



**ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION**

**MARCH 16, 2020
2:00 P.M.**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
215 CHURCH AVENUE, S. W.**

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*

1. Call to Order--Roll Call. Council Member Price was absent.

The Invocation was delivered by Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.

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

Welcome. Mayor Lea.

NOTICE:

This afternoon's Council meeting will be televised live and replayed on RVTV Channel 3 on Thursday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 21 at 4:00 p.m.; and video streamed through Facebook Live at [facebook.com/RoanokeVa](https://www.facebook.com/RoanokeVa). Council meetings are offered with closed captioning for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Council of the City of Roanoke is seeking applications for the following current vacancies and/or upcoming expirations of terms of office:

Architectural Review Board – one vacancy
Board of Zoning Appeals – one vacancy
Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals – one vacancy (Builder)
City Planning Commission – one vacancy
City of Roanoke Finance Board – one vacancy
Mill Mountain Advisory Board – one vacancy
Roanoke Civic Center Commission – one vacancy
Roanoke Valley Regional Cable Television Committee – one vacancy

Access the City's homepage to complete an online application for the abovementioned vacancies.

2. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NONE.

3. 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.

Brian McConnell, 32 Elm Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council regarding public library closures and public Wi-Fi access, and noted the closures posed a problem for those seeking to use Wi-Fi and asked Council to re-evaluate the closings.

4. CONSENT AGENDA: (APPROVED 6-0)

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Members of City Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of the items. If discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

C-1 Minutes of the regular meeting of City Council held on Monday, March 2, 2020.

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

- C-2 A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel and hear briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.
- C-3 A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel and hear briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.
- C-4 A communication from the City Attorney requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to consult with legal counsel and hear briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.
- C-5 A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss and consider the acquisition of real property for public purposes, 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-6 Minutes of the Audit Committee held on Monday, December 16, 2019.
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

C-7 Reports of qualification of the following individuals:

Christion Bryant as a (Student Alternate/William Fleming High School) representative to replace Lenora Morgan for a term of office ending June 30, 2020; and Benjamin Bazak as a (Public/Schools) representative for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023 on the Youth Services Citizen Board;

Jeff Todd as a member of the Mill Mountain Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of William Sellari ending June 30, 2020;

Auraliz Quintana as a member of the Roanoke Public Library Board to fill the unexpired term of office of Erin Ashwell ending June 30, 2020;

Shaleen Powell as a City representative of the Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Board of Directors for a one-year term of office ending June 30, 2020; and

Lauren Hartman and Chris Bryant as members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for three-year terms of office, each, commencing April 1, 2020 and ending March 31, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

A communication from Council Member Michelle L. Davis, Chair, City Council Personnel Committee, requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting to discuss the annual performances of the Council-Appointed Officers, 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 COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER:

a. CITY MANAGER:

BRIEFINGS: NONE.

ITEMS RECOMMENDED FOR ACTION:

1. Recognition of the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board Program Year 2018 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds for award period February 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.
Strategic Plan: Economy – Workforce Development
Adopted Resolution No. 41685-031620. (6-0)
2. Acceptance of the FY2019 State Homeland Security Program Grant funds from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management in support of the City of Roanoke HAZMAT Team.
Strategic Plan: Community Safety – Responsiveness
Adopted Resolution No. 41686-031620 and Budget Ordinance No. 41687-031620. (6-0)
3. Acquisition of real property rights in connection with the Water Quality-Glade Creek Stream Restoration Project.
Strategic Plan: Infrastructure – Environment
Livability – Attractive Community
Adopted Ordinance No. 41688-031620. (6-0)
4. Acquisition of real property rights in connection with the 13th Street Bridge over Norfolk Southern Railway Rehabilitation Project.
Strategic Plan: Infrastructure - Transportation
Adopted Ordinance No. 41689-031620. (6-0)
5. Acquisition of real property rights in connection with the Stormwater Utility Flood Mitigation Program.
Strategic Plan: Infrastructure – Environment
Adopted Ordinance No. 41690-031620. (6-0)
6. Appropriation of additional funding in connection with the City’s GO Outside Festival.
Strategic Plan: Livability - Quality Amenities
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 41691-031620. (6-0)
7. Authorization for issuance and sale of General Obligation Public Improvement Refunding Bonds.
Strategic Plan: Good Government – Responsible Financial Management
Infrastructure – All Categories
Adopted Resolution No. 41692-031620. (6-0)

8. Execution of Amendment No. 5 to the Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Real Property for development of a downtown parking facility and hotel at 116 and 120 Church Avenue, S. E.
[Strategic Plan: Economy – Business Development](#)
Adopted Ordinance No. 41693-031620. (6-0)

9. Execution of a First Reinstated Performance Agreement among the City of Roanoke, Economic Development Authority of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, and Rutherford Partners, LLC, for improvements to be made to 29 Campbell Avenue, S. W. and 30 Salem Avenue, S. W.
[Strategic Plan: Economy – Business Development](#)
(Reconsideration of the matter at the 7:00 p.m. session. See page 11).

10. Execution of a First Reinstated Performance Agreement among the City of Roanoke, Economic Development Authority of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, and Rutherford Partners, LLC, for public infrastructure improvements to be made adjacent to 29 Campbell Avenue, S. W. and 30 Salem Avenue, S. W.
[Strategic Plan: Economy – Business Development](#)
Adopted Ordinance No. 41694-031620. (6-0)

11. Execution of a First Reinstated Performance Agreement among the City of Roanoke, Economic Development Authority of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, and Rutherford Partners, LLC, for special construction requirements to be made to 29 Campbell Avenue, S. W. and 30 Salem Avenue, S. W.
[Strategic Plan: Economy – Business Development](#)
Adopted Ordinance No. 41695-031620. (6-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER.

The City Manager offered the following comments:

Response to Coronavirus

The City is taking steps to decrease the chances of our citizens being exposed to Coronavirus:

- Non-essential events have been cancelled for the next 30 days, including:
 - Library Events and Library Community Room Events (Libraries will remain open at this time)
 - Parks and Recreation Events and Rentals (Preston Park and Eureka Recreation Centers will remain open at this time; the Fishburn Mansion will cancel all events).

- Roanoke Fire-EMS tours/events/public visitors
- Roanoke Police tours/events
- Roanoke City Jail Visits (virtual visits are available)
- No new Assembly Permits will be accepted for the next 30 days.
- Leadership College has been postponed, with the intent of rescheduling it for a future time this year.
- Berglund Center has announced:
 - It is actively working with promoters and clients to reschedule as many events as possible. Events are rescheduling, canceling, or happening as planned on a case-by-case basis.
 - If a promoter or client decides to cancel or postpone events, they will communicate those changes to customers via direct e-mail, their website, and social media. Updates will be posted as soon as possible. If an event is canceled, refunds will be offered at the point-of-purchase.
 - To ensure the safest environment possible, their staff is proactively cleaning all common areas and making every effort to disinfect throughout our facilities, particularly in high traffic areas.
- A website has been established at www.roanokeva.gov/coronavirus, where you can find links to the most up-to-date information regarding the virus.

I want to thank our citizens for their patience and cooperation as the City makes all these adjustments in an abundance of caution to reduce the risk of exposure to the Coronavirus.

8. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

- a. 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 Council concur in the request. Donna Caldwell, Director of Accounting, Spokesperson.
 Strategic Plan: [Good Government](#) – [Responsible Financial Management](#)
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 41696-031620. (6-0)

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a. A resolution to establish an ad hoc committee focused on the effort to reduce gun violence in the community.

Strategic Plan: Community Safety – Communication & Engagement
Good Government – Valued, Engaged & Informed
Community

Adopted Resolution No. 41697-031620. (6-0)

- b. A resolution to establish a written policy for participation in City Council meetings through electronic communication.

Strategic Plan: Good Government - Efficient and Effective Operations

Adopted Resolution No. 41698-031620. (6-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

Council Member Bestpitch brought attention to commentary in *The Roanoke Times* on March 15 regarding the Virginia Women’s Veterans Week; honoring women in uniform and who are currently serving in the military. He also honored the memory of Messrs. Daniel Hale and Sigmund Davidson who recently passed away.

Council Member Davis expressed regret to the Hale and Davidson families for not attending the funeral services; and commented that Roanoke City Schools were delivering breakfast and lunch to students via bus stops, taking orders for breakfast and lunch for the next day; students will be able to pick up homework and other educational materials at the bus stops and/or at their school; Boys and Girls Club will offer free snacks and dinner to those under the age of 19, a site will also be set up at Belmont Library.

Council Member Davis also advised Feeding Southwest Virginia plans to activate their summer food program early and is seeking permission from the USDA to provide food boxes to families in need. She urged citizens to contact United Way and Council of Community Services for resources if so desired to offer assistance to the community.

Council Member Davis acknowledged the Roanoke Valley Gives Day on Wednesday, March 18, 2020; and noted that information with regard to the all-day event would be posted on her Facebook page.

Mayor Lea thanked City Council and commended the non-profit agencies caring for the vulnerable in the community and all citizens for serving the community by providing food and medicine during this time.

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

12. RECESSED – 3:39 P.M.

THE COUNCIL MEETING WAS DECLARED IN RECESS UNTIL 7:00 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER.



**ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION**

**MARCH 16, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
215 CHURCH AVENUE, S. W.**

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order--Roll Call.** Council Member Price was absent. Council Member Osborne arrived late.

The Invocation was delivered by The Reverend Milton Hardy, Jr., Pastor, Paradise Cathedral.

At 7:05 p.m., Council Member Osborne entered the meeting.

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

Welcome. Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING. (6-0)

NOTICE:

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A. PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

A Proclamation declaring March 2020 as Girl Scouts Month.

Mayor Lea read the proclamation in its entirety and advised that it would be forwarded to the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline.

Adopted Resolution No. 41699-031620 confirming the City Manager's declaration of a local emergency; conferring emergency powers in the City Manager as Director of Emergency Management; authorizing the City Manager to make application for Federal and State public assistance to deal with such emergency; designating a fiscal agent and an agent for submission of financial information for the City; and calling upon the Federal and State governments for assistance. (6-0).

Reconsideration of Agenda Item 7.a.9. (6-0)

Adopted Ordinance No. 41700-031620, as amended, with regard to execution of a First Reinstated Performance Agreement among the City of Roanoke, Economic Development Authority of the City of Roanoke, Virginia, and Rutherford Partners, LLC, for improvements to be made to 29 Campbell Avenue, S. W. and 30 Salem Avenue, S. W. (6-0).

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of Hamlar Properties, LLC, to vacate two adjoining alleys that run from Fairfax Avenue, N. W., to Moorman Avenue, N. W., and from 10th Street, N. W., to Fairfax Avenue, N. W. Michael L. Hamlar, Petitioner.
[Strategic Plan: Economy – Business Development](#)
Adopted Ordinance No. 41701-031620. (6-0)
2. Request of Eric Ferris for alley closure by barricade between 16th Street, N. W., and 17th Street, N. W., parallel to Shenandoah Avenue, N. W. Eric Ferris, Petitioner. **Matter was continued until the April 13, 2020 City Planning Commission Meeting.**
3. Proposal of the City of Roanoke to sell City-owned property situated within the Roanoke Centre for Industry and Technology at 1700 Blue Hills Drive, N. E., and 0 Orange Avenue, N. E., to Cooper Crouse-Hinds, LLC. Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager.
[Strategic Plan: Economy – Business Development](#)
Adopted Ordinance No. 41702-031620. (6-0)

**C. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:
NONE.**

D. ADJOURNED – 7:47 P.M.