 2030. Council waived the residency requirement.
- Reappointed Matt Clark as a member of the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2029.

ADJOURNED - 3:27 pm