



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

April 6, 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

Mayor Cobb announced that on April 20, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m., Roanoke City Council will conduct four interviews to select two candidates to serve as Roanoke City School Board Trustees for three-year terms of office, each, commencing July 1, 2026. The four candidates are Derek Kaknes, Darlene L. Burcham, Christopher T. Link and Donna M. Littlepage.

On April 20, at 7:00 p.m., a public hearing will be held to hear the views of citizens on said candidates for Roanoke City School Board Trustee; and announcement of the successful candidates will be made at a subsequent Council Meeting.

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 to consult with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation regarding a workers' compensation settlement, 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.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting to consult with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation regarding opioid settlements, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, pursuant to Section 2-3711(A)(7), 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 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.

(7-0)

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: None.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 am, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. (9:07 am - 10:09 am)

AT 10:09 am, THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENED 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. All present.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Preston Tyler, Pastor, Hill Street Baptist 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)

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Cobb announced that on April 20, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m., Roanoke City Council will conduct four interviews to select two candidates to serve as Roanoke City School Board Trustees for three-year terms of office, each, commencing July 1, 2026. The four candidates are Derek Kaknes, Darlene L. Burcham, Christopher T. Link and Donna M. Littlepage.

On April 20, at 7:00 p.m., a public hearing will be held to hear the views of citizens on said candidates for Roanoke City School Board Trustee; and announcement of the successful candidates will be made at a subsequent Council Meeting.

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 Hagen "shouted out" Chaos Corner, a business where you can let off some steam using paint. He pointed out that he recently attended the ribbon cutting, and was down with all seven Members of Council attending if any of them were willing to do it at some point.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted out" the Police Department for having fun activities in different parts of the city for kids while they were on spring break.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted out" parents who were ready to send their kids back to school tomorrow and hoped that everyone had a fun and safe spring break. He also thanked the Clean Valley Council for hosting a rain barrel workshop on March 28, and reminded everyone that there are ways to reduce the stormwater runoff fee by applying different techniques and practices in your yard, like installing rain barrels.

Council Member Nash commended the Police Department as well for their spring break activities and acknowledged the onset of Roanoke Valley Saves Week. He presented a proclamation on April 4 at the Envision Center and discussed the importance of financial management and saving, especially during hard economic times.

Council Member Volosin "shouted out" Strong Cities, PedalSafe Roanoke, the City of Roanoke, Arts Connect Neighbors, for the Easter Egg Hunt at Brown Robertson Park consisting of 3,000 Easter eggs. He also "shouted out" the

Roanoke Valley Resource Authority for their ribbon-cutting event at Kids Square last week.

Council Member Powers "shouted out" the Police Department for hosting the Kids in the Park Program and also "shouted out" the Roanoke Rail Yard Dawgs for securing a spot in the playoffs at number three and encouraged everyone to get a ticket and go!

Mayor Cobb "shouted out" the Nowruz (Persian New Year) Celebration held on March 28 in Elmwood Park. He noted this is the fifth year of the festival, and it was lovely to see the community come together to celebrate food, culture, dance and stories; and also "shouted out" the ribbon cutting for the La Plaza de Esperanza, a new bilingual playground at the Williamson Road Library that not only blends in beautifully and tells the story of the neighborhood it's in, but is completely accessible.

Proclamation declaring April 2026 as National Donate Life Month.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Afton Jamerson, Trauma Program Director, Carilion Clinic Roanoke Memorial Hospital; and Alex Brendel, Regional Hospital Development Coordinator, LifeNet Health.

Proclamation declaring April 12–18, 2026, as Telecommunicator Week.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Sonya Roman, Manager, E-911. Ms. Roman presented two awards to staff in attendance to recognize the Telecommunicator of the Year.

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.

Bill Mason appeared before the Council and requested clarity with regard to the backlog of applications for certificates of occupancy for the historic district.

Angie Bird appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the decrease in funding to the schools division and revisiting the City's budget.

Kathy Cohen appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the decrease in funding for the schools division and asked that the budget be amended.

Barbara Duerk appeared before the Council and thanked the Legislative Committee for their bike safety efforts.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: (APPROVED 7-0)

C-1. Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, March 16, 2026; and the recessed meeting of City Council held on Monday, March 23, 2026.

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

- C-2.** Annual report of the Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association for the calendar year 2025.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

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

Michael Crawley as a member of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan to replace Andy Foley for a two-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2028;

Dawn Erdman as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals to replace Andrew Raduly for a term of office ending December 31, 2026;

TaQuadri Johnson as a Youth Representative of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for a term of office ending March 31, 2027;

Timothy Spencer as a member of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan to replace Dawn Mullins for a two-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2028;

James Yancey as a member of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan to replace David Jeavons for a four-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2030; and

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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Annual update on activities of the Roanoke Regional Partnership. John Hull, Executive Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)
Received and filed.
2. Roanoke Valley Resource Authority to present its proposed 2026 - 2027 Annual Budget. Jon Lanford, Chief Executive Officer, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)
Adopted Resolution No. 43368-040626. (7-0)
3. Roanoke Regional Airport Commission to present its proposed 2026 - 2027 Operating Budget and Proposed Capital Expenditures. Mike Stewart, Executive Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)
Adopted Resolution No. 43369-040626. (7-0)

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:
BRIEFINGS:

February Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutes

City's 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan for CDBG Block Grants & 2019 Annual Action Plan — 15 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a. Acquisition of Real Property Rights for the 8th Street and Grayson Avenue Pedestrian Improvements.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43370-040626. (7-0)
- b. Acceptance of a Subaward Agreement for the Greater Roanoke & New River Valley Small Business Development Center.
Adopted Resolution No. 43371-040626. (7-0)
- c. Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Department of Fire Programs Mini Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43372-040626. (7-0)
- d. Adoption of Tax Year 2026 Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) Percentage.
Adopted Resolution No. 43373-040626. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

I'm pleased to share information about a meaningful international partnership that brings both a global perspective and local value to our community. The city has been selected by the international City County Management Association to host a fellow through the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative on what they call YSEALI. This program, sponsored by the US Department of State, provides emerging leaders between the ages of 25 and 35 from Southeast Asia with a four to six-week fellowship experience here in the United States. The focus is on sustainability, governance and civic engagement, areas that align closely with the work we do every day in local government. I am honored to host Ms. Puteri Bendera. Puteri as she likes to be called, is here for a five to six-week placement with our city.

She is a PhD candidate and a Graduate Research Assistant at the University of Sains Malaysia, where she specializes in Hydrology, Climate Adaption and Disaster Risk Reduction. Her research is particularly relevant to communities like ours as she focuses on developing climate-resistant water and agricultural systems using watershed modeling and nature-based solutions. In addition to her academic work, Puteri brings impressive practical experience. She is contributing to international climate initiatives through an internship with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Changes Local Communities and Indigenous People's Platform, where she supported data-driven efforts to document indigenous knowledge of climate resilience. She also serves as a Program Officer with the ASEAN Youth Organization and is actively involved in Water Watch Penang, promoting water conservation and climate education.

During her time with us, Puteri aims to deepen her understanding of how local governments integrate climate data, community engagement, and policy

innovation to strengthen resilience. At the same time, our staff will benefit from her global perspective, technical expertise, and fresh ideas. This fellowship is an opportunity not only to support the development of an emerging global leader, but also to strengthen our own capacity as a City to address complex challenges like climate adaptation and sustainability. We are proud to participate in this program and to welcome Puteri to our community. I know her time here will be both impactful and mutually beneficial.

I'm pleased to share that the City of Roanoke has been selected as one of twenty finalists for the 2026 All-America City Award. This recognition reflects the strong partnerships across our community to expand civic engagement, build trust, and create a more inclusive city. Roanoke was recognized for three key initiatives:

- First, our Response to Homelessness, where we've shifted to a coordinated, human-centered approach through the STAR Initiative and the Hope and Home Task Force—connecting individuals to care, services, and long-term solutions.
- Second, Engagement Ready / Grant Ready Roanoke, in partnership with the Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance, which strengthens resident engagement and equips community organizations with the tools to lead and access funding.
- Third, Arts Connect Neighbors, which uses arts and culture to bring people together through free, neighborhood-based programs that build connection and belonging.

The next stage will take place in Denver from June 26–28, where we will present to a national jury. If selected, Roanoke would become a nine-time All-America City. We're proud to represent our community on the national stage.

2. CITY ATTORNEY: None.

3. DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE VALUATION:

Real Estate Valuation Update - 15 minutes

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. Repeal and replace Ordinance No. 43269-091525 accepting and appropriating FY26 Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Funds, to correct a scriveners' error. **Adopted Ordinance No. 43374-040626. (7-0)**
2. A resolution authorizing the allocation of funding in the amount of up to \$400,000 in the FY27 Capital Improvement Plan to support the stabilization, restoration, and sympathetic adaptive reuse with façade retention of the Washington Park Caretaker's Cottage into a community-oriented amphitheater space. **Adopted Resolution No. 43375-040626, as amended. (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.

Reappointed Jeffrey Shawver as a member of the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029. Council waived the residency requirement.

Reappointed Charles Brown, Jr., as a member 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.

Reappointed Laura Carini as a member of the City of Roanoke Finance Board for a two-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2028.

Reappointed Judge Hilary Griffith as a member of the Court Community Corrections Program Regional Community Criminal Justice Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029. Council waived the residency requirement.

Reappointed Tiffany Keffer as a member of the Court Community Corrections Program Regional Community Criminal Justice Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029. Council waived the residency requirement.

Reappointed Amy Hodge 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.

Appointed Pamela Smith as a member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission to replace Debra Carter for a term of office commencing April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2029.

Reappointed Frank Rogan (Citizen-at-Large) as a member of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Reappointed Frank Maguire as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2029.

Reappointed James Pickens as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a three-year term of office commencing April 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2029.

Appointed Dawn Erdman as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission to replace William Penn for a term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Reappointed Barbara Duerk as a member of the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission for a term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Reappointed Julie Payne (Alternate) as a member of the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center Commission for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029. Council waived the residency requirement.

Reappointed Gwendolyn Coleman as a member of the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center Commission for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029. Council waived the residency requirement.

Reappointed Ross Campbell as a member of the Roanoke Valley Transportation Planning Organization for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029. Council waived the residency requirement.

Reappointed Marc Nelson as a member of the Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facility Authority for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Reappointed Chad Scott as a member of the Virginia Western Community College Local Advisory Board for a four-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2030.

Reappointed Beth Quinn as a member of the Virginia Western Community College Local Advisory Board for a four-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2030.

RECESSED - 6:33 pm.

The Council Meeting was declared in recess to be reconvened on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, to conduct interviews to select two candidates to serve as Trustees on the Roanoke City School Board for three-year terms of office, each, commencing July 1, 2026.