



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

April 20, 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 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:

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" City staff who attended the community budget meetings. He expressed that he heard from citizens how interactive and receptive the meetings were.

Vice-Mayor McGuire advised that on April 17, he attended a meeting of Friends of Washington Park and Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation and others to discuss next steps in the restoration of the Caretaker's Cottage in Washington Park. He thanked everyone who attended the Blue Ridge Marathon and Earth Day activities and the citizens who assisted in gardening a

neighborhood park.

Council Member Volosin “shouted out” the visitors to Roanoke for the Blue Ridge Marathon; advised that he attended the event as part of the Roanoke Diversity Center; and “shouted-out” the YMCA on the 92nd Father Son Banquet held at Hill Street Baptist Church.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones “shouted out” the organizers of the Earth Day Festival and employees that worked at the festival and Blue Ridge Marathon.

Council Member Powers advised that she attended both public meetings on the budget and thanked the City employees who worked on the budget. She “shouted out” a group she’s been working with area nursing homes and advised of the great need for clothing for residents that have no family and encouraged the public to donate clothing to the area nursing homes.

Council Member Hagen “shouted-out” Chief of Police, Scott Booth on the community meeting hosted by the Police Department to address the questions, comments and concerns of citizens.

Mayor Cobb “shouted out” the new LEAP west-end market pavilion and explained that it was a \$2 million investment from the City through ARPA funding to completely renovate the headquarters and add the extension of the pavilion. He referenced the growth in food access across the City and LEAP has been a great leader in that effort. He also “shouted-out” the organizers of the Blue Ridge Marathon and recounted his experience as a first-time participant of the marathon.

Proclamation declaring April 2026 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Gwendolyn Coleman, Director, Human Services and Shawna Franklin, Executive Director of Children’s Trust.

Proclamation declaring Friday, April 24, 2026, as Arbor Day.

Mayor Cobb and Vice-Mayor McGuire read and presented the proclamation to Cindy McFall, Director, Parks and Recreation and Bill West, Urban Forestry Coordinator.

Recognition of the Library Community Service Assistant.

The City Manager and Amber Lowery, Director of Libraries, recognized Ellen Stick, a Library Community Service Assistant.

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.

Albert Mack appeared before the Council and expressed concern with regard to vandalism and homelessness in the area.

Megan Lisle Peterson appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the Flock Raven gunshot detection system.

Scott Duvall appeared before the Council and expressed concern about the Flock Raven gunshot detection system.

Sharon Fritz appeared before the Council and requested that funding for Valley Metro and sidewalk improvements be added to the City's budget.

Monique Bishop appeared before the Council and requested funding for Valley Metro and sidewalk improvements be added to the City's budget.

Barbara Duerk appeared before the Council to announce the 5th Annual Love Thy Neighbor Walk on May 2, 2026, 10:00 am, hosted by the Church Women United Roanoke and invited the Council and public to attend.

Freedra Cathcart appeared before the Council and thanked the Council for the donation to the Washington Park Caretaker's Cottage and expressed concerns with regard to economic development in the city.

Justin White appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the Flock Raven gunshot detection system.

Jerin Manalel appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the Flock Raven gunshot detection system.

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

- C-1.** 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-2.** 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 outside legal counsel involving an internal investigation, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8), 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 a regional park in which the City is a partner, 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 the City Manager on a personnel matter

requiring the advice of the City Manager, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

C-5. Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Shane Spradlin as a member of the Towing Advisory Board for a three-year term of office, commencing November 1, 2025, and ending October 31, 2028;

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;

Jason Varney 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; and

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

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

C-6. A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended. (7-0)

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

RECESSED FOR CLOSED MEETING - 3:24 PM.

RECONVENED - 4:55 PM.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFING:

Grant Ready Roanoke & Engagement Ready Roanoke Update-20 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a.** Acceptance and Appropriation of the Virginia Tourism Corporation Grant - GO Fest 2026.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43376-042026. (7-0)
- b.** Acceptance of Opioid Settlement Claims against the Manufacturers (Group Six Remnant Defendants).
Adopted Ordinance No. 43377-042026. (7-0)
- c.** Approval of an encroachment permit for the installation of gunshot detection devices for the Roanoke Police Department within the public

right-of-way at various locations throughout the City of Roanoke.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43378-042026. (5-2, Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Hagen voted no)

- d. Amendment to the FY25 Tract 8 Engineering Design Services Contract with AECOM.

Adopted Resolution No. 43379-042026. (6-1, Vice-Mayor McGuire voted no)

- e. Approval of the City's 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan for CDBG Block Grants.

Adopted Resolution No. 43380-042026. (6-1, Vice-Mayor McGuire voted no)

- f. Approval of the City's 2019 Annual Action Plan to amend the Community Development Block Grant COVID (CDBG-CV).

Adopted Resolution No. 43381-042026. (6-1, Vice-Mayor McGuire voted no)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

William Fleming High School student-athletes recently partnered with our Parks and Recreation team to support environmental efforts along the Roanoke River Greenway at Vic Thomas Park. A group of 34 volunteers from the girls soccer team removed over 2,000 pounds of invasive plant species, helping restore the park while staff treated the area to prevent regrowth.

The Public Works Transportation Division recently hosted its seventh annual Walk & Roll Ready Rally, bringing together more than 50 students from 10 elementary schools to build safe walking and biking skills. Held at Westside Elementary's Traffic Garden, the event helped students practice road safety in a realistic setting and supported broader efforts like Walk and Roll to School Day and the City's 'Slow Your Roll' campaign.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP

Jenel Few, Communications Manager, reported on the following matters from the March 16 and April 6, 2026, Meetings:

School Funding

At the March 16 meeting, 14 parents and teachers expressed concerns about the proposed school budget, and two public school advocates shared similar concerns at the April 6 meeting. Each speaker received an acknowledgment that their comments were noted.

Fishburn Perk Deed

During the March 16 meeting, a resident of the Grandin Court neighborhood brought concerns regarding a deed extension for the Fishburn Perk project. Her concerns were shared with Permit Center and Planning staff, who notified the

resident that there are no current compliance issues with the project and provided her with documentation establishing that the property owners have until March 31, 2027, to achieve Substantial Completion of Construction.

Transit Funding

Two local public transportation users spoke at the March 16 meeting regarding public transit funding and access to sidewalks and bus stops, especially in times of severe weather. Both speakers received an acknowledgment that their comments were noted.

Evans Spring Plan

A member of Friends of Evans Spring spoke on March 16 in support of preserving Evans Spring. Ms. Dalaski, executive assistant to Mayor Cobb, is working directly with the resident to address his concerns.

Certificate of Appropriateness Process

A member of the Architectural Review Board (ARB) shared his concerns, during the April 6 meeting, about the delays in receiving Certificates of Appropriateness for home repairs in the historic district. Planning Department staff, who will provide an update about the delay at the upcoming ARB work session, has shared this information with this board member.

Resident Update

A City resident spoke on February 17 about health concerns resulting from a tree near her home. Staff was able to support cooperation between this resident and members of the community who had the invasive tree removed. Staff also supported her efforts to coordinate home repairs.

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 advised that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee had a meeting last week at LEAP, and received the history of LEAP, programming, tour of the facility and heard from local governments with regard to economic development, with an overall good synergy from the other localities.

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.

Council Member Powers inquired about solid waste management and if an RVTV broadcast can be utilized to reach citizens. Jenel Few, Communications Manager advised that Communications would work with RVTV to broaden outreach with regard to recycling.

Vice-Mayor McGuire flagged for the public that he shared with all the Members of Council before today, a draft Council Member Initiative related to a cooperative power purchase agreement for Council to consider. He advised that he would set up meetings, hopefully before the next Council meeting, and that it could be pursued. He noted that he would send a copy to Ms. McCoy, City Clerk, for her notes.

Mayor Cobb encouraged all residents to vote on April 21, 2026, advised that the polls were open from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm, and reminded the public of the Valley Metro fare free service.

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

12. RECESSED - 5:40 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 Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

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

Welcome

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

14. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Adopted Resolution No. 43382-042026, confirming the appointments of Angela L. O'Brien and Lavar Youmans, to the position of Assistant City Manager and providing an effective date for their respective appointments. (7-0)**

15. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Proclamation declaring April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Ethan Long, President & CEO; Zenith Barrett, Regional Advancement Officer; Leslie Painter, Director of Roanoke VIA Day School; Lauren Shaw, Regional Director of Adult Services;

Melanie Wilson, Clinical Director and Emma Beard, Club & Hub Program Supervisor, VIA Centers for Neurodevelopment.

16. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of the City of Roanoke to consider and adopt updates to the Complete Streets Policy and adopt the Safety Action Plan/Speed Management Action Plan as a part of City Plan 2040, the City's comprehensive plan adopted in 2020. Ian Coffey; Spokesperson. **(Matter was continued to the May 11, 2026, City Planning Commission Meeting)**
2. Receive the views of citizens regarding the appointment of two Roanoke City School Board Trustees for three-year terms of office, each, commencing on July 1, 2026. The candidates are Darlene L. Burcham, Derek Kaknes, Christopher T. Link and Donna M. Littlepage.
Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Sanchez-Jones read Conflict of Interest statements and left the dais.
No action taken.

17. 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.

Matthew Placido appeared before the Council, representing the Roanoke Education Association, to advocate for a solution to restore the school division budget.

George Dickinson appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the current budget and steps to move forward.

Michelle Brooks appeared before the Council and expressed concern about the budget.

Halee Huber appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the Flock Raven gunshot detection system.

Bryce Anderson appeared before the Council and asked the Council to reconsider funding of Roanoke City Public Schools.

Ellen Vanden Eykel appeared before the Council and asked the Council to reconsider the funding of Roanoke City Public Schools.

Jane Vanden Eukel appeared before the Council and asked the Council to reconsider the funding of Roanoke City Public Schools.

Emalia Anderson appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the Flock Raven technology in Roanoke.

Jacob Smith appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition to the Flock Raven technology in Roanoke and lack of notice.

Jerin Manalel appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the grant the Police Department received for the Flock Raven technology.

RECESSED - 8:01 PM.

THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL STAND IN RECESS UNTIL THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2026, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE CITY OF ROANOKE RECOMMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2026–2027 BUDGET AT 7:00 PM; AND PROPOSED REAL ESTATE TAX INCREASE AT 7:10 PM.