

Rebecca Jackson, 515 Centre Avenue, N. W., Apt A, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to gun violence in the City of Roanoke.

Jordan Bell, 301 Gilmer Avenue, N. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to construction of a playground in the Gainsboro community.

George Hunter, 1564 Rosewalk Lane, S. E., appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition of the Ukrainian flag to be raised in Freedom Plaza this week.

Shaheed Omar, 1430 Chapman Avenue, S. W., Unit B, appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition of the Council recently recognizing Officers within the Roanoke City Police Department.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lea declared the Council meeting in recess at 8:35 p.m., to reconvene on Tuesday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, for the purpose of conducting public hearings on the City of Roanoke Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 Budget at 7:00 p.m.; and Proposed Real Property Tax Increase at 7:10 p.m.

The recessed meeting of Roanoke City Council was called to order on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber, Room 450, fourth floor, Noel C. Taylor Municipal Building, 215 Church Avenue, S. W., with Mayor Sherman P. Lea, Sr., presiding.

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

ABSENT: Council Member 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 Mayor Lea.

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

Mayor Lea announced that the purpose of the recessed meeting was to conduct two separate public hearings: (1) Recommended Budget for the City for Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023; and (2) Proposed Real Estate Tax Rate Increase; and explained there would be no discussion or action taken by the Council during or at the conclusion of the public hearings. He also pointed out that that Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 and other measures would be considered during the Council's recessed meeting on Monday, May 9 at 2:00 p.m., in the Council Chamber.

He further announced that Council set aside time for citizens to comment on the Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 appropriation of funding from the General Fund Assigned Fund Balance and the increase of Fiscal Year 2021 – 2022 local tax and other revenue estimates and appropriation of funding; and noted that a public hearing on the matters would be held at a future Council meeting.

The City Manager advised that there was an estimated increase in FY local tax and other revenue estimates and appropriation of funds specifically attributed to the increase in personal property tax revenue; and in the case of the FY22 revenue estimate and appropriation, Council will discuss further and act in June 2022, after receipt of personal property tax bills and prior to the availability of new State Code enabling refunding of surplus revenue on July 1, 2022.

FISCAL YEAR 2021 – 2022 APPROPRIATION OF FUNDING: The Mayor inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak with regard to the Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022 appropriation of funding from the General Fund Balance and the increase of the Fiscal Year 2021 - 2022 local tax and other revenue estimates and appropriation of funding; whereupon, the following individuals appeared before the Council:

Octavia Johnson, 3968 Park Lane, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition of the increased personal property tax.

Lois Caliri, 1550 Terrace Road, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition of the increased personal property tax.

Vivian Holland, 3801 Red Fox Drive, N. W., appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition of the increased personal property tax.

Alton Akin, 1607 Red Oak Lane, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition of the increased personal property tax.

James B. Thomas, III, 4610 Autumn Lane, N. W., appeared before the Council and spoke in opposition of the increased personal property tax.

The Mayor thanked the individuals for the comments and reminded everyone that a public hearing with regard to the abovementioned matter would be held a later date.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 - 2023 BUDGET: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to afford persons an opportunity to speak and state their views concerning all aspects of the Recommended Fiscal Year 2022 - 2023 City Budget, in the amount of \$324,789,000, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in The Roanoke Times on Monday, April 18, 2022.

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

The Mayor opened the public hearing and inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak on the proposed budget; whereupon, the following individuals appeared before the Council:

Steven Grammar, 1817 Westview Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to dissatisfaction with transportation in the City.

Lawrence Morgan, 1306 Belle Air Lane, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the 12.6% tax increase.

Ashley Curtice, 4515 Rosecrest Road, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the importance of public transportation for college students in the area and suggested buses run more frequently.

Kristen Strehle, 914 Campbell Avenue, S. W., Apt. A, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the City's investment in tree canopy and efforts to mitigate extreme heat.

Drew Abel, 115 Patterson Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to dissatisfaction with Fire-EMS Pay Plan.

Baraka Kasonga, 115 Patterson Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to lack of equity in the Fire-EMS Pay Plan.

Andy Foley, 115 Patterson Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the negative effects of the Fire-EMS Compensation Plan.

Chad Riddleberger, 115 Patterson Avenue, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the negative effects of the Fire-EMS Compensation Plan.

Kathleen Wooley, 221 College Lane, Salem, Virginia, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the City's public transit system and the need for more frequent bus runs.

Chris Bryant, 1315 Sewell Lane, S. W., appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to concerns about green space, replacement of tree canopy, and lack of funding in the proposed budget.

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

PROPOSED REAL ESTATE TAX INCREASE: Pursuant to instructions by the Council, the City Clerk having advertised a public hearing for Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at 7:10 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to afford persons an opportunity to speak and state their views concerning all aspects of the proposed real estate tax increase, the matter was before the body.

Legal advertisement of the public hearing was published in The Roanoke Times on Monday, March 28, 2022.

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

The Mayor opened the public hearing and inquired if there were persons present who wished to speak on the proposed budget; whereupon, the following individual appeared before the Council:

Dr. Brenda Hale, P. O. Box 12362, Roanoke, 24025, appeared before the Council and spoke with regard to the increase in the real estate tax.


Mayor Lea declared the public hearing closed.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Lea declared the Recessed meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

A P P R O V E D

ATTEST:


Cecelia F. McCoy, CMC
City Clerk


Sherman P. Lea, Sr.
Mayor
