



City of Roanoke, Virginia
CITY COUNCIL
ROANOKE CITY SCHOOL BOARD

March 16, 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. Council Member Volosin was absent.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Elizabeth N. H. Link, Executive Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church.

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

Welcome

JOINT MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL AND THE ROANOKE CITY SCHOOL BOARD.

CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL.

City Council — **Council Member Volosin was absent.**

Roanoke City School Board - **Trustees Jamison and Quintana were absent.**

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/COMMENTS BY THE CITY COUNCIL /ROANOKE CITY SCHOOL BOARD.

RECESS/ADJOURN - 3:20 pm.

THE COUNCIL MEETING RECONVENED TO CONSIDER THE REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS. (3:32 pm)

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" downtown Roanoke and First Citizens Bank, who hosted the 2026 St. Patrick's Day Parade held on Saturday, March 14.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown and expressed pleasure with the energy of the safe and fun event.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted-out" the festive atmosphere at the recent Washington Park cleanup event and to the Friends of Mountain View tour on March 4 and expressed gratitude to the citizens who were willing to restore the building.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the St. Patrick's Day Parade downtown and recent City events.

Council Member Hagen commented that he enjoyed the Exit, Pursued by a Bear Theater.

Mayor Cobb commented about the ribbon cutting for the Agape House for veterans, a vision 20 years in the making.

Proclamation declaring Wednesday, March 18, 2026, as Small Business Development Center Day.

Mayor Cobb presented the proclamation to Heather Fay, Director and Executive Regional Administrator, Greater Roanoke & New River Valley Small Business Development Center.

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.

Kevin Aagard appeared before the Council and spoke in support of funding for Roanoke City Public Schools.

Laura McKeage appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the decrease in the Roanoke City Public Schools budget.

Ellie Bundrick appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the potential school budget cuts, including the P.L.A.T.O. program.

Jessica Blandy appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the decrease in the Roanoke City Public Schools Budget.

Freedra Cathcart appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the

financial and economic development issues at Fisburn Park and requested that the contract with the vanBlaricoms be reviewed.

Angela Biard appeared before the Council and spoke in support of Roanoke City Public Schools funding and how the management of funds impacted children's future.

Wani Mojah appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the decrease in the Roanoke City Public Schools budget.

Kathleen Jennings appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the decrease in the Roanoke City Public Schools budget.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (6-0)

C-1. Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, March 2, 2026.

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

C-2. A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the two upcoming vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board expiring June 30, 2026, 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 to consult with legal counsel employed by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel regarding a proposed encroachment permit, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), 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 for the purpose of discussing possible acquisition of property in the Northeast 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 Clerk advising of the resignation of Jared Rose as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission, effective immediately.

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

- C-7.** Report of qualification of 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

BID OPENINGS:

Bids to enter into a Parking Agreement for unreserved parking permits for the Center in the Square Garage located at 11 Campbell Avenue, S. E., Roanoke, Virginia.
Received one bid from The First National Exchange, LC. The sole bid was referred to the City Manager for review and recommendation to the Council.

- 5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.**

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Presentation of a year-end update on Melrose Plaza. Richmond Vincent, Chief Executive Officer, Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, Inc. (Sponsored by Mayor Cobb)

Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

- 1.** City Manager:

BRIEFING:

Budget Briefing – External Agencies - 20 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a.** Acceptance of Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) Grant – Watershed Modeling for Peters Creek and Ore Branch Watersheds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43364-031626. (6-0)
- b.** Authorization to submit an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Peters Creek Flood Mitigation Project – Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR).
Adopted Resolution No. 43365-031626. (6-0)
- c.** Adoption of the redefined strategic goals, objectives and priorities for the City of Roanoke.
Adopted Resolution No. 43366-031626. (6-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

Parks and Recreation will be piloting a noise-reduction initiative at the Shrine Hill pickleball courts. Staff have installed “Librarian (quiet) pickleball” receptacles

filled with softer balls, along with informational signage for players. This effort responds to neighborhood concerns regarding the noise associated with pickleball, specifically the sharp “ping” sound produced during play. The use of softer balls is intended to help mitigate that noise while allowing continued use of the courts. RVTV will be filming educational promotional segments for this initiative in the coming weeks to help inform the public and encourage participation in the pilot program.

In recognition of International Women’s Day, the International City/County Management Association hosted the 2025 SheLeadsGov Virtual Forum on March 5. This year’s forum, themed “Innovate, Inspire, Impact,” brought together more than 1,200 participants who joined virtually or through organized watch gatherings across the country. The SheLeadsGov forums connect professionals committed to supporting one another, encouraging meaningful community change, and advancing innovation in local government. The event included conversations, collaborative sessions, and keynote presentations that provided practical strategies for strengthening local organizations and communities, while also fostering a strong sense of connection among participants. Here in Roanoke, more than 100 women employed by the City gathered Thursday morning, March 5th, to participate in a leadership development forum focused on strategic communication, self-advocacy, and leading during periods of change. Women currently represent 38.5 percent of the City’s municipal workforce, including 23 individuals serving in senior leadership roles. Employees from multiple departments participated in the program to strengthen leadership capacity and build professional connections across the organization. The program also emphasized the continued advancement of women in public service and the preparation of future leaders here in the Star City.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Kathryn Hedrick, Inclusive Services Manager, reported on the following matters from the February 17 and March 2 City Council Meetings:

School Funding

Seventeen residents, including six students, spoke regarding the proposed changes to the RCPS budget. Each speaker received an acknowledgment of their comments and gratitude for their commitment to education.

Washington Park

Five residents spoke on behalf of the Friends of Washington Park, specifically advocating for the restoration of the Caretakers Cottage. An inquiry was sent to the City Attorney regarding an insurance document submission, and all residents were contacted regarding their concerns.

Tree Concern

Dr. Manns is concerned about the impact a neighbor’s tree is having on her health. Her address and concern were sent to the Code Compliance team, who reported that there are no code violations on the adjacent property that can be enforced. This update was sent to Dr. Manns.

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 reported that Greater Roanoke Transit Company will provide a Free Fare Day for the April 21, 2026, Special Election; and advised of progress on the new bus stop shelter at Valley View Walmart.
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. **None.**
12. **RECESSED - 5:09 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. Council Member Volosin was absent.**

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Vannie Harrell, Lead Pastor, Church Alive International.

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

Welcome
14. **PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: None.**
15. **PUBLIC HEARING:**
 1. A report of the City Manager recommending execution of a Parking Agreement, subject to certain terms and conditions, to obtain up to twenty (20) parking permits for the use of not more than twenty (20) unreserved parking spaces in the City's Center in the Square Garage located at 11 Campbell Avenue, S.E.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43367-031626. (6-0)
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.

Abby McDonald appeared before the Council and expressed concern about the cuts to the Roanoke City Public Schools budget.

Kathleen Wooley appeared before the Council on behalf of Bus Riders of Roanoke Advocacy Group and spoke with regard to public transit services and budgeting.

Monique Bishop appeared before the Council on behalf of Bus Riders of Roanoke Advocacy Group and spoke with regard to public transit services and budgeting.

Megan McKnight appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the importance of school funding, particularly how it impacts students with disabilities.

Chanelle Henderson appeared before the Council and expressed concern about the cuts to the Roanoke City Public Schools budget.

Richard Fife appeared before the Council and suggested that Council rescind or propose an alternate development plan for the Evans Spring property.

Grace Brian appeared before the Council and expressed concern with regard to the decrease in funding to Roanoke City Public Schools.

Dena Anderson appeared before the Council and expressed concern with regard to the decision to reduce funding to Roanoke City Public Schools.

Christian Burnette appeared before the Council as President of the NAACP Youth Council and expressed concern about cuts to the Roanoke City Public Schools budget.

Nazier Jackson appeared before the Council as Vice-President of the NAACP Youth Council and expressed concern about cuts to the Roanoke City Public Schools budget.

RECESSED FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSED MEETING - 7:49 PM.

RECONVENED - 8:13 PM.

Certification of Closed Meeting. (6-0)

RECESSED - 8:14 PM.

The City Council Meeting will stand in recess until Monday, March 23, 2026, at 2:00 pm, for the presentation of the Proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget.