

## ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL-REGULAR SESSION

May 16, 2022

2:00 p.m.

The Council of the City of Roanoke met in regular session on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 2:00 p.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 Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Patricia White-Boyd, William D. Bestpitch, Joseph L. Cobb, Stephanie Moon Reynolds, Anita J. Price, and Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.-7.

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 Anthony Holmes, Pastor, Loudon Avenue Christian Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America will be led by Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.

PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK: Mayor Lea declared May 15 – 21, 2022 as National Public Works Week and presented the proclamation to Mark Jamison, Director, Public Works.

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

Mayor Lea declared May 15 – 21, 2022 as National Public Works Week and presented the proclamation to Mark Jamison, Director, Public Works.

BIKE TO WORK DAY: Mayor Lea declared Thursday, May 20, 2022 as Bike to Work Day and presented the proclamation to Barbara Duerk, Bicycle Enthusiast.

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

HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS: The Mayor advised that 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 Council, as he may deem appropriate.

CITY CRIME: Cindy Vancott, 4527 Edgelawn Avenue, N. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the Embassy Inn property and complained about disruptive behavior in the neighborhood, such as dealing drugs and prostitution.

SALE OF CITY PROPERTY: Freeda Cathcart, 2516 Sweetbrier Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council on behalf of the Grandin Court Neighborhood Association and spoke with regard to adding stipulations to the deed with regard to the sale of the Fishburn Cabin property.

### 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, April 4, 2022, recessed until Monday, April 18, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., was before the body.

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

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

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council schedule a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, June 21, 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, on the issuance of General Obligation Bonds not to exceed \$48,120,000 million for qualifying capital improvement projects and bond issuance costs, was before the body.

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

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

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

DISPOSITION OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY: A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the disposition of an approximately one acre portion of City-owned property located at 2424 Brambleton Avenue, S. W., 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, was before the body.

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

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

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

OATHS OF OFFICE-PERSONNEL AND EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES COMMISSION-VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE-COURT COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PROGRAM REGIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE BOARD-TOWING ADVISORY BOARD: Reports of qualification of the following individuals were before the Council:

Lori Baker-Lloyd as a member (Citizen at Large) of the Personnel and Employment Practices Commission to fill the unexpired term of office of Richard Morrison ending June 30, 2022;

John Francis, Jr., as a member of the Virginia Western Community College Local Advisory Board for a four-year term of office commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2026; and

Deatria Muse as a member of the Court Community Criminal Justice Board to replace The Honorable Tim Allen for a three-year term of office commencing July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2025; and Christopher Ramey as a member (law enforcement) of the Towing Advisory Board to replace Lieutenant James Price, Jr., for a term of office ending October 31, 2024.

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

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

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

#### REGULAR AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS: NONE.

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICERS AND COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending appropriation of funds from the Economic Development Authority of the City of Roanoke to support the development of a Strategic Plan for the Department of Economic Development.

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

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42356-051622) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Economic Development Authority of the City of Roanoke, for the Strategic Plan developed by Ernst & Young U.S., LLP, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 General 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 397.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42356-051622. The motion seconded by Moon Reynolds.

In response to inquiry from Vice-Mayor White-Boyd as to the scope of the project, the City Manager advised that if approved, \$50,000.00 would go towards the study to identify areas associated with economic development to draft a five-year strategic plan to continue to grow and strengthen the economy and help the Director organize the department in the manner that will be most beneficial.

He further advised that the process will take about four months to complete and at the end, there will be formal recommendations presented to the Council for further discussion.

There being no additional questions and/or comments from the Council Members, Budget Ordinance No. 42356-051622 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

**ROANOKE ARTS COMMISSION ALLOCATION OF FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 — 2023:** The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending approval of Roanoke Arts Commission allocation of funding to specific arts and culture agencies for Fiscal Year 2022 — 2023.

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

Council Member Price offered the following resolution:

(#42357-051622) A RESOLUTION concurring with and approving the recommendations of the Roanoke Arts Commission's ("Arts Commission") allocation of City funds to various nonprofit agencies for Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 82, page 398.)

Council Member Price moved the adoption of Resolution No. 42357-051622. The Motion seconded by Cobb.

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Price, Moon Reynolds, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

Council Member Cobb offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42358-051622) A BUDGET ORDINANCE to transfer funding to specific Art Commission agencies, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2022 - 2023 General 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 399.)

Council Member Cobb moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42358-051622. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote.

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

DE-APPROPRIATION OF ADVANCE APPROPRIATED 2022 BONDS RELATED TO STORMWATER AND PARKS PROJECTS: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending de-appropriation of advance appropriated 2022 Bonds related to Stormwater and Parks Projects.

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

Council Member Cobb offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42359-051622) AN ORDINANCE to de-appropriate funding to be provided by the issuance of General Obligation Bonds to the Stormwater Improvements, Parks and Recreation Master Plan, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 Stormwater Utility, and Capital Projects, and dispensing with the second reading by title of this ordinance

(For full text of budget ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 400.)

Council Member Cobb moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42359-051622. The motion seconded by Council Member Price.

The City Manager explained that in 2021 the Council approved the Capital Improvement Plan that called for \$31 million worth of debt, but the debt issuance was lowered by the \$3 million, now included in the Fiscal Year 2023 bond issuance hence the reason to de-appropriate funds for those projects.

There being no questions and/or comments from the Council Members, Budget Ordinance No. 42359-051622 was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STANDARD PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT: The City Manager submitted a written communication recommending execution of the Virginia Department of Transportation Standard Project Administration Agreement and other documents in connection therewith.

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

Council Member White-Boyd offered the following resolution:

(#42360-051622) A RESOLUTION authorizing the City Manager to execute Virginia Department of Transportation (“VDOT”) Standard State-Aid Project Administration Agreements (“SPAA”); providing assurance of the City of Roanoke’s commitment to funding of the projects under the SPAA and in meeting its financial obligations under the program; providing a designation of signature authority regarding commitment of funds; and authorizing the City Manager to provide any additional information, execute any necessary additional documents, and to take any necessary actions to obtain, accept, receive, implement, use, and administer the SPAA.

(For full text of resolution, see Resolution Book No. 82, page 360.)

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd moved the adoption of Resolution No. 42360-051622. The motion seconded by Council Member Cobb.

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, and Mayor Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

#### COMMENTS OF CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

##### **Washington Park Basketball Court Dedication in honor of Ricky Renell Wright**

- Friday, May 20, at 4:00 p.m., at the Washington Park newly refurbished basketball courts.
- Immediately following dedication, three on three basketball tournament, weather permitting.

##### **Economic Development Strategic Plan Kickoff**

- Economic Development Strategic Plan Project kicked off last week, with briefings and updates to come before the Council and public as it advances.

##### **Complete Neighborhood Center Analysis**

- Project previously centered in the Gainsboro neighborhood, but work was taking place all over the City.
- More information to come.



**National Police Week**

- As part of the National Police Week, National Peace Officers Memorial Day on May 15 established by President Kennedy to honor men and women killed in the line of duty.
- Fifteen Roanoke City Police Officers have died in the line of duty the first patrol officer in 1892 and as recently as 1992.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

VARIOUS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: The Roanoke City School Board submitted a written report requesting appropriation of funds for various educational programs; and the City Manager submitted a written report recommending that Council concur in the request.

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

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42361-051622) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Commonwealth, federal and private grant for various educational programs, amending and re-ordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 School 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 402.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42361-051622. The motion seconded by Council Member Moon Reynolds and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Council Members Sanchez-Jones, White-Boyd, Bestpitch, Cobb, Moon Reynolds, Price, and Lea-7.

NAYS: None-0.

A REPORT OF CERTAIN AUTHORITIES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS IN WHICH CITY COUNCIL SERVE AS LIAISONS OR APPOINTEES.

Vice-Mayor White-Boyd announced if anyone was interested serving on the Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board to please contact her.

Council Member Cobb updated the Council on the new Valley Metro Transfer Station Project, noting that it was ahead of schedule in some ways, three new electric buses purchased, and the micro-transit "METROFLEX" program would launch soon for Monday through Saturday service.

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 that Abbott Bus Lines was offering free Commercial Driver License training and all interested parties should call the Training Coordinator at (540) 769-8140.

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

At 3:05 p.m., the Mayor declared the Council meeting in recess for a Closed Meeting in the Council's Conference Room, Room 451, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building; and thereafter to be reconvened at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

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

ABSENT: Anita J. Price-1.

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 Bishop Jamal Jackson, Pastor, ReFreshing Church.

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

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 Cobb and adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None-0.

(Council Member Price was absent.)

#### PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

LEADERSHIP COLLEGE: Mayor Lea recognized the City of Roanoke 2022 Leadership College Graduates; and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement.

#### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

STREET RIGHT-OF-WAY VACATION: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by the Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, May 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a request of Kathryn Reyna to vacate a portion of street right-of-way adjacent to 1037 Highland Avenue, S. E., consisting of approximately 3,920 square feet along 11<sup>th</sup> Street, S. E., between Highland Avenue, S. E., to the north and an alley to the south of the subject property, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Tuesday April 26, 2022, and Tuesday May 3, 2022.

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

The Planning Commission submitted a written report recommending vacation of right-of-way adjacent to 1037 Highland Avenue, S. E., which will correct a holdover from the original 1889 Belmont subdivision map that was not followed through with subsequent development; and will remove unused land from the City's right-of-way and put it to productive use as private yard space.

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

Council Member Cobb offered the following ordinance:

(#42362-051622) AN ORDINANCE permanently vacating, discontinuing and closing an approximately 3,920 square foot section of right-of-way adjacent to property located at 1037 Highland Avenue, S. E., Official Tax Map No. 4122022, as more particularly described hereinafter; and dispensing with the second reading of this ordinance by title.

(For full text of ordinance, see Ordinance Book No. 82, page 403.)

Council Member Cobb moved the adoption of Ordinance No. 42362-051622. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd.

Kathryn Reyna, Petitioner, appeared before the Council in support of the request.

The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak on the matter. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

There being no questions and/or comments by the Council Members, Ordinance No. 42362-051622 was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None-0.

(Council Member Price was absent.)

AMENDMENT TO THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF FY 2021 - 2022: Pursuant to Resolution No. 25523 adopted by the Council on Monday, April 6, 1981, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Monday, May 16, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, on a request of proposal of the City of Roanoke to consider an amendment to the aggregate amount of FY 2021 – 2022 annual budget in connection with appropriation of funds from the General Fund assigned fund balance to be used for transfers to the Capital Projects Fund and ARPA grant in the Grants Fund, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in *The Roanoke Times* on Monday, May 9, 2022.

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

The City Manager submitted a written report recommending appropriation assigned fund balance amounts in the General Fund and establish related revenue accounts and transfers to capital projects in the Capital Projects Fund and American Rescue Plan Act grant in the Grants Fund.

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

Council Member Bestpitch offered the following budget ordinance:

(#42363-051622) AN ORDINANCE to appropriate funding from the Assigned General Fund Balance, amending and reordaining certain sections of the 2021 - 2022 General Fund, Capital Projects Fund and 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 403.)

Council Member Bestpitch moved the adoption of Budget Ordinance No. 42363-051622. The motion seconded by Vice-Mayor White-Boyd.

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

Barbara Duerk, 2607 Rosalind Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and requested that Council set aside money to repair the greenway and terminate the lease with the Blue Ridge Parkway – Chestnut Ridge Trail.

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

There being no questions and/or comments by the Council Members, Budget Ordinance No. 42363-051622 was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None-0.

(Council Member Price was absent.)

## OTHER BUSINESS:

**CITY CRIME:** Shawn Hunter, President, Peacemaker's Inc., appeared before the Council and advised that the organization founded in 2015, consisting of approximately 50 members, was requesting additional funding to continue to the work of interrupting violence in the City of Roanoke.

He stated that the Peacemaker's, Inc., received a mini grant from the American Rescue Plan Act funding, but additional funds would allow the organization an opportunity to prove themselves to the community and make it a safe and decent place to live.

In response to an inquiry with regard to being perceived as law enforcement, Mr. Hunter advised that the Peacemaker's were not law enforcement and their flyers indicated as much, but were trained on how to deal with people.

Following discussion, the Vice-Mayor asked if there was a system in place or does the organization act when the need arises; whereupon, Mr. Hunter indicated that on Sunday evenings an area of the City, typically a violence hotspot, was chosen for the organization to canvas, but the plan was to be assigned a certain area as an effort to measure success or failure in a hotspot.

Council Member Moon Reynolds inquired about the plans for the additional funding and if the two-year plan outlined anything, the City would have been able to measure of the goals of the funding.

Mr. Hunter explained that if assigned to a particular hotspot and it cools down most likely due to the presence of the Peacemakers and whether evaluated month to month or by year, documentation of all tasks would be kept.

Mayor Lea thanked Mr. Hunter and the Peacemakers in attendance for the informative presentation, received, and filed the briefing.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:** 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 Council, as he may deem appropriate.

Philip Robinson, 1520 Fresno Street, N. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the American Rescue Plan Act funding for gun violence and the rescinding of funds for Paradise Cathedral Church.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lea declared the Council meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:

Cecelia F. McCoy, CMC  
City Clerk

Sherman P. Lea, Sr.  
Mayor

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