



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

May 4, 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 Mayor Joseph L. Cobb requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the selection of two Trustees on the Roanoke City School Board for a term of office commencing July 1, 2026, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711

(A)(1), 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 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 (1950), as amended.

(7-0)

A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene in a closed meeting for the discussion of an amendment of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, negotiating new consideration and promises, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(29), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

Withdrawn

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 an Economic Development project 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)

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 Central part 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 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.

(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:

FY 2027 Budget Study - 20 minutes

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 am, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. (9:08 am - 9:44 am)

AT 10:58 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. All present.

The Invocation was delivered by 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

Certification of Closed Meeting. (7-0)

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 Powers "shouted out" all public service employees, especially transportation staff.

Council Member Volosin "shouted out" the Glade Creek Greenway ribbon cutting and the Roanoke Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., "Chef's Cook-Off: Real Men Cook 2026" event on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the Roanoke Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., "Chef's Cook-Off: Real Men Cook 2026" event on Saturday, May 2, 2026, where he placed third with a family macaroni and cheese recipe.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted out" the preparation for the upcoming Daisy Art Parade on Saturday, May 9, 2026, and thanked the Roanoke Parks Foundation who built trails on Mill Mountain, recently renamed, and in total raised approximately \$500,000 for the City of Roanoke. He noted that he looked forward to working with them in the future.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" Derek Wray in the automotive

program at the Charles W. Day Technical Education Center for helping to win 2025-2026 School of the Year by Tomorrow's Technician Magazine, a national award sponsored by Wilx Filters and O'Reilly Auto Parts. She pointed out the school also received a monetary award of \$10,000.

Council Member Hagen “shouted out” the Community School's Annual Strawberry Festival held on May 1–2 in Elmwood Park and Compost Fest, where he attended and participated by being in the dunk tank.

Mayor Cobb “shouted out” the Mid-Atlantic Goodwill Industries Conference held at Melrose Plaza last week, encouraged everyone to visit Melrose Plaza, and the Annual Celebration of Foster Parents in the City of Roanoke. He advised that surprisingly, he won the Delta's Chef Cook Off with a salad!

Proclamation declaring May 2026 as ALS Awareness Month.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones read and presented the proclamation to Mark Kary and Members of the ALS Association.

Proclamation declaring May 3- 9, 2026, as Resiliency Week.

Council Member Nash read and presented the proclamation to Sara Kate Brownmiller, Prevention and Wellness Specialist, Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare and representatives from the Board of Directors.

Proclamation declaring May 3–9, 2026, as National Small Business Week.

Council Member Hagen read and presented the proclamation to Heather Fay, Regional Director of Greater Roanoke and New River Valley SBDC and Marc Nelson, Director of Economic Development.

Proclamation declaring May 3–9, 2026, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to Susie McCoy, City Clerk, and the City Clerk's Office staff.

Proclamation declaring May 3–9, 2026 as Public Service Recognition Week.

Council Member Powers read and presented the proclamation to the City Manager and Directors of City Departments.

Mayor Cobb invited the Leadership Roanoke Valley staff to introduce themselves.

3. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: None.

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.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: (APPROVED 7-0)

C-1. Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, April 6, 2026; recessed until Monday, April 20, 2026, to conduct School Board Trustee Interviews; and the regular meeting held on Monday, April 20, 2026; recessed until Thursday, April 23, 2026.

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

C-2. Request to schedule a public hearing to be held on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, for tax exemption on

real property owned by Villa Heights Rec Center, LLC, and 1729 Patterson Avenue, LLC (Restoration Housing).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Concurred in the request.**

- C-3.** Request to schedule a public hearing to be held on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 7:00 pm, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, for tax exemption on real property owned by Assisi Animal Clinics of Virginia, Inc.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Concurred in the request.**

- C-4.** FY2026 City Manager Transfer Report for the second and third quarter ended March 31, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-5.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Cedric Wilson as a member of the Human Services Advisory Board, effective immediately.

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

- C-6.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Gloria Manns as a member of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2028;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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; and

Kianna Price Marshall as a member of the Roanoke Civic Center Commission for a three-year term of office, commencing October 1, 2024, and ending September 30, 2027.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Transmittal of the Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Proposed Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget. Scott Ramsburg, Cable Access Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)
Adopted Resolution No. 43383-050426. (7-0)
2. Presentation from the Salvation Army highlighting 140 years in the City of Roanoke. Jay Whitmore, Development Director IV, Salvation Army, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by Mayor Cobb)
Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:
BRIEFINGS:
 - a. March Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutesITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION: None.

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

The Roanoker Magazine has announced its annual “Best Of” awards, and the City’s Parks and Recreation department earned recognition across multiple categories.

- The Roanoke GO Outside Festival received Platinum awards for Best Family-Friendly Event or Festival, Best Outdoor Recreation Event or Festival, and Favorite Local Festival, Event, or Live Show.
- Elmwood Park was honored with Platinum for Best Entertainment Arena and Gold for Best Live Music Venue.
- The Mill Mountain Star earned Platinum for Favorite Local Attraction and Gold in the category “You’re Not a Real Roanoker Until You Visit...”
- Finally, the Roanoke Greenway received Platinum for Favorite Spot for a Day Date.

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. Donna Caldwell, Director of Accounting, Spokesperson.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43384-050426. (5-0, due to a Conflict of

Interest, Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Sanchez-Jones abstained from the vote)

2. Comments on certain Authorities, Boards, Committees and Commissions in which City Council serve as liaisons or appointees.
Vice-Mayor McGuire advised that he recently had a meeting with Lorie Smith on the Franklin County Board of Supervisors, and they are going to try to resuscitate an inter-jurisdictional focus group on water quality health, etc. and hope to pull in other localities going forward. Mayor Cobb reported that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (CEDS) recently had a meeting to identify priorities and those recommendations will go before the Regional Commission soon.

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 thanked all City employees for all their hard work, especially behind the scenes, and the great services in the City of Roanoke.

Vice-Mayor McGuire mentioned that at the last Council meeting, he said that he intended to submit a Council Member Initiative on solarization. He reported that he was not going to move forward with that initiative and didn't want it to be something that was contentious. He pointed out to the citizens that the city had an opportunity to save millions of free federal dollars via the Inflation Reduction Act, and it was a missed opportunity, and hoped that, as a team and an organization collectively figure out what things can be done to implement the policies already on the books, such as the Climate Action Plan which is embedded in the comprehensive plan to advance these directives that City Council said they care about that are going to save money make the city healthier and create good local jobs.

Mayor Cobb commended the Vice-Mayor for bringing it to their attention, and advised that there had been a lot of robust conversation about it and city staff has been working on it for quite some time, weighing the cost benefits of not only taking advantage of the credits, but also any upfront costs that may need to be ascertained, and then it becomes a budget matter with the CIP. He recognized the Vice-Mayor's disappointment in not being able to fully take advantage of the tax credits, but keeping the matter in front of the Council as a strategic priority as part of climate resiliency was important.

Council Member Volosin addressed the solarization of the city and expressed that everyone on the dais believed in solarization on buildings, but it was important to do things in the most open and transparent manner as possible and pointed out that everyone wants to reduce carbon, save money, and have long term sustainability, but it needed to be done in a fair and transparent manner.

2. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council.

- **Appointed Danielle Johnson as a member of the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Board of Directors for a term of office ending December 31, 2028.**

- **Reappointed Judge Scott Geddes 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. City Council waives the residency requirement in this instance.**

- **Reappointed Jeffrey Todd as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.**

- **Reappointed Sarah Karpanty as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.**

- **Appointed Trinity Kaseke 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. City Council waives the residency requirement in this instance.**

- **Reappointed Cassy Ammen as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.**

- **Reappointed Jessie Coffman as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.**

- **Reappointed Dr. John Clements to be reappointed as a member of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors for a one-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027.**

RECESS.

The Council Meeting will stand in recess until Monday, May 11, 2026, at 2:00 pm., in the Council Chamber, for the adoption of the City of Roanoke Recommended Fiscal Year 2026 - 2027 Budget and any other measures deemed appropriate.