



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

June 1, 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 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.

(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 consult with legal counsel regarding a specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal advice by the City Attorney regarding amendments to the zoning code and comprehensive plan, 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 for the purpose of discussing possible disposal of publicly owned property in the Central part of the City of Roanoke, 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 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 discuss or consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negation strategy of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3), 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:

- A.** Proposed Code Amendment - Section 2-321, Towing Advisory Board, Division 3, Advisory Boards, Article XIV, Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees, Chapter 2, Administration.

- B. Proposed Code Amendment - Section 17-31, Created; composition; appointment, terms of members; restriction on membership; filling of vacancies, and Section 17-32, Qualification of members, Article III, Youth Services Citizen Board, Chapter 17, Human Resources.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 am, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. (9:09 am - 10:03 am)

AT 10:07 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 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

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" the cohort eleven graduation of the summer interns and thanked all staff that worked with Human Resources and the interns.

Council Member Volosin "shouted out" the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan (BAPS) Charities Annual Walkathon held on Saturday, May 30.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the BAPS Charities Annual Walkathon and the Melrose Branch Library Fun Day event.

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted out" the Mountain View and Old Southwest Annual Neighborhood Picnic and the City's Stormwater Division progress with stream restoration and improvements.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the City's teen apprenticeship program, and all City departments that were represented at the Melrose Branch Library Fun Day.

Council Member Hagen "shouted out" the Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan (BAPS) Charities Annual Walkathon, the Taubman Museum Sidewalk Art Show and the event held at the 611 train.

Mayor Cobb "shouted out" the Melrose Branch Library Fun Day and advised that throughout the day over 1,200 people attended the event, the 2026 Roanoke Lebanese Festival from May 29 to May 31, and the Fire-EMS department for the prompt response to a recent fire in Northeast Roanoke.

Proclamation declaring June 2026 as Pride Month.

Mayor Cobb read and presented the proclamation to representatives from the Roanoke Diversity Center, The Drop-In Center, Southwest Virginia Pride, Metropolitan Church of the Blue Ridge, Roanoke Pride, Youth Saga, Ladies and Gents of the Blue Ridge, and House of Expression.

Proclamation declaring June 2026 as Gun Violence Awareness Month.

Mayor Cobb and Council Member Nash read and presented the proclamation to Renea and Theo Taylor of FEDUP, and Kathy Cohen, Chair, Gun Violence Prevention Commission.

Recognition of Chief of Police Scott Booth.

The City Manager recognized Chief Booth as the 2026 Inductee into the Evidence-Based Policing Hall of Fame.

Mayor Cobb announced that Council would address the item under Item 9, Unfinished Business, regarding a request of the City of Roanoke to propose amendments to Chapter 36.2, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, intended to facilitate context-sensitive housing development; to promote community health and wellness; to encourage purposeful land use to make changes to the use tables for multiple purpose, industrial, and planned unit development districts; and to make changes to clarify and correct elements of the zoning code, such amendments being for the public purposes of promoting public health, public safety, and good zoning practice.

He advised that the matter was held over from the May 18, 2026, City Council Meeting which was automatically adjourned, pursuant to Section 2-15 (a), Rules of Procedure, Code of the City of Roanoke (1950), as amended. It was the desire of the Council to continue and ultimately close the public hearing on Monday, July 6, at 7:00 pm, and the three remaining speakers from May 18 could speak under Hearing of Citizens Upon Public Matters at any meeting prior to the continued public hearing date or speak first at the public hearing on July 6.

Council Member Volosin moved to continue the May 18 public hearing on the Zoning text amendments as previously described on the June 1 agenda as Item 9.1, to July 6, 2026, at 7:00 pm. Additional notice will be provided for that

date. The motion seconded by Council Member Hagen and adopted (6-0, Council Member Sanchez-Jones was not present when the vote was recorded)

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. A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Danielle Johnson as a member of the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board, effective May 26, 2026.

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

C-2. Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Valerie Koeppel 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;

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; and

Francis 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Presentation of the Greater Williamson Road Area Business Association "State of the Road" report. Valerie Brown, Executive Director, Spokesperson. (Sponsored by the City Manager)

Received and filed.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER

1. City Manager:

BRIEFING:

April Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutes

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

a. Appropriation and Allocation of funding for the Children's Services Act.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43403-060126. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments.

I'm pleased to share that Fallon Park Pool opened for the season this past weekend, and Washington Park Pool will open on Saturday, June 6. We look forward to welcoming families and residents throughout the summer and providing safe, enjoyable opportunities for recreation in our community.

The New River Conservancy has completed the planting of approximately 175 trees, shrubs, and other native plants to help restore the tree canopy at the former CeeBreeze property on Syracuse Avenue NW, adjacent to the Lick Run Greenway. In addition to the plantings, the Conservancy provided soil amendments, compost, and biochar, which City staff incorporated into the site to improve soil health, structure, and organic content.

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. 43404-060126. (5-0, 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.
None.

9. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS: See Presentations and Acknowledgements.**

1. Request of the City of Roanoke to propose amendments to Chapter 36.2, Zoning, of the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, intended to facilitate context-sensitive housing development; to promote community health and wellness; to encourage purposeful land use to make changes to the use tables for multiple purpose, industrial, and planned unit development districts; and to make changes to clarify and correct elements of the zoning code, such amendments being for the public purposes of promoting public health, public safety, and good zoning practice.

The matter was held over from the May 18, 2026, City Council Meeting which was automatically adjourned, pursuant to Section 2-15 (a), Rules of Procedure, Code of the City of Roanoke (1950), as amended.

The matter was addressed under Section 2. Presentations and Acknowledgments.

10. **INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **Adopted Ordinance No. 43405-060126, (7-0), authorizing the proper City officials to execute Amendment No. 3 to an Economic Development Performance Agreement among the City of Roanoke, Virginia, the Economic Development Authority of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, and Riverdale Southeast, LLC, Riverdale Woods, LLC, Industry Drive Partners,**

LLC, 802 River Avenue, LLC, 826 River Avenue, LLC, Riverdale Med I, LLC, and Riverdale WL, LLC; authorizing the City Manager, or designee, to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to provide for the implementation, administration, and endorsement of such Amendment No. 3.

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- 1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council. None.**
Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council.

Appointed Acquenatta Harris as an ex-officio member, by position, of the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan.

Appointed Acquenatta Harris as an ex-officio member, by position, of the City of Roanoke Finance Board.

Appointed Acquenatta Harris as an ex-officio member, by position, of the Defined Contribution Board.

Appointed Allegra Black 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.

Appointed Kathryn Inda 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 John Hitchins, Jr., as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Reappointed Meighan Sharp as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Reappointed MaryJean Levin as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Reappointed John Black as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Appointed Acquenatta Harris as a member of the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center Commission for a term of office ending June 30, 2028.

Reappointed Jennifer Eddy 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.

Reappointed Allison Oakey 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.

Reappointed James Smith, Sr., 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.

Appointed Boreham Johnson as a member of the Western Virginia's Regional Industrial Facility Authority for a term of office ending February 3, 2030.

Appointed Dr. Thomas Powers as a member of the Roanoke Civic Center Commission for a term of office ending September 30, 2027.

ADJOURNED - 3:30 PM.