

ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL-REGULAR SESSION

April 4, 2022

9:00 a.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., City of Roanoke, with Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., presiding, pursuant to Chapter 2, Administration, Article II, City Council, Section 2-15, Rules of Procedure, Rule 1, Regular Meetings, Code of the City of Roanoke (1979), as amended, and pursuant to Resolution No. 42245-010322 adopted by the Council on Monday, January 3, 2022.

PRESENT: Council Members Joseph L. Cobb, Stephanie Moon Reynolds, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Patricia White-Boyd, William D. Bestpitch, and Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.-6.

ABSENT: None-0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager; Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney; and Cecelia T. Webb, Deputy City Clerk.

ITEM FOR ACTION:

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the selection of candidates to be interviewed for the interim City Council Member position, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

(See communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Cobb moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor as abovementioned. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

ITEMS LISTED ON THE 2:00 P.M. COUNCIL DOCKET REQUIRING DISCUSSION/CLARIFICATION AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE 2:00 P.M. AGENDA: NONE.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL: NONE.

BRIEFINGS:

Budget/Financial Planning Fiscal Year 2022

Amelia Merchant, Director of Finance and Paul Workman, Budget Manager briefed the Council on the development of the FY 2022 — 2023 budget process.

(See presentation on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Mr. Workman highlighted the following agenda:

- Enterprise Fund Considerations
- FY 2022 Update
- FY 2023 Development and Next Steps
- FY 2023 Balancing Status

Mr. Workman updated the Council on the status of the City's Enterprise Funds noting that Stormwater Utility and Parking Fund were self-sufficient. He indicated that the Stormwater Utility Fee was in the first year of a 6-year phased increase from \$0.90 per billing unit, per month to \$1.05 per billing unit, per month and reported that revenue increased by approximately \$1.1 million primarily due to the rate change and expected increase in impervious surface due to development activity.

Mr. Workman touched on the Civic Facilities and Parking Funds noting that the total Civic Facilities budget was about \$12.5 million, an increase over FY22 of about \$1.9 million; and entertainment and sports industries were still trying to get back to pre-COVID levels, artists are now planning tours. He pointed out that the future outlook of the parking fund was uncertain because two significant monthly customers currently worked remotely due to COVID-19.

- FY 2022 Update

Ms. Merchant reviewed information with regard to the Fiscal Year 2022 General Fund overview and FY 2022 Revenue Monitoring Dashboard reporting that public safety overtime was 178 percent over budget; whereupon, Council Member Sanchez-Jones inquired as to the costs associated with the public safety overtime.

Ms. Merchant replied that approximately \$1.8 million was spent in overtime costs and following brief discussion with regard to snow event response and street paving, Ms. Merchant continued with the presentation.

With regard to the FY2023 Local Tax Estimate, she advised that the drivers were the real estate and transient occupancy taxes; whereupon, Vice-Mayor White-Boyd inquired as to the progress of the plastic bag tax and when the figures would be reported.

The City Manager replied that there was not enough performance by the tax to report and hoped that prior to adoption there would be figures to report.

Mr. Workman reported on the FY 2023 Balancing Status noting that although revenues increased by \$887,000.00, the budget was out of balance by \$310,167.00 and reviewed strategies and future considerations to balance the budget.

Ms. Merchant concluded reviewing the debt service, next steps and one-time funded items, noting that the balanced recommended FY 2022 - 2023 budget would be presented at the April 18, 2:00 p.m., Council meeting; public hearings on the recommended budget and tax rates would be held on April 26 at 7:00 p.m.; Budget Study would be held on May 2 at 9:00 a.m. and budget adoption on May 9 at 2:00 p.m.

The City Manager added that he would contact Council soon to schedule the two-by-two budget meetings.

Following brief discussion with regard to vacant positions, temporary positions and the transition to permanent positions, Mayor Lea advised that the briefing would be received and filed.

Gun Violence Prevention Framework

The City Manager advised that once per month Council would be updated on the gun violence prevention framework and efforts in connection therewith.

Captain David Morris, Roanoke City Police Department reported that the department served 735 warrants from March 1 to March 29, ran several special operations focused on violent crime and in geographical areas that experience violent crime or high concentrations and fortunately, an arrest was made in connection with the shooting at the Days Inn.

He further advised that the RESET team was deployed four times in March and spoke with 58 residents throughout the community in response to homicide and multiple gunshot wounds that took place.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd inquired if going forward the report could be written so that Council could refer to the information if needed; whereupon, Captain Morris replied in the affirmative.

Angie O'Brien, Chief Strategy Officer, provided an overview of upcoming activities of the Star City Safe initiative noting that the Department of Parks and Recreation will sponsor a youth development spring break camp beginning April 11, featuring open gym in collaboration with the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Team. She advised that beginning in April and ongoing, meals served at the library would increase as well as Feeding Southwest Virginia increased their support providing food and snacks weekly.

She reported that in connection with the Star City Safe Initiative the libraries would host petting zoos, jewelry making activities, story time, painting, multiple movie nights, bingo, pizza, popsicles, and even electronic clubs. In Human Resources, the second teen apprenticeship program finished up with all enrolled completing the orientation and placed with city jobs in departments such as Libraries, Planning Building and Development and Hotel Roanoke.

In terms of funding, Ms. O'Brien explained that out of the \$2 million allocated, \$250,000.00 went towards the Star City Safe Initiative; and pointed out that funding would go towards programs including the library for extended hours, part-time library assistance to work with the RESET Officer, custom restoration for the Washington Park basketball tournaments and the Washington Park Pool will offer free entry.

Council Member Bestpitch inquired as to how youth were identified for the programming; whereupon, Ms. O'Brien replied that in terms of the teen apprenticeship programs, Lloyd Merchant, RESET Coordinator or Chris Roberts, Youth and Gang Coordinator referred those youth. She also mentioned that there has been a lot of interest from youth who may not fit into that category and that conversation centered around other ways to reach youth that may not be at risk as the other youth.

Council Member Bestpitch opined that it was good for development to have a mixture of youth interacting in the activities.

Following additional discussion with regard to outreach, promotion of the programs and activities in the school system and transportation, Ms. O'Brien responded that transportation remained an issue and struggle within the program.

Council Member Cobb, on behalf of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission, reported that citizens were extremely frustrated by the incidents of gun violence in the community and look to the Commission for how the problem would be solved. He stated that the problem solver was to change relationships and how to resolve conflicts differently, which is a long-term solution that would take work.

He shared a narrative on how Antonio Stovall, Youth and Gang Violence Coordinator saved a young man's life from going down the wrong path. He highlighted upcoming events noting that on April 14, Mr. Stovall and the team will facilitate a community-healing circle with the idea to move the event around to different places in the community, to reach different segments of the community. Mr. Stovall was also developing a 7-week program called Rites of Passage to help youth focus on meditation, stress management, breathing, nutrition and physical exercise to recalibrate youth in how they see themselves and how they work together.

Lastly, Council Member Cobb mentioned that the Commission was working with Family Service of Roanoke Valley to create a social emotional learning curriculum to engage with students at an early age to have a better understanding of their feelings name them and work through them in positive ways to be piloted in many of the after-school programs. He noted that the reading program at Lincoln Terrace Elementary School continues to grow with close to 40 volunteers working with 50 students to help them to increase their reading skills and levels.

Following brief comments by Council Member Sanchez-Jones highlighting her Police ride-a-long experience, Mayor suggested placing handball courts at City parks as a potential violence interrupter.

There being no further questions and/or comments by the Council Members, Mayor Lea advised that the briefing would be received and filed.

At 10:45 a.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess for a Closed meeting in the Council's Conference Room, and thereafter to be reconvened at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

At 2:00 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the Council Chamber, with Mayor Lea presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Joseph L. Cobb, Stephanie Moon Reynolds, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Patricia White-Boyd, William D. Bestpitch and Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.-6.

ABSENT: None-0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager; Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney; and Cecelia F. McCoy, City Clerk.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Preston Tyler, Pastor, Hill Street Baptist Church.

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

The Mayor announced the City Council Vacancy Candidates selected to be interviewed at 3:00 p.m.; and that a public hearing would be held at 7:00 p.m., to hear the views of citizens with regard to the following candidates:

Suzanne Osborne
Kiesha Preston
Anita Price
Luke Priddy
Kevin Berry

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

FAIR HOUSING MONTH: Mayor Lea declared April 2022 as Fair Housing Month and presented the proclamation to Peter Volosin, Chair, Fair Housing Board.

(See ceremonial copy of proclamation on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: NONE.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor advised that all matters listed under the Consent Agenda were considered to be routine by the Members of Council and would be enacted by one motion in the form, or forms, listed on the Consent Agenda, and if discussion were desired, the item would be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL: Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, February 22, 2022, was before the body.

(See Minutes on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with and approved as recorded. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

FY 2021 – 2022 BUDGET: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council schedule a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or such later date and time as the City Manager may determine, in his discretion, to consider the FY 2021 – 2022 appropriation of funding from the General Fund Assigned Fund Balance, was before the body.

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager as abovementioned. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

FY 2021 – 2022 BUDGET: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council schedule a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, or such later date and time as the City Manager may determine, in his discretion, to consider an increase of FY 2021 – 2022 local tax and other revenue estimates and appropriation of funding, was before the body.

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved that Council concur in the request of the City Manager as abovementioned. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMISSION-ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION-ROANOKE REGIONAL AIRPORT COMMISSION-LOCAL OFFICE ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD-BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS-VISIT VIRGINIA'S BLUE RIDGE: Reports of qualification of the following individuals were before the Council:

The Honorable Joseph L. Cobb as member of the Gun Violence Prevention Commission for a term of office commencing April 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2022;

Laura Carden as a member of the Roanoke Arts Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Janet Carty ending June 30, 2024;

Dr. Nathaniel L. Bishop as a City representative of the Roanoke Regional Airport Commission for a four-year term of office, commencing March 10, 2022 and ending March 9, 2026;

Jennifer Oakes as the City representative to the Local Office on Aging Advisory Board for a one-year term of office, commencing March 1, 2022 and ending February 28, 2023;

Andrew Raduly as a member of the of the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the unexpired term of office of Valeria Alphin ending December 31, 2023; and

Dawn Tanner Erdman as a member of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors to fill the unexpired term of office of Dr. Elda Stanco Downey ending June 30, 2023.

(See Oath or Affirmation of Office on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved that the reports of qualification be received and filed. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

CITY COUNCIL: A communication from Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting immediately following the recessed meeting of Council on April 18, 2022, beginning at 10:30 a.m., to discuss the selection of a candidate to fill the term of office of former Council Member Robert L. Jeffrey, Jr., ending December 31, 2022, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, was before the body.

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor as abovementioned. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND COMMENTS OF CITY MANAGER:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending acceptance of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management State Homeland Security Grant program funding to support the activities of the regional hazardous materials team.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds offered the following resolution:

(#42320-040422) A RESOLUTION accepting the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) State Homeland Security Grant – Hazardous Materials to the City from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management; and authorizing execution of any required documents on behalf of the City.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 82, page 339.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved the adoption of Resolution No. 42320-040422. The motion seconded by Council Member White-Boyd and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

Council Member Moon Reynolds offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42321-040422) A BUDGET ORDINANCE appropriating funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for hazardous materials emergency responses and training and development, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of budget ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 340.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42321-040422. The motion seconded by Council Member Sanchez-Jones and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending acceptance of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management State Homeland Security Grant program funding to support the activities of the regional technical rescue team.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd offered the following resolution:

(#42322-040422) A RESOLUTION accepting the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) State Homeland Security Program Grant Funding – Technical Rescue to the City from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management; and authorizing execution of any required documents on behalf of the City.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 82, page 341.)

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd moved the adoption of Resolution No. 42322-040422. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

Council Member Cobb offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42323-040422) A BUDGET ORDINANCE appropriating funding from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security through the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) for equipment and supplies for the Regional Technical Rescue Team, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of budget ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 342.)

Council Member Cobb moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42323-040422. The motion seconded by Bestpitch and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM GRANT: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending acceptance of the Summer Food Program Grant from the Virginia Department of Education.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds offered the following resolution:

(#42324-040422) A RESOLUTION authorizing the acceptance of a Summer Food Program Grant from the Virginia Department of Education; and authorizing execution of any required documents on behalf of the City.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 82, page 343.)

Council Member Moon Reynolds moved the adoption of Resolution No. 42324-040422. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42325-040422) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Federal Government, through the Virginia Department of Education, for the Summer Food Program, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of budget ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 344.)

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42325-040422. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT COALITION GRANT: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending acceptance of the Southwest Virginia Regional Employment Coalition Grant from the Virginia Department of Social Services to provide assistance to citizens receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) benefits.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 42326-040422. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42327-040422) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Federal Government through the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Social Services for the Southwest Virginia Regional Employment Coalition Grant, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2022 - 2023 Grant Fund Appropriations, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance.

(For full text of budget ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 346.)

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42327-040422. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

ROANOKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending execution of an agreement with Roanoke County Department of Parks and Recreation for continuation of therapeutic recreation services, with four annual renewals.

(For full text, see communication on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following resolution:

(#42328-040422) A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Roanoke County for the continuation of therapeutic recreation services, upon certain terms and conditions.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 82, page 346.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Resolution No. 42328-040422. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

COMMENTS OF CITY MANAGER. NONE.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: NONE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OR ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: NONE.

MOTION AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

INQUIRIES AND/OR COMMENTS BY THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

Council Member Bestpitch announced he would submit a naming request with regard to naming a portion of the Virginia Room at the Main Library after the late George Kegley.

Council Member Moon Reynolds requested that the resolution prepared to memorialize Mr. Kegley be concurrent with the naming request.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd commented that the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board was actively accepting applications and encourage the public to apply.

VACANCIES ON CERTAIN AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY COUNCIL. NONE.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Vice-Mayor White-Boyd moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, Vice-Mayor White-Boyd, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

At 3:00 p.m. the following individuals were interviewed to fill a nine-month term of office of former Council Member Robert L. Jeffrey, Jr., ending December 31, 2022.

Suzanne Osborne
Kiesha Preston
Anita Price
Luke Priddy
Kevin Berry

At 4:49 p.m., Mayor Lea declared the Council Meeting in recess to reconvene at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building.

At 7:00 p.m., the Council meeting reconvened in the Council Chamber, Room 450, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, with Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

ABSENT: None-0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager; Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney; and Cecelia F. McCoy, City Clerk.

The Invocation was delivered by Council Member Joseph L. Cobb.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL VACANCY: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, April 4, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to receive views of citizens regarding the applicants interviewed, at 3:00 p.m., to fill the nine-month term of office of former Council Member Robert L. Jeffrey, Jr., ending December 31, 2022. The candidates for consideration are Suzanne Osborne, Kiesha Preston, Anita Price, Luke Priddy and Kevin Berry, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Friday, March 25, 2022; and in *The Roanoke Tribune* on Thursday, March 24, 2022.

(See publisher's affidavits on file in the City Clerk's Office.)

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak on the matter; whereupon, the following individuals appeared before the Council:

In support of Kiesha Preston:

Mary Frazier, 405 King George Avenue, S. W., Unit A;
Phoenix Keese, 411 Walnut Avenue, S. W.;

In support of Anita Price:

Brenda Hale, P.O. Box 12362, Roanoke, Virginia;
Lorena Wilson, 4758 West Vale Road, N. E.;

In support of Luke Priddy:

Julie Wagner, 2630 Grandin Road, S. W.;
Gem Indino (Emily Priddy spoke on behalf), 302 5th Street, S. W., Unit A;
Crystal Priddy, 2643 Nottingham Road, S. W.;
Sarah Dean, 351 Campbell Avenue, S. W.;
Barbara Andes, 2803 Rosalind Avenue, S. W.; and
William Sellari, 3735 Peakwood Drive, S. W.

There being no additional speakers, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

The Mayor expressed appreciation to all speakers and announced that the Council would appoint the successful candidate during the 2:00 p.m. session on April 18, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lea declared the Council meeting in recess at 7:39 p.m., to reconvene on Monday, April 18, at 10:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, to conduct interviews to select two candidates to serve as Roanoke City School Board Trustees for three-year terms of office, each, commencing July 1, 2022. The four candidates are Mary F. Apel, Ryan A Bell, Kathy S. Cohen and Joyce W. Watkins.

The Recessed Meeting of Roanoke City Council was called to order on Monday, April 18, 2022 at 10:30 a.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, to conduct interviews to select two candidates to serve as Roanoke City School Board Trustees; and discussion of selection of candidate to fill the term of former council member Robert Jeffrey, Jr., with Mayor Lea presiding.

PRESENT: Council Members Joseph L. Cobb, Stephanie Moon Reynolds, Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Patricia White-Boyd, William D. Bestpitch, and Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.-6.

ABSENT: None-0.

The Mayor declared the existence of a quorum.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager; Timothy R. Spencer, City Attorney; and Cecelia F. McCoy, City Clerk.

The Mayor announced that four candidates were accorded the interview for consideration of the two upcoming vacancies on the Roanoke City School Board, for three-year terms of office, each, commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025.

Mary F. Apel	-	10:30 a.m.
Ryan A Bell	-	11:00 a.m.
Kathy S. Cohen	-	11:30 a.m.
Joyce W. Watkins	-	12:00 p.m.

He noted that the interview process will be as follows:

Each interview will be allotted 30 minutes and should entail the purpose for the applicant's willingness to serve on the School Board; and Council, in its discretion, may follow-up with questions.

Upon arrival, the applicant will go to the Council's Conference Room; and thereafter, will be accompanied to the Council Chamber. They will arrive at least 10 minutes early in case the previous interview has been concluded. Once their interview has been completed, they will leave since no official action will be taken.

Lastly, he concluded that City Council would receive citizen comments regarding the applicants' appointment to the School Board during its 7:00 p.m. public hearing session; and subsequently, City Council would elect two successful applicants at the May 2, 2:00 p.m. meeting.

At 12:40 p.m., the interviews concluded and Mayor Lea advised that he submitted a communication requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the selection of a candidate to fill the term of office of former Council Member Robert L. Jeffrey, Jr., ending December 31, 2022, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd moved that Council concur in the request of the Mayor as above described. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

At 12:46 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess for a Closed meeting; and thereafter reconvened at 1:56 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING: With respect to the Closed Meeting just concluded, Council Member Sanchez-Jones moved that each Member of City Council certify to the best of his or her knowledge that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in any motion by which any Closed Meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered by City Council. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Sanchez Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, and Mayor Lea-6.

NAYS: None-0.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lea declared the recessed meeting adjourned at 1:57 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Cecelia F. McCoy, CMC
City Clerk

Sherman P. Lea, Sr.
Mayor
