



# Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at the Lloyd Andrews City Meeting Hall.

**Present:** Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor  
Sandra W. Bryant, Mayor Pro Tem

Andy Jackson)  
Curtis Strickland)  
Rex Stainback)  
W. Keith Bell)

## Council Members

Kelly Traynham, City Manager  
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney  
Traci Storey, City Clerk  
Carmen Johnson, Finance Director  
Christina Caudle, Human Resources Director  
Lawrence Wiggins, Police Chief  
Kristyn Anderson, Planning & Development Director  
Kelly Daughtry, Parks & Recreation Director  
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director  
Jason Patrick, Fire Chief

Mayor Doughtie called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mayor Doughtie provided an invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie asked Council members if there were any known conflicts of interest with respect to the matters before them this evening.

There being no conflicts, motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Stainback, and unanimously carried to adopt the business agenda as presented.

Mayor Doughtie recognized former Mayor Pro Tem Carl Ferebee who was in attendance.

## Special Recognitions

### **Introduction of New Police Chief**

City Manager Traynham introduced and recognized the new Police Chief, Lawrence Wiggins. She said he officially joined the City of Roanoke Rapids as the Chief of the Police Department on March 10<sup>th</sup> and has become a resident of Roanoke Rapids. They are happy for him to be here and be a part of the team, and they look forward to him becoming a part of the community. They were thrilled that after an extensive search process, they were matched up with Mr. Wiggins out of South Carolina, who brings a diverse background and experience in law enforcement and the military as well. She welcomed him aboard.

Chief Wiggins thanked City Council and City Manager Traynham. He stated his experiences here with the City has been nothing but first class. The staff at the Police Department have been more than accommodating and welcoming. Everyone here accepted him with open arms, and he was truly grateful. The warm welcome extends to the department heads as well. He said he was excited to be here and was looking forward to working with this Council, the City Manager, the department heads and his staff to continue to help Roanoke Rapids be a safe place to raise a family, for people considering relocating, and to be an example to other communities of what a prosperous and safe community can be.

### **Retirement of K-9 Rudy**

Captain Phillips said K-9 Rudy was born on February 20, 2018. The City received him on October 2019 and his first day of work was December 12, 2019. He gave a summary of K-9 Rudy's stats during his tenure with the City of Roanoke Rapids as he and his handler Curtis Batchelor came into the building.

Captain Phillips said K-9 Rudy has faithfully served the City since December 2019 and has recently retired due to medical issues. It is customary for retired service animals to be given to their handlers and City Council has done this in the past. In accordance with NCGS 160A-266, it is appropriate for City Council to declare K-9 Rudy surplus prior to awarding him to his handler, Curtis Batchelor. He has paid \$1.00 to the City Clerk. He presented the following resolution for City Council's consideration:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 2025.01** **K-9 RETIREMENT RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Rudy is owned by the City of Roanoke Rapids and has faithfully served the City for over five years; and

**WHEREAS**, K-9 Rudy has recently retired due to health issues that make it difficult for him to continue to perform his duties with the Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout K-9 Rudy's career, he has enabled the Police Department to seize \$100,000 in drug money along with almost \$2 million in illegal drugs, 50 firearms and had numerous successful tracks of wanted individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, retired canines cannot be adopted by private citizens because of their specialized training for police situations and K-9 Rudy's handler, Curtis Bachelor wishes to keep him; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and City Council, by this resolution, wish to express their great appreciation to K-9 Rudy for his service, loyalty, and dedication to the City of Roanoke Rapids.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Roanoke Rapids City Council in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 160A-266 declares K-9 Rudy to be surplus property upon retirement from service and authorizes his assigned handler, Curtis Bachelor, to take ownership of K-9 Rudy upon his execution of a hold harmless agreement to provide proper care for the dog for the remainder of the life of the animal and a \$1 adoption fee. By executing that agreement, Curtis Bachelor will assume all liability and responsibility for the dog.

**ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

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Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Motion was made by Councilman Strickland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2025.01 declaring K-9 Rudy as surplus property and awarding him to his handler, Curtis Batchelor for \$1.00.

<b>Public Comment (Unscheduled)</b>
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**Ephraim Brodsky**

Mr. Brodsky introduced his son Samuel, who also joined him at the podium. He was here to speak about the police. Recently, there was an event at his son's school, Manning Elementary, where an off-duty Roanoke Rapids police officer came and was more than mean to the children. It happened a few months ago at first, and then cafeteria workers were then threatening the children that they would bring the mean police officer back if they acted up. Last week or possibly two weeks ago, the officer

came back when Mr. Hinton (SRO) was off that day. His children came home devastated and told him two dozen children were crying because the police officer raised his voice and said he was getting angry, and they did not want to see him when he gets angry. This was at the school, not the police department. This was a Roanoke Rapids police officer in his off-duty capacity working at the school with a gun and a badge representing the City of Roanoke Rapids.

He continued to say that up north where he was from, they have a process called a civilian complaint review board where anyone wanting to make a complaint, can go in, lodge a complaint, fill out the paperwork and the civilian complaint review board is required to review the complaint and let the people know how it was adjudicated. As soon as this happened when his children came home upset, his older child said he was crying and his younger child told him many children in his class were also crying. He brought this to Councilman Stainback who was in the police department for 30 years and he told him he would take care of it. The next day Councilman Stainback went to the police department and said other parents had already complained and they decided this officer would not be allowed back at the school and that was supposed to be the end of it.

Mr. Brodsky stated for him, that is not enough. The same way the City Council comes and commends police officers for exemplary duties, he would like to know what happens to these officers that don't do the right thing. He would like there to be some kind of process in place where they could air their grievances and hear back as to what the discipline was. Hopefully, with the new Police Chief here, something like that could be put into place so concerned citizens could air their grievances. Honestly, looking at everyone in front of him and out of all the "elected officials", three ran unopposed, and two were appointed. There is only one elected official here that actually ran with any opposition. Less than 30% of the voting population voted at the last election. This isn't civic engagement; this is voter indifference. The people don't think that their vote matters. The reason they don't think their vote matters is because there is no transparency in the system. He will start coming back to every meeting and air logical grievances, because he has a lot of them. Nobody seems to want to listen to logic because in small towns everybody is connected. Everybody knows each other and in business with each other. What one person says can impact a lot of people. He stated it ends now. He plans to run for City Council when the District 2 seat opens and hopefully one person can make a difference.

<b>Approval of City Council Minutes</b>
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Motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried to approve the March 4, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting

minutes as drafted.

## New Business

### **Consideration of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Contract**

Finance Director Johnson stated in accordance with NCGS 159-34(a), City Council must approve a contract for the audit of the City's financial statements. She asked City Council to consider a contract with Gregory T. Redman, CPA to conduct the audit of the City's financial statements for fiscal year 2024-2025. She noted the amount remains the same as last year.

Motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Stainback, and unanimously carried to approve the Letter of Engagement and Contract with Gregory T. Redman, CPA to conduct the audit of the City's financial statements for year ending June 30, 2025, and to authorize the mayor to execute the Engagement Letter and Contract.

### **Consideration of Budget Amendment (Library Donation)**

Finance Director Johnson reported that the library received a donation in the amount of \$500 for the Children's Program/Summer Reading Program. She presented the following ordinance for their consideration:

#### **Ordinance No. 2025.08 CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS BUDGET AMENDMENT**

#### **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS:**

**SECTION 1.** The following additional amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of City Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, according to the following schedule:

#### **SCHEDULE A – PROJECT FUND REVENUES**

Fund Balance – Children's Program	
<b>Project Revenues – Children's Program</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

**SECTION 2.** The following additional revenues and reductions in appropriations are available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, in order to meet the foregoing appropriations, according to the following schedule:

#### **SCHEDULE B – PROJECT FUND EXPENDITURES**

Funding to General Fund – Children's Program	
<b>Project Expenditures – Children's Program</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
<b>FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

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Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, and unanimously carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2025.08 in the amount of \$500 for the Children's Program at the library.

**Consideration of Budget Amendment (OSC Unauthorized Substance Tax)**

Finance Director Johnson reported that the Police Department received OSC Unauthorized Substance Tax in the amount of \$8,967.85 on February 18, 2025. She presented the following ordinance for their consideration:

**Ordinance No. 2025.09  
CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS  
BUDGET AMENDMENT**

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS:**

**SECTION 1.** The following additional amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of City Government and its activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, according to the following schedule:

**SCHEDULE A – PROJECT FUND REVENUES**

Fund Balance – Police – OSC Unauthorized Substance Tax	
<b>Project Revenues – OSC Unauthorized Substance Tax</b>	<b>\$8,967.85</b>
<b>FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,967.85</b>

**SECTION 2.** The following additional revenues and reductions in appropriations are available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, in order to meet the foregoing appropriations, according to the following schedule:

**SCHEDULE B – PROJECT FUND EXPENDITURES**

Funding to General Fund – Police – OSC Unauthorized Substance Tax	
<b>Project Expenditures – OSC Unauthorized Substance Tax</b>	<b>\$8,967.85</b>
<b>FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,967.85</b>

**SECTION 3.** This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

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Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, seconded by Councilman Stainback, and unanimously carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2025.09 in the amount of \$8,967.85 for OSC Unauthorized Substance Tax.

**Consideration of Resolution Approving Surplus Items in Accordance with NCGS 160A-270 (c) - Electronic Auction**

Public Works Director Chalker presented the following resolution for City Council's consideration:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025.02**  
**Resolution Approving Surplus Items**  
**In accordance with NCGS 160A-270(c) – Electronic Auction**

**WHEREAS**, the Roanoke Rapids City Council desires to dispose of certain surplus property of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the following items have been identified as being surplus to the needs of the City:

<u>VEHICLE #</u>	<u>VIN NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>HOURS/MILAGE</u>
603	1GNDT13X75K119853	2005 CHEVY BLAZER	185,960
615	1FMRU15W13LA18374	2003 FORD EXPEDITION	184,656
637	3GCEC14X16G264178	2006 CHEVY	155,824
P-155	717715	DODGE CHARGER (SILVER)	94,240
244	L50CP11050	1997 VOLVO LOADER-650C (BAD ENGINE) 100 HP, 1 ¾ CYD	8,547
224	SLP2140CSE0431122	1994 J.C.B. BACKHOE 70 HP, 1.25 BUCKET (BAD DIFF)	7,566

**WHEREAS**, the Roanoke Rapids City Council, at a Regular Meeting on December 13, 2011, adopted Resolution No. 2011.25 authorizing the use of electronic auction services to dispose of surplus property; and

**WHEREAS**, the necessary agreements with GovDeals, Inc. are in place to utilize the company's electronic auction service to dispose of surplus items;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Roanoke Rapids City Council hereby declares the foregoing list of property to be surplus to the needs of the City, and authorizes disposal of these items by electronic auction (specifically by website: [www.govdeals.com](http://www.govdeals.com)) in accordance with NCGS 160A-270(c).

**ADOPTED** this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

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Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Strickland, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2025.02 to officially declare the vehicles as surplus and authorize the sale by electronic auction.

**Consideration of Resolution in Opposition to NC Senate Bill 382 – Zoning Authority of Local Governments**

Planning & Development Director Anderson presented a Resolution in Opposition of NC Senate Bill 382, specifically Part III, Subpart III-K entitled “Local Government - the Downzoning Provision.”

She explained the NCSB 382 was initially ratified by the General Assembly on November 24, 2024. Governor Cooper vetoed the bill; however, the General Assembly overrode the veto on December 11, 2024. The downzoning provision effectively eliminates the authority of any local government to “down-zone” any parcel without written consent of its owners and places the authority with any individual affected property owner or part owner, who may object to a change in the zoning ordinance or map amendment.

Planning & Development Director Anderson said this will allow one property owner who cannot be found or who decides not to consent, to “veto” the good faith planning decisions of elected officials, developers and the will of a majority. SB 382 would make it impossible for local governments to approve important text amendments or rezonings that impact large groups of property owners. Written consent from all property owners is a requirement under this bill. Local governments could incur significant expenditures in both time and money for the consideration of any zoning amendments applicable.

She said in summary the bill restricts the crucial ability of municipalities to self-govern in planning and land use regulations, consequently undermining tailor-made responses to community needs. It will impede government-initiated downzoning limiting strategic land development adaptations necessary for managing growth effectively. There could be misalignment with the City’s strategic community objectives, which could endanger balance and sustainable development endeavors.

Planning & Development Director Anderson stated that due to these items identified, staff strongly oppose the incorporation of NC Senate Bill 382, Part III, Subpart III-K as it could complicate local government efforts to achieve optimal planning outcomes.

Councilman Bell asked if Planning & Development Director Anderson could give them an example. She replied if the City decided to make some initiatives to encourage zoning to mull everything together with what they feel is appropriate for the



community, every property owner within that zoning district would have to be notified and consent in writing before City Council could approve it. She emphasized every owner would have to consent; no one person could not consent. It would be the same with a developer. For example, if they were trying to rezone a block and one property owner that could be deceased and the property has not been allocated to someone yet, it would count as a negative towards the rezoning. That could really impact the City moving forward.

Attorney Davis added that a lot of times people do not appreciate zoning as much as they should. Zoning is the reason that living in a residential neighborhood, they do not have someone putting up a gas station next to them or opening a factory. All land use regulations are tied into the City's zoning code. This bill essentially makes it difficult for a city to pass new zoning regulations. As Planning & Development Director Anderson pointed out, the City does not have the resources to track down every owner of their property. This is not to say that under the current law, the City does not make an attempt when there are changes in the zoning code that affect properties. They do go through a process of noticing the public saying if they have an interest in this come in and speak. Most Councilmembers have seen those. The way it has been done in the past, given the different ways a local government can change zoning requirements, the subject properties are given notice and allowed to come to a public hearing. This is different, this is going to require actual consent. Not just hold a hearing, have their voice heard and City Council make a decision. They will have to have consent from everybody.

Attorney Davis stated the City has an agreement for Halifax County to collect the City's taxes so when someone doesn't pay their taxes, the County forecloses on it. The County attorney spends a lot of time sometimes tracking down the heirs of their property and getting them served in those foreclosure actions. In some foreclosure actions, the list of parties/heirs goes on to the second page. He could envision the administrative burden this would create. He stated even for things the City may want to change or alter in the zoning code. He recalled an issue before his tenure concerning electronic gaming which did not previously exist in the City's zoning code. The City had to amend and react to a situation that had not existed up until that point. The purpose of zoning is to control uses and help individuals to exercise their use and enjoyment of their property. It also preserves property values and creates good situations for communities, families, and businesses by regulating where and when certain uses can take place.

Attorney Davis stated he strongly encourages City Council to consider this. It is not every day that city staff comes before a municipal government and asked for City Council to pass a resolution objecting to something the legislature has done. This is

coming before every municipality in North Carolina that has zoning regulations and is a concern to any municipality that has planning departments or planning boards. The City has a process for considering land uses and getting them to the planning board or City Council and weighing the different factors and interest involved. This bill is going to make that process much more difficult to be very little benefit to the general public.

Mayor Doughtie questioned whether this would be similar to the process of annexing an area which now requires 100%. Attorney Davis replied the focus of this bill is the requirement to get written consent. Not only would they have to figure out who owns every single property rather than going by the tax records, and track down every single owner even with multiple owners of heir property, but they would be required to get each one to sign off on this in writing. He reiterated the administrative burden it would create if this bill went into law and stays in effect. For some cities and towns, it would likely mean they would essentially need to hire staff to do that.

Councilman Bell questioned if they would incur some extra financial burden as far as hiring people to go out and do this or lawyers and pay additional fees that would not be in the budget. Attorney Davis replied yes, that would be correct. Planning & Development Director Anderson agreed and stated it would be more administratively and financially. It would not only have an impact on rezonings, but also text amendments. She said there were several counties and cities that are stalled and cannot push it through because they are required to have approval since it impacts zoning. There are 29 counties and 12 municipalities right now who also submitted this same resolution of opposition and have been exempted.

**CITY OF ROANOKE RAPIDS  
RESOLUTION 2025.03**

**RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO NORTH CAROLINA SENATE BILL 382  
RE: ZONING AUTHORITY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, on November 19, 2024 the Conference Report for Senate Bill 382 ("SB 382") An Act to Make Modifications to and Provide Additional Appropriations for Disaster Recovery; To Make Technical, Clarifying, and Other Modifications to the Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2023; And to Make Various Changes to the Law, was made publicly available; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 382 was initially ratified by the General Assembly on November 20, 2024 and subsequently vetoed by Governor Cooper on November 26, 2024; The General Assembly overrode Governor Cooper's veto on December 11, 2024, and ratified Senate Bill 382 as Session Law 2024-57; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 382, purports to be a Hurricane Helene relief related bill, but also includes a number of significant policy changes unrelated to Hurricane Helene recovery efforts while following a process that did not allow amendments to the much of the proposed legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, Part III, Subpart III-K of SB 382 entitled LOCAL GOVERNMENT (the "Downzoning Provision"), amends N.C.G.S. § 160D-601(d) by prohibiting local governments from enacting or enforcing any amendment to zoning

regulations (e.g., text amendments to zoning ordinances) or zoning maps (e.g., "rezonings") that would constitute "down-zoning" without first obtaining the written consent of all property owners whose property would be subject to such an amendment; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C.G.S. § 160D-601(d) previously required written consent for non- government initiated zoning map amendments that reduced the uses of a property. The consent requirement of the Down-zoning Provision greatly extends the application of the consent requirement from only being applicable to zoning map amendments to now include application to text amendments as well. The Down-zoning Provision further expands the definition of "downzoning" beyond a reduction in uses available to parcel to the creation of any nonconformity for properties in non-residential zoning districts. The Down-zoning Provision defines "nonconformity" to include any "nonconforming use, nonconforming lot, nonconforming structure, nonconforming improvement, or nonconforming site element;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Down-zoning Provision effectively eliminates the authority of any local government to "down-zone" any parcel without written consent of its owners, and as such, places the authority with any individual affected property owner or part owner who may object to a change in the zoning ordinance or map amendment. This will essentially allow one property owner who cannot be found or who decides not to consent, to "veto" the good faith planning decisions of elected officials, developers, and/or the will of a majority (and perhaps on some occasions, all) of the other property owners affected by the amendment. Thus, it will be practically impossible for local governments to approve important text amendments or rezonings that impact large groups of owners since written consent from every single nonresidential parcel owner would be required; and

**WHEREAS**, the Down-zoning Provision will require local governments to incur significant expenditures in both time and money for consideration of any zoning amendments applicable to non-residential zoning districts. Each possible amendment will require analysis of how it might or might not be a down-zoning. If an amendment could possibly be a down-zoning, then in many cases, hundreds or even thousands of mailings could have to be sent and managed upon their return to determine whether everyone affected has consented to the proposed amendment. Additionally, there will be significant analysis and time required just to determine who are the owners that might need to receive correspondence. This level of analysis and outreach has never previously been required under North Carolina law and can present all kinds of unnecessary obstacles such as interpretation issues concerning what is and what is not a nonconformity, missing/absent property owners (e.g., heirs' property) who cannot be tracked down for signatures, and similar problems; and

**WHEREAS**, the Down-zoning Provision retroactively applies to any zoning text or map amendments adopted 180-days prior to the date of the provision's final enactment. Accordingly, the provision will invalidate previously adopted amendments duly considered by local governments in that timeframe. The consequences of invalidating previously adopted amendments would be serious and have the potential to negatively impact numerous developments and projects already in Cameron and across North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the Down-zoning Provision received little, if any, public input prior to the adoption of what amounts to very far-reaching legislation. The Down-zoning provision was first introduced as part of a conference report and immediately adopted by the General Assembly. Legislative rules do not allow changes to conference reports, so there was no opportunity even for concerned legislators to modify the provision after it became public. The Provision's inclusion on the last page of a much larger package of unrelated priorities supported by House and Senate leaders, further acted to limit the opportunity for developers, local government leaders, planning staff members and lawyers who work with these regulations every day to weigh in on such an important and significant change to North Carolina zoning law; and

**WHEREAS**, all North Carolina local governments continue to face planning challenges presented by growth and development. Each local government's zoning authority provides a means to balance those challenges with the needs of the particular community. The Downzoning Provision effectively sets local government zoning in non-commercial districts as a snapshot of the regulations in effect 180-days before the effective date of the provision, and as such greatly diminishes local government authority to manage growth and change consistent with the needs of each jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, North Carolina local governments have the most information about the needs of their communities and remain the best equipped to determine the interests of their communities through elections and public engagement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Down-zoning Provision limits local government authority without offering an opportunity for dialogue about such a legislative change; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the City of Roanoke Rapids City Council strongly oppose the enactment of SB 382, Part III, Subpart III-K into law, and due to the General Assembly overriding the Governor's veto, request that the General Assembly take expeditious action to repeal SB 382, Part III, Subpart 111-K. Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

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Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2025.03 in opposition to Senate Bill 382 Part III, Session Law 2024-57 (S.B. 382).

**Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding with RRGSD for Traffic Control Officers/Crossing Guards**

Attorney Davis said during the February 4, 2025, City Council meeting, City Council voted to authorize the City Attorney and City Manager to enter into negotiations with the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District (RRGSD) regarding to the City creating two Traffic Control Officer positions to serve as crossing guards for the RRGSD schools.

He stated the Memorandum of Understanding agreement between the RRGSD Board and City of Roanoke Rapids which is enclosed in their packets is the product of lengthy back and forth drafts between he and the RRGSD attorney. (MOU is on file in the Clerk's Office). He understands this draft went before the relevant RRGSD sub-committee on March 11<sup>th</sup> and it goes before the RRGSD Board tonight for approval. He recommended the City Council approve the agreement.

Attorney Davis said the agreement provides:

- The City to create two (2) Traffic Control Officer (TCO) positions, who will be City employees and not law enforcement officers. Upon approval, the City would budget for those positions in the upcoming fiscal year budget.
- The RRGSD will reimburse the City for the full costs of the TCO's wages and all "start-up" costs.

- The agreement will start on July 1, 2025, and be in place for one year.
- Either party can exit the agreement with 30 days notice.

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, seconded by Councilman Bell, and unanimously carried to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District Board regarding Traffic Control Officers/Crossing Guards and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Traynham highlighted the following items in her report:

- The Roanoke Rapids Police Department Citizens on Patrol will host a Fish Fry fundraiser on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Plates are \$10. Contact Captain Gorton Williams at 252-533-2810 to reserve tickets.
- Public Works staff have been busy the past several days after the recent heavy rainstorms. Sometimes it takes longer for the water to go down the pipes, so it causes some localized flooding. They also had some fallen trees in the 800 block of Carolina Street. A wildlife trapper has been contacted to mitigate the nutria overpopulation at Rochelle Pond.
- The Human Resources Department is preparing the final modules for NeoGov software that will be utilized in the next couple of months. During the next City Council meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>, a representative from The MAPS Group will make a presentation of the findings of the Employee Position Classification and Compensation Study.
- The Planning & Development Department through code enforcement efforts has revealed that the Quality Inn at 1914 Julian R. Allsbrook Hwy is slated for demolition due to some unsafe conditions that were observed. Plans for reconstruction are not immediately available. Vertical construction is underway for Stateside Landing Family Apartments on US 158. The Planning Board will meet on Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss strategic planning efforts and identify training opportunities.
- Parks & Recreation staff are busy planning Spring events. There are Easter Egg Hunts and other special events; there is something for everyone. City Council was provided with several flyers. The Senior Center will host a Scam Jam event to increase awareness of scams against seniors on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. They will also host a Senior Center Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>

3 p.m. – 4 p.m. The library will host a Spring Craft for All Ages on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. to make a button snail, paper flowers and more. Preparations are underway for the City to host a U8-U12 State Baseball Tournament June 26-29 at Ledgerwood Park. The fields are actively busy with baseball, softball and soccer season.

- The Fire Department is preparing to host the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veteran's Breakfast, which is held the first Friday in May at Kirkwood Adams, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. All veterans are invited to attend at no charge. Fire trucks are undergoing annual service at the dealer in Rocky Mount. Hose testing will occur next week, and hydrant testing will start in April.
- City Council and City management staff will participate in a Strategic Planning & Economic Development Workshop with Hayes Group Consulting funded by the RC2 Grant award tomorrow, March 19<sup>th</sup> at Kirkwood Adams Community Center. Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. and the presentation will begin at 9:00 a.m. They will conclude by 1:30 p.m.

Councilman Jackson asked if they had any additional information about Emry Park. City Manager Traynham replied they were working with the group to get updated information. They did have another fundraiser on Saturday at the TJ Davis Skate Park. The final numbers have not been updated. They plan to meet with Mr. Kerr in the next few days.

Mayor Doughtie stated he knew they were on hold with the proposed skate park and a couple of other things that would be inside the fence. He asked if there was any activity going on there as far as maintenance at this time. It does not look like it is.

Parks & Recreation Director Daughtry replied if there is something they need to be doing, they can do that. They have been waiting for the skate park project to start and hope it starts soon. She is scheduled to meet with Justin Kerr at the beginning of next week. She has requested he provide her with a step-by-step of all the things they need as well as a draft drawing of what they are looking for. This will allow them to get accurate estimates so they can come back to City Council to report where they are and where they need to be.

Mayor Doughtie said he was speaking more about outside the fence. The picnic tables are in poor condition, and it looks like there has been no clean-up in a while. That part of it should be a park for people to come and play and enjoy it. It is not very welcoming right now. It is a nice park. Maybe they need to have a Saturday to get the community to come out and help clean it up. He was not talking about something

that would cost a lot of money. It is like working in the yard on a Saturday for a few hours; it can make a big difference.

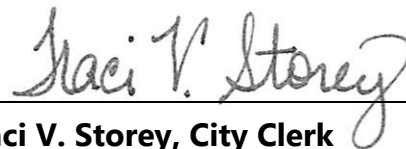
### Finance Report

Finance Director Johnson reported for the month of February 2025, General Fund year to date receipts totaled \$15,321,219.59. General Fund year to date expenditures totaled \$12,866,145.35. As a result, year to date revenues exceeded expenditures by \$2,455,074.24. After the month of February, 62.5% of the budget year has been completed.

She stated the City was in good financial standing for February. Their last material allotment of Ad Valorem Tax Revenue has been recognized this reporting month, in February, for January collections. It remains critical to hold as much year to date earnings as possible for operations as this is one of our last substantial revenue sources for the fiscal year.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Strickland, and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Traci V. Storey", is written over a horizontal line.

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

**Approved by Council Action on: April 1, 2025**