



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL INFORMAL SESSION

July 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

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 potential settlement, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, pursuant to

Section 2-3711 (A)(7), Code of Virginia, as amended.

(7-0)

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.

(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.

Council Member Nash inquired about regulations for cannabis use by employees and updating City policies. The City Manager responded that the City was looking into updating the policy.

BRIEFINGS: None.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 9:00 am, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. (9:06 am - 9:50 am)

THE COUNCIL MEETING WILL STAND IN RECESS FOR A CLOSED MEETING; AND THEREAFTER RECONVENE AT 2:00 pm, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 450, NOEL C. TAYLOR MUNICIPAL BUILDING. (9:52 AM)



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 Jeff Wilson, Pastor, Genesis United Methodist 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:

Vice-Mayor McGuire "shouted-out" all staff and local businesses who helped to celebrate the 4th of July holiday in a safe way.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted-out" the City Manager's Office and Office of Communications for their hard work to prepare for the All-America Cities Awards.

Council Member Hagen "shouted out" animal control for rescuing animals in hot cars over the past weekend.

Council Member Nash "shouted out" the facilities used as cooling centers and advised that it was illegal for utility companies to disconnect water and electricity when the temperature is 92 degrees or above.

Council Member Volosin "shouted-out" Council Member Sanchez-Jones for her participation in the All-America Cities Award presentation; and thanked the staff and citizens Robyn Mitchell and Renea Taylor for their participation. He congratulated every department that helped to achieve the nine-time All-America City status.

Council Member Powers "shouted-out" the Berglund Center for hosting the Miss Virginia and Miss Virginia Teen Pageants, which consisted of 54 contestants; congratulated Maddie Marchant from Lebanon, Virginia, who was crowned Miss Virginia 2026, and Caedyn Riddle from Rocky Mount, Virginia, who was crowned Miss Virginia's Teen 2026; and thanked Drs. Nancy and Kevin Dye for hosting a wonderful dinner at their home for all the contestants.

Mayor Cobb echoed all the comments of the Council and encouraged everyone to watch the presentation of the team for the All-America City Award in Denver, Colorado, noting the stories and reaction, engagement and energy of the judges was palpable. He thanked Angelia Vernon, Assistant to the City Manager, and Miabella Weary, Intern, for their work in preparation for the Mayor's Institute on City Design in Nashville, Tennessee, where he joined six mayors from around the nation to share the challenges and opportunities that they face.

Proclamation declaring July 2026 as Parks and Recreation Month.

Mayor Cobb read the proclamation and the City Manager and Assistant City Manager O'Brien recognized Laura Reilly, Parks Manager, and Parks and Recreation staff in attendance.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43427-070626, (7-0), repealing Ordinance No. 43378-042026, adopted April 20, 2026, that allowed the encroachment of gunshot detection devices known as "Raven" sensors to be installed at various locations in the public right-of-way through the City of Roanoke in its entirety.

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 she may deem appropriate.

Ken McLeod appeared before the Council and thanked the Council for adopting the Safety Action Plan.

Jack Leff appeared before the Council and expressed concern regarding the proposed zoning changes and the installation of the Raven cameras. He thanked the Council for repealing the previous ordinance.

Brian McConnell appeared before the Council and spoke regarding leading an emerging future toward a regenerative global democracy.

Misty Vickers appeared before the Council and thanked the Council for repealing the Raven camera ordinance.

Patrice Hampton appeared before the Council to thank the employees for a great City.

Kathryn Hatam appeared before the Council and thanked the Council for repealing the Raven camera system.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: APPROVED (7-0)

- C-1.** Minutes of the regular meetings of City Council held on Monday, May 18, 2026; Monday, June 1, 2026; and on Monday, June 15, 2026.

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

- C-2.** A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb recommending a certain committee assignment for the Members of City Council.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

- C-3.** Request to authorize a public hearing to be held on Monday, July 20, 2026, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to Vacate City Easements Across Private Property located at 2415 Russell Avenue, bearing Roanoke Official Tax Map No. 1420201, at the request of the owner.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorized the scheduling and advertisement for a public hearing to be held on July 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon as the matter may be heard, or at such other date and time thereafter as deemed necessary by the City Manager, for City Council to consider adoption of an ordinance vacating its interest in reserved easements across Tax Map No. 1420201.

- C-4.** Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Derek Kaknes and Donna Littlepage as Trustees of the Roanoke City School Board, for three-year terms of office, each, commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029;

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;

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;

Thomas Powers as a member of the Roanoke Civic Center Commission to replace Robert Arrington for a term of office ending September 30, 2027;

Danielle Johnson as a member of the Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare, Board of Directors to replace Edward Garner for a term of office ending December 31, 2028;

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

John Clements 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

1. City Manager:

BRIEFINGS:

Opioid Abatement Authority Funding Update - 15 minutes.

HUD Entitlement Funds Annual Action Plan - 15 minutes.

May Monthly Budget Report - 15 minutes.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

a. Acceptance and Appropriation of Project Outside Grant — Brushy Mountain.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43428-070626. (7-0)

b. Execution of Amendment No. 3 to the City's contract with Renovation Alliance for the Healthy Homes Roanoke to provide rehabilitation and limited repairs to homes located in the City of Roanoke.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43429-070626. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

All-America City Award

I am excited to officially announce that Roanoke is a nine-time All-America City! The All-America City Award consists of a written application and an in-person presentation focused on three distinctive projects relating to strengthening civic health and building trust. The three projects we highlighted this year were

Roanoke's Homelessness Response, the Grant-Ready Roanoke program, and Arts Connect Neighbors. A delegation of seven City staff and community members represented Roanoke at the competition. Community Engagement Manager Adam Fajardo led the effort. Also, he was joined by Council Member Sanchez-Jones, Grant Manager Helen Ferguson, Human Services Administrator Matthew Crookshank, and Police Officer Jacob Underwood. Additionally, Renea Taylor, Founder of FedUP, and Robyn Mitchell, Arts Connect Catalog Artist joined the delegation. Twenty finalist cities from across the country competed in this year's All-America City Award and there were ten winners. Additionally, the All-America City Director noted that this year's competition was one of the fiercest she's seen in the eight years of the organization's history. About half of the cities sent delegations of over 20 people, with the largest having over 50 people. Compared to more elaborate presentations, Roanoke shined through authentic storytelling and a collaborative art project that involved other All-America cities. Our three programs earned national recognition because the panel of judges saw that Roanoke is strengthening our community and building trust with the people we serve.

Water Matters to Roanoke Program

The Office of Communications and Engagement will kick off the "Water Matters to Roanoke" Water Conservation Campaign in coordination with the Western Virginia Water Authority. The campaign will raise awareness about Roanoke's water resources and the conditions under which the Water Authority may implement water restrictions. We are going to educate residents and encourage water use, align ourselves with water waste content and explain the Drought Contingency Plan, to prepare Roanoke's for a seamless transition to voluntary and mandatory restriction campaigns, if implemented. Beginning today, the Office of Community Engagement will amplify its useful, clear and actionable content, including weekly water level updates and water conservation tips across City social media platforms, website homepage banners, RVTV Channel 3, internal and external newsletters, and local news. In the event that the Western Virginia Water Authority implements a drought contingency plan, Community Engagement will initiate amplification of the Authority's restriction campaign.

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. 43430-070626. (5-0, Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Sanchez-Jones abstained from the vote)
2. A request of the Roanoke City School Board to reappropriate \$4,300,000 in prior year funding for capital needs expenditures.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 43431-070626. (5-0, Vice-Mayor McGuire and Council Member Sanchez-Jones abstained from the vote)

3. 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. A Resolution establishing a written policy for participation in City Council meetings through electronic communication.
Adopted Resolution No. 43432-070626. (7-0)
2. An Ordinance to readopt and reenact the Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43433-070626. (7-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Inquiries and/or comments by the Mayor and Members of City Council.

Council Member Volosin advised that he submitted a Council Member Initiative regarding Market Street to the City Manager and spoke with Downtown Roanoke, Inc., and was awaiting a response from the City Manager.

Council Member Powers shared concerns regarding the Southeast section of the City and safety issues; the City Manager asked that the emails and communications be sent to her for further review.

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

Appointed Acquenatta Harris to the Board of Trustees, City of Roanoke Pension Plan on June 1, 2026. City Council waives the residency requirement in this instance.

Appointed Acquenatta Harris to the City of Roanoke Finance Board on June 1, 2026. City Council waives the residency requirement in this instance.

Appointed Darlene Burcham as a member of the City of Roanoke Finance Board for a term of office commencing July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029.

Appointed Acquenatta Harris to the Defined Contribution Board on June 1, 2026. City Council waives the residency requirement in this instance.

Appointed Acquenatta Harris to the Roanoke Valley Juvenile Detention Center Commission on June 1, 2026. City Council waives the residency requirement in this instance.

RECESSED - 4:24 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, for the continuation of the May 18, 2026, public hearing with regard to 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.