



DAVIS
41744-061520

**ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION**

**JUNE 15, 2020
2:00 P.M.**

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

AGENDA

**PARTICIPATION BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO
AMENDMENT 28 TO HB29 (SECTION 4-0.01(G), CHAPTER 1283,
VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY (2020), SECTION 2.2-3708.2 (A),
CODE OF VIRGINIA (1950), AS AMENDED,
ORDINANCE NO. 41703-032720; AND
RESOLUTION NO. 41704-032720.**

*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.

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 Lea.

Welcome. Mayor Lea.

NOTICE:

Today's Council meeting will be televised live and replayed on RVTV Channel 3 on Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, June 20 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.

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.

Based upon Executive Order Number Fifty-One, issued by Governor Northam on March 12, 2020, Amended Executive Order Number Fifty-Three on April 15, 2020, Amendment 28 to HB29 (adopted April 22, 2020) (Section 4-0.01(g), Chapter 1283, Virginia Acts of Assembly (2020), Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2 (A), Virginia Code Section 15.2-1413, Ordinance No. 41703-032720, and Resolution No. 41704-032720, City Council will be conducting this regular session of City Council by electronic communication means without a quorum of City Council physically present in Council Chamber and without the presence of members of the public in the City Council Chamber.

In order to afford citizens an opportunity to provide comments to City Council during the COVID-19 pandemic disaster, citizens wishing to address the Council during this regular session of City Council conducted by electronic communication means were instructed to sign-up by emailing or by calling the City Clerk's Office at clerk@roanokeva.gov and (540) 853-2541, by 12:00 p.m., on June 15.

Those citizens, who have signed up to speak before the Council, have been provided the Zoom meeting information and will be allowed to join the meeting and address City Council by electronic communication means.

The City Attorney read a summary of emails received with regard to the Lee monument and the Fiscal Year 2020 - 2021 Budget.

Tatiana Durant, 125 Cambridge Square, Vinton, Virginia, addressed the Council with regard to delaying the vote to adopt the City budget.

Catherine Koebel, 2625 Longview Avenue, S. W., addressed the Council with regard to the adoption of the City budget.

Heather Lawson, 2549 Inglewood Road, S. W., addressed the Council with regard to delaying the vote to adopt the City budget, divesting funding from City Sheriff and Police Department budgets, banning firearms in city and public buildings, accountability of the Police Department in connection with regard to the Black Lives march in downtown on May 30, 2020.

Freeda Cathcart, 2516 Sweetbrier Avenue, S. W., addressed the Council to urge them to contact Roanoke Gas Company to ask them to exit their contract for capacity from the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

**4. CONSENT AGENDA:
(APPROVED 7-0)**

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be 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 A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council schedule a public hearing to be held on Monday, July 20, 2020, 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, on the issuance of General Obligation Bonds not to exceed \$29.320 million for qualifying capital improvement projects and bond issuance costs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

C-2 A communication from the City Manager requesting that Council convene in a Closed Meeting by electronic communication means to discuss vacancies on the Star City Strong: Response, Recovery, Resilience Framework, task force, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1), Code of Virginia (1950), as amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Concurred in the request.

C-3 A communication from Paul G. Beers, Counsel, Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission, transmitting a resolution expressing appreciation to R. Brian Townsend for his service as a City of Roanoke representative of the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

C-4 Report of qualification for Deputy Chief Eric Charles as the Chief of Police Designee of the Regional Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board for a three-year term of office, commencing July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2023.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Received and filed.

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. Acceptance of the BJA FY20 Coronavirus Emergency Supplemental Funding from the United States Department of Justice to prevent, prepare and respond to the Coronavirus.
Adopted Resolution No. 41744-061520 and Budget Ordinance No. 41745-061520. (7-0)
2. Acceptance of the FY 2020 – 2021 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation North Carolina and Virginia Rivers and Water Program Grant funds to benefit fish, wildlife, and plant resources and improve water quality and the riparian environment and ecosystem.
Adopted Resolution No. 41746-061520 and Budget Ordinance No. 41747-061520. (7-0)
3. Appropriation of Stormwater Utility Fund retained earnings.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 41748-061520. (7-0)
4. De-appropriation of Stormwater Local Assistance Funds in connection with the Lick Run Stream Restoration Project at the Roanoke-Blacksburg Regional Airport.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 41749-061520. (7-0)

5. Amendment to the City Code as it pertains to certain real estate tax exemptions for rehabilitating property in the City.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41750-061520. (7-0)
6. Acquisition of real property rights in connection with the Campbell Avenue Stormwater Improvement Project.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41751-061520. (7-0)
7. Acquisition of real property rights in connection with the Patterson Avenue and Chapman Avenue, S. W., Stormwater Drainage Improvement Project.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41752-061520. (7-0)
8. Amendment to the 2015 - 2019 HUD Consolidated Plan.
Adopted Resolution No. 41753-061520. (7-0)
9. Execution of Amendment No. 1 to the First Reinstated Agreement for the Exchange of Real Estate between the City of Roanoke and Rutherford Partners, LLC, in connection with a new transportation facility.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41754-061520. (7-0)
10. Execution of Amendment No. 1 to the First Reinstated Agreement for the Exchange of Real Estate between the City of Roanoke and Greater Roanoke Transit Company, in connection with a new transportation facility.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41755-061520. (7-0)
11. Execution of Change Order No. 3 to the Contract between the City of Roanoke and Ecotone, Inc., for the Washington Park Stream Restoration Project.
Adopted Resolution No. 41756-061520. (7-0)

COMMENTS OF THE CITY MANAGER. NONE.

b. MUNICIPAL AUDITOR:

1. Presentation of the City of Roanoke General Audit Plan. John Aldridge, Partner, Brown Edwards, Certified Public Accountants.
Received and filed.

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.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 41757-061520. (7-0)

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

10. INTRODUCTION AND CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

- a. A resolution commending the services rendered to the City of Roanoke by Robert Brian Townsend as Assistant City Manager for Community Development, on the occasion of his retirement.
Adopted Resolution No. 41758-061520. (7-0)

11. MOTIONS AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

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

Council Member White-Boyd apologized to residents of the City for not promptly responding to emails with regard to City matters, and specifically those in reference to e-bikes and defunding the Police. She advised that she agreed to reallocating and redirecting funds, and was ready for real change and action.

Council Member Price expressed appreciation for the many emails and phone calls received; acknowledged improvements needed to address systemic racism; noted that racism was taught and change begins with the students; and recommended Roanoke City Public Schools and the newly appointed superintendent were included in decisions.

Council Member Osborne commented that racism was a learned behavior and how it was taught must be addressed; and advised that City Council was extremely interested in the views of citizens.

Council Member Davis apologized to the African American community for systemic racism and not speaking up with regard to discrimination and bias; and recommended reallocation of funds with regard to the City budget.

Vice-Mayor Cobb shared a personal photograph and emphasized the importance of creating relationships with each other; noted that his grief was real in the recent passing of his father, the grief of the Nation in the light of recent tragedies and protests. He advised that it was critical to have honest, open conversations now and suggested the creation of a neighborhood based survey with regard to police, nurses, first responders, etc., to restore trust and redefine what community safety looks like.

Council Member Bestpitch stated as the City was responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, people were now responding to the “other” pandemic, racism, and called for a microscopic review of how the City’s system worked. He moved that City Council direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to establish an Equity and Empowerment Advisory Board as a permanent council-appointed body, consisting of seven citizens of the City of Roanoke and two members of Roanoke City Council with a purpose to review the priorities for Interwoven Equity in City Plan 2040, develop proposed implementation plans for the policies and actions identified for each priority, review all existing City policies and regulations, and recommend to Council changes necessary to rid the institution of policies and procedures that promote inequity and limit empowerment. He further stated that the Board shall develop bylaws, schedule regular meetings monthly, and hold public hearings to receive community input at least quarterly. The motion was seconded by Council Member White-Boyd and unanimously adopted.

Mayor Lea opined that he looked forward to moving forward and was encouraged with regard to what the City can do and will do.

The City Attorney shared the process for removing certain City monuments from public property; specifically, the monument located in Lee Plaza; and advised the process would begin at the July 6 Council meeting, and a Public Hearing would be held on August 16, 2020 with regard to removing the Robert E. Lee monument.

- b. Vacancies on certain authorities, boards, commissions and committees appointed by Council.**

Appointed Robert S. Cowell, Jr., to fill the unexpired term of R. Brian Townsend as a City Employee representative to the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center Commission ending April 12, 2021.

Appointed Robert Ledger to fill the unexpired term of R. Brian Townsend as City representative to the Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facilities Authority ending June 30, 2022.

12. OTHER BUSINESS:

- a. Consideration to adopt the Recommended FY2020 – 2021 Budget and other related items:
 1. A Certificate of the Director of Finance advising that funds required for the 2020 - 2021 General Fund, Stormwater Utility Fund, Civic Facilities Fund, Parking Fund, Risk Management Fund, School General Fund, School Food Fund budgets will be available for appropriation, subject to the adoption of the revenue measures proposed by the City Manager in the June 15, 2020 City Council Agenda.
Received and filed.
 2. Reaffirmation of Real Estate Tax Rate.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41759-061520. (7-0)
 3. Adoption of Annual General, Stormwater Utility, Civic Facilities, Parking, Risk Management, School General, School Food Services and Grant Fund appropriations for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021.
Adopted Budget Ordinance No. 41760-061520. (7-0)
 4. Endorsement of the Capital Improvement Program Update for FY 2021 - 2025.
Adopted Resolution No. 41761-061520. (7-0) and Budget Ordinance No. 41762-061520. (7-0)
 5. Approval of 2020 - 2024 HUD Consolidated Plan and 2020 - 2021 HUD Annual Plan.
Adopted Resolution No. 41763-061520. (7-0)
 6. Adoption of a Pay Plan for officers, employees, Council-Appointed Officers and Constitutional Officers of the City; and authorization for certain salary adjustments and merit increases and monthly stipends for certain board and commission members, effective July 1, 2020.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41764-061520. (7-0)

At 5:33 p.m., Mayor Lea declared the Council Meeting in recess until 7:00 P.M., for a Closed Meeting through electronic communication means.



**ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR SESSION**

**JUNE 15, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

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215 CHURCH AVENUE, S. W.**

AGENDA

**PARTICIPATION BY ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS PURSUANT TO
AMENDMENT 28 TO HB29 (SECTION 4-0.01(G), CHAPTER 1283,
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CODE OF VIRGINIA (1950), AS AMENDED,
ORDINANCE NO. 41703-032720; AND
RESOLUTION NO. 41704-032720.**

Call to Order--Roll Call.

The Invocation was delivered by Vice-Mayor Joseph Cobb.

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

Welcome. Mayor Lea.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING. (7-0)

NOTICE:

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A. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Request of Eric Ferris to vacate, discontinue and close by barricade a portion of an alley between 16th Street, N. W., and 17th Street, N. W., parallel to Shenandoah Avenue, N. W., to prevent access from unauthorized individuals. Eric Ferris, Petitioner, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41765-061520. (7-0)
2. Request of Leigh P. Huff, Jr., to vacate, discontinue and close an alley between Sylvan Road, S. E., and Ivy Street, S. E., and adjacent to properties at 1320 Ivy Street, S. E., 601 Camilla Street, S. E., and 615 Camilla Street, S. E. Leigh P. Huff, Jr., Petitioner, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41766-061520. (7-0)
3. Request of Mary D. Hylton, Agent, Roanoke Emergency Medical Services, Inc., to vacate, discontinue and close an alley at the rear of property located at 374 Day Avenue, S. W., and 0 Day Avenue, S. W., and adjacent to 366 Day Avenue, S. W. Mary D. Hylton, Petitioner, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41767-061520. (7-0)
4. Request of Valley View Mall SPE, LLC, to rezone property at 4822 Valley View Boulevard, N. W., from CLS, Commercial Large Site District, to MXPUD, Mixed Use Planned Unit Development, to allow for subdivision of the property. Ben Crew, Agent, Balzer and Associates, Inc., Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41768-061520. (7-0)
5. Request of Roanoke City Public Schools to amend the Institutional Planned Unit Development Plan and conditions proffered as part of a previous rezoning at 2102 Grandin Road, S. W., on August 15, 2016 by the adoption of Ordinance No. 40614-081516; amendments to the Plan include the addition of a fieldhouse with particular landscaping and related access drive. Richard Rife, Agent, Interactive Design Group, Spokesperson.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41769-061520. (7-0)
6. Proposal of the City of Roanoke to amend the City Code to implement changes mandated by the General Assembly with regard to the regulation of electric power assisted bicycles within the City. Robert S. Cowell, Jr., City Manager.
Adopted Ordinance No. 41770-061520, as amended. (7-0)

The City Attorney summarized the views of citizens in approximately 64 emails with regard to the matter.

B. NEW BUSINESS:

1. A resolution to appoint task force members to review the Star City Strong: Response, Recovery, Resilience Framework, evaluate alternatives and make recommendations to City Council for use of the Star City Strong Recovery Fund to support the recovery, and resilience of the community.
Adopted Resolution No. 41771-061520. (7-0)

C. HEARING OF CITIZENS UPON PUBLIC MATTERS:

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Melanie Crovo, 1712 Edgerton Avenue, S. E., addressed the Council with regard to the inaccessibility and unresponsiveness of the City's permit center.

D. ADJOURNED – 10:04 P.M