



City of Roanoke, Virginia

CITY COUNCIL

July 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 Mayor Joseph L. Cobb.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Vice-Mayor S. Terry McGuire.

Welcome

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: None.

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 City employees who have been working in the heat and expressed appreciation for their efforts.

Council Member Volosin "shouted out" the success of the USA Cycling Endurance Mountain Bike National Championships held on July 12–19, 2026 in Roanoke.

Council Member Nash "shouted-out" the ribbon-cutting for the VIA Park designed for young learners with neurological disorders.

Vice-Mayor McGuire “shouted out” the City employees, especially the Department of Solid Waste Management for their work in the hot temperatures; the River's Edge Business Association and the redevelopment of the Varsity Storage facility; and George's Flowers, who will be moving to another location after many decades on Franklin Road.

Council Member Sanchez-Jones "shouted out" City employees that do a fantastic job all year long and Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge employees and volunteers that assisted with the USA Cycling Endurance Mountain Bike National Championships held on July 12–19, 2026.

Council Member Hagen “shouted out” the Harrison Museum of African American Culture's new exhibit titled "Un/Bound: Exploring the lives and legacies of free Black Virginians before Emancipation" where he attended a preview of the exhibit with Council Member Sanchez-Jones. He advised that it was a chance to look into a history that was rarely talked about in Virginia and recommended everyone to see the exhibit on display until August 24.

Mayor Cobb “shouted out” the Spain National Soccer Team who won the 2026 FIFA World Cup and advised that he attended a watch party for the game and enjoyed how it brought many people together in celebration! He also "shouted out" the USA Cycling Endurance Mountain Bike National Championships and mentioned that the competition will return to Roanoke next 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 she may deem appropriate.

Casey Jones appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the increase in the deer population and damages to her business, the Townside Garden Center on Franklin Road and presented a petition of 600 signatures to the Council in support of increased culling efforts by the City.

David Hoopes appeared before the Council and presented statistics with regard to traffic crashes on Williamson Road in connection with cyclists and bike lanes. He urged the Council to commit to safety, fund critical pieces, plan to maintain bike lanes and honor the Vision Zero program.

Casey Meadows appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the Flock camera system and urged the Council to take another look at mass surveillance and consider the privacy of residents.

Albert Crigger appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the hunting of deer in the City, and presented statistics on how much deer consume.

Barry Trent appeared before the Council representing the Roanoke Valley Greenway Commission, thanked the Council for the Commission's restructuring and introduced Molly Maxwell as the new Greenway Coordinator.

Sylvia King appeared before the Council and thanked Valley View Walmart for the new bus shelter under construction and mentioned former Council Member Anita Price, who advocated for over twenty years to have a covered bus shelter at that site.

Debra Carter appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to e-scooters not being allowed on the greenway system and asked that the ordinance be revisited to include e-scooters on the greenways.

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

- C-1.** A communication from the City Attorney requesting that City Council convene 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 code amendment, 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 employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel concerning the disposition of City real property in the Northwest part of the City, 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 for the purpose of discussing possible acquisition of property in the Northeast part of the City, 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concur in the request.

- C-4.** 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.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

- C-5.** FY2026 City Manager Transfer Report for the fourth quarter ended June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

- C-6.** A communication from the City Clerk advising of the resignation of Catherine Koebel as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission, effective immediately.

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

- C-7.** Annual report of the Roanoke Redevelopment and Housing Authority for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-8.** Report of qualification of the following individuals:

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;

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; and

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, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: **Received and filed.**

- C-9.** **A communication from Mayor Joseph L. Cobb requesting that City Council convene a closed meeting to discuss the Council's Code of Conduct and Ethics, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.**

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

REGULAR AGENDA:

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

6. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: None.

7. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND THE CITY MANAGER:

- 1.** City Manager:

BRIEFINGS: None.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

- a.** Approval of the Five-year Budget for Opioid Settlement funds.
Adopted Resolution No. 43436-072026. (7-0)
- b.** Acceptance and Appropriation of FY27 Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority Funds.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43437-072026. (7-0)
- c.** Resolution of Support for Smart Scale 2026 Applications.
Adopted Resolution No. 43438-072026. (7-0)
- d.** Acceptance and Approval of FY27 Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (VSDVVF) Grant.
Adopted Ordinance No. 43439-072026. (7-0)
- e.** Acceptance and appropriation of the Program Year 2026 Entitlement Funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant

Program (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program, and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG).

Adopted Ordinance No. 43440-072026. (7-0)

- f. Acceptance of a \$4 million appropriation from the Commonwealth of Virginia for development of lab space to secure an anchor tenant at RoVa Labs located at 1030 South Jefferson Street.

Adopted Resolution No. 43441-072026. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager shared the following comments:

Work on the Gainsboro Road Complete Streets project is now complete, and Public Works has launched an interactive Before & After web application to help residents explore the improvements. The project adds features such as pedestrian signals, safer crossings, ADA-accessible ramps, bike and scooter accommodations, and other enhancements designed to improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity for all users.

The Belmont Branch Library's Environmental Camp provided young participants with hands-on opportunities to learn about environmental stewardship. Through partnerships with the Clean Valley Council, campers explored topics like water pollution and local conservation, helping build awareness through engaging, community-focused activities.

The Stormwater Division will host the 10th annual Tinker Creek Cleanup this August, and registration is open through July 22. Over the past nine cleanup events, staff and volunteers have removed more than 32 tons of trash and 446 tires from the creek and surrounding areas.

The Roanoke Public Library Foundation was recognized for its role in launching the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program in our region. Through this partnership, children across the Roanoke and New River Valleys now have access to free, high-quality books delivered to their homes each month, supporting early literacy and lifelong learning.

PUBLIC MATTERS FOLLOW-UP: **None.**

3. CITY ATTORNEY:

- a. Consideration of an Amended and Restated Intergovernmental Agreement Regarding the Roanoke Valley Greenway.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43442-072026. (7-0)

4. DIRECTOR OF REAL ESTATE VALUATION: None.

8. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

- 1. A request of the Roanoke City School Board to reappropriate \$17,874,219 in prior year funding for capital needs expenditures.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43443-072026. (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.

Mayor Cobb advised that there were three vacancies on the Transit Passenger Advisory Committee, which advises the Greater Roanoke Transit Company. He further advised that the Valley View Walmart bus shelter was to open mid-August and a new bus fare structure for Valley Metro effective January 2027.

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 asked for an update on the matter in southeast Roanoke; whereby, the City Manager advised that multiple City departments were addressing the issue and Council would be provided an update.

Council Member Volosin made a public apology to Council Member Nash addressing events of the past weekend.

Council Member Nash "shouted out" the Audit Committee and recent updates to the City's purchasing card process, effective July 1, 2026.

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

12. RECESSED - 3:16 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 The Reverend James Hamm, Pastor, Back to Life 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)

14. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: None.

15. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of Ricardo Stovall to rename 2nd Street NE (between Madison Avenue NE and Gilmer Avenue NE) to "Bethel-Davis Way NE" in honor of Evelyn Bethel and Helen Davis. The proposed name has further been amended to be "Bethel Davis Street NE."

Adopted Ordinance No. 43444-072026. (7-0)

2. Authorization for Vacation of City Easements Across Private Property located at 2415 Russell Avenue, Bearing Roanoke Official Tax Map No. 1420201, and Amend Ordinance No. 43129-012125 to Provide an Extension of Time to Complete Certain Conditions.

Adopted Ordinance No. 43445-072026. (7-0)

16. RECESSED CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:17 PM.

17. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Receive public comment on the City of Roanoke's 2027 Legislative agenda. Vice-Mayor McGuire, Spokesperson.

No action taken.

18. RECESSED LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING - 7:53 PM.

19. RECONVENED CITY COUNCIL MEETING - 7:53 PM.

20. 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.

Brenda Allen appeared before the Council representing the Historic Gainsboro Preservation District H2, and questioned how the City can justify not using the remaining funding to rehab the last home at 23 Gilmer Avenue, NE, and seek other ways to get the home rehabbed. She added that the City needed to honor the contract with the homeowner and rehab the property.

Ricardo Stovall appeared before the Council representing the Historic Gainsboro Preservation District H2, and expressed concern with the news that the last home would not be rehabbed as part of the project, although the other projects would be completed. He requested that the City consider using whatever funds remained from the \$5 million to complete the rehab of the home on Gilmer Avenue.

Anita Wilson appeared before the Council representing the Historic Gainsboro Preservation District H2, and advised that former City employee Wayne Leftwich promised during a meeting that Parks and Recreation could provide money for the project if any remained out of the \$1 million allotted for the park on Wells Avenue.

Jerome Hayden appeared before the Council representing the Historic Gainsboro Preservation District H2, and read an email that advised the uses of the remaining ARPA funds which did not include the renovation of the last

home on Gilmer Avenue, and asked that a meeting be scheduled to discuss the concerns of the HGPS H2.

Dr. Monique Bishop appeared before the Council and requested that public transit remain a priority, not be placed on the back burner and be recognized as a public service that strengthens the economy, supports the workforce and improves quality of life throughout the community.

Kate Wooley appeared before the Council and reiterated the comments of Dr. Monique Bishop with regard to public transit and requested that City Council update the non-accessible City bus stops.

Jennifer Joy Truskowski appeared before the Council and urged them to terminate the contract with the Flock camera system and support for the City's immigrant population.

Fran Fussell appeared before the Council and expressed love for Roanoke and expressed appreciation to the Council for doing a good job.

Jordan Bell appeared before the Council and expressed concern about a comment that Council Member Volosin made to Council Member Nash and advised that words matter and it was important to speak to each other with dignity and respect as elected officials.

Catherine Leigh appeared before the Council and spoke with regard the Department of Planning, Building and Development recommendations for open conversations about large-scale land development.

ADJOURNED - 8:27 PM.