

# Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

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

**Present:** Sandra W. Bryant, Mayor Pro Tem

Andy Jackson)

**Council Members** 

Rex Stainback) W. Keith Bell)

Curtis Strickland)

Kelly Traynham, City Manager Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney

Traci Storey, City Clerk

Carmen Johnson, Finance Director

Christina Caudle, Human Resources Director

Larry Chalker, Public Works Director Ashley Thomas, Main Street Director

Kristyn Anderson, Planning & Development Director

Kelly Daughtry, Parks & Recreation Director

Richard Cook, Fire Chief

Adam Salmon, Police Captain

**Absent:** Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Lawrence Wiggins, Police Chief

In Mayor Doughtie's absence, Mayor Pro Tem Bryant presided. She called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councilman Bell provided the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **Adoption of Business Agenda**

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant 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.

## **Special Recognitions**

### <u>Fire Department – New Fire Chief Richard Cook</u>

City Manager Traynham recognized newly appointed Fire Chief Richard Cook. She stated Chief Cook has served the community for more than two decades and has progressed through the ranks within the Fire Department. He holds several certifications and has served in leadership capacities within the Halifax County Fire Association. She thanked the department especially during the transition period and with Assistant Chief of Logistics, Kenneth Hollowell. She stated there are a lot of good things coming and with change there comes opportunities. They look forward to preparing everyone for the next step and supporting Chief Cook in his new role.

City Clerk Storey administered the oath of office to Fire Chief to Chief Richard Cook followed by his wife, Suzanne, pinning his badge.

Chief Cook thanked City Manager Traynham and Human Resources Director Caudle for having confidence in him. This was not part of his plan. Former Chief Patrick surprised them when he decided to retire, and he would have been fine with him being the Chief for the remainder of his time with the Fire Department. He thanked his fellow firefighters; they were very supportive, especially Bryan Hollowell and the guys. They helped him and Chief Hollowell while they were doing double duty since Chief Patrick left. He gave special thanks to his wife who has always been supportive of him. He talked to her about this opportunity that he had not seen coming and she was the biggest blessing in his life. He stated to former Chief Patrick who was in attendance that he left some big shoes to fill, and he may not quite fill them like he did but he would do his best. He had four Fire Chiefs during his time here and Chief Patrick was the best one.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant thanked new Fire Chief Cook and they look forward to his service with the Roanoke Rapids Fire Department.

## **Public Comment (Scheduled)**

#### Frederick Hill

Mr. Hill said he was a resident of McLeansville, NC and a 29-year experienced public school educator. He was here in the spirit of transparency and to be informative. He

was in the exploration stage of applying to open a charter school. He was considering somewhere in the Roanoke Valley for its location if granted the charter. His initial goal is to meet with local governing bodies of five different locations to provide the same introduction. Those locations being Roanoke Rapids, Gaston, Weldon, Halifax County and Northampton County. He feels it is best to inform the stakeholders of this community of his intentions. One may ask why someone from Greensboro, NC has an interest in this area. He grew up just across the state line in Skippers, VA. Roanoke Roanoke Rapids has played a vital part of his life. His parents are retirees of factories in this community such as JP Stevens, Champion and International Paper which made it possible for him to receive a formal education. He started his teaching career in Northampton County public schools. He has taught, led schools and school districts all over the state and other states. He has been successful in leading schools and improving schools in districts. He has worked endlessly to offer more opportunities to students in the communities where he has worked and lived. He feels it is time to bring his efforts home. He is a strong proponent of public education, but he is a greater supporter of parental choice whether it is a public school, a private school, charter school or home school. He believes parents know what would be the best opportunity for their children. He knows it is typical for no response to be given during public comments but he presents tonight with hopes of being able to address the board in the future as he progresses through this application journey. His initial thought for a charter school is one that is focused on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). He will be scheduling and hosting community meetings throughout this process. Based on the results of the community and stakeholder meetings, he hopes to render a decision to move forward. If Roanoke Rapids lands to be one of best choices of location, he hopes to be able to meet with this body again to provide details.

## **Ephraim Brodsky**

Mr. Brodsky said he was here to talk about the E911 lawsuit and the opinion that was rendered on October 1, 2025. He feels there is a duty to have things on the historical record. The media has done a poor job covering this lawsuit. The City has really not addressed the public about it. He created an infographic which he has shared with City Council and the media. (On file in Clerk's Office). He would like to review the information with them and talk about what is going on between the County and the City.

He stated back in the day, and he does not know how long ago because it is hard finding things on public record, Roanoke Rapids used to maintain its own 911 call center. Halifax County took this over many years ago and entered an interlocal agreement with Roanoke Rapids to help fund this 911 service. The lawsuit that came down on October 1st referenced a 2004 interlocal funding agreement which was

amended in 2013. He was not sure if that is when it started, he does not have that information; he was taking what the lawsuit said. Under that 2013 amendment, the City of Roanoke Rapids agreed to reimburse a portion of Halifax County's costs, calculated based on the budget and the City's share of total call volume.

Mr. Brodsky reported on everyone's cell phone bills there is a \$1.00 per line charge that goes to 911 services, and this goes to the 911 call center. He has seven cell phone lines so that is \$7.00 the County is getting straight off of that to help support the 911 services.

He continued to say on June 29, 2020, the City of Roanoke Rapids gave notice that it would end its financial support of this 911 service July 1, 2022 which is the start of the budget year. After this, the County basically threatened the City and said they were going to sue. He said the County did not sue, but the City did and filed a lawsuit claiming that 2011 changes in the North Carolina law obligated the County to provide these 911 services at no cost. The County filed a counterclaim arguing that while it has a duty to provide the services, municipalities <u>must</u> share the costs. The County was implying the City had a legal obligation to pay for these 911 costs. The general statute from 2010-2011 was very short and easy to read. It says nothing about funding and the City having to pay. It literally has zero words concerning municipalities' contribution towards the County's pay structure.

He said after the City filed the lawsuit, the court ruled in favor of Halifax County saying these operating costs can't be opposed exclusively on them and the City needed to pay. The City's legal team came back to City Council and said the court made a mistake and they should appeal. The City Council voted on it, and it was a split decision; 3 votes to appeal and 2 votes to keep paying the County. Luckily the 3 votes to appeal won and the City appealed the decision and on October 1st the decision came down. The court did not say the City had to pay or do not have to pay. The court found that neither party had standing to file suit. He questioned what the word "standing" mean. Basically, it was saying there were no actionable events because the City informed the County that they were going to stop paying and they did. Everything the County threatened to do such as not support 911 services and sue the City, they did not do those things. When people dial 911, they are still picking up those calls. They did not file a lawsuit against the City for nonpayment. He questioned why the City filed that lawsuit first; make it make sense. If the City was doing things the right way, the City would have stopped paying them. The City should have stopped paying them when that statute came out in 2011. They should have stopped paying them and waited. The ball was in the County's court; they needed to sue the City. That would tell the City what the County's legal argument was for expecting this payment.

Mr. Brodsky referred to the list of how much the City has paid Halifax County since 2010 and what those dollars are worth today. (Based on Consumer Price Index). He said in 2010, which was the first year he tracked because the budget only goes back so far online, the City paid them \$150,000; that is equivalent to \$235,000 in today's money. Since 2010, the City has paid them a total of \$2.7 million; incurred value of money is \$3.7 million. That is \$3.7 million they will never get back. The County's latest budget has 45% of their operating costs going to personnel/salary expenses. A healthy amount is 50-55% which means the County is super healthy. The City pays 68-1/2% towards personnel/salary expenses; that is very unhealthy. He said they were dying and it is happening because of these agreements that they are voluntarily giving money to Halifax County.

## **Approval of City Council Minutes**

Motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried to approve the November 5, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting minutes as drafted.

## **Public Hearing**

## Special Use Permit Request - Duplex on Craig Street

Planning & Development Director Kristyn Anderson, who was duly sworn, gave an overview of quasi-judicial hearings and procedures. She reviewed the following report concerning a Special Use Permit application submitted by Pete Gitto on October 13, 2025, to allow duplexes within the R-8 Residential Zoning District located on Craig Street within the City's ETJ.

#### **MEMORANDUM**

To: Roanoke Rapids City Council

From: Kristyn K. Anderson, Director of Planning & Development

Re: Special Use Permit request to allow "Duplexes" within the R-8 Residential Zoning District located on Craig Street within the city's ETJ.

Date: November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

#### **Special Use Permit Request**

A Special Use Permit (SUP) request from Pete Gitto of Gitto Enterprises, Inc (owner and applicant) to allow for Duplexes to be located at parcel on Craig Street identified as Halifax County Parcels 0905008. Duplexes are authorized in the R-8 District with the granting of special use permits by the City Council after a quasi-judicial hearing. Quasi-judicial hearings are evidentiary hearings.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The subject property is approximately 0.24 acres, the property is located within an R-8, Residential District and is located south of Robinson Subdivision, and North of West 10<sup>th</sup> Street. The property has remained undeveloped, consisting of only natural vegetation.

Mr. Gitto, owner and applicant, wishes to have this property developed as a duplex. The applicant is aware of the respective departmental review's contingent upon approval of the Special Use Permit and that the following departments would review the application for compliance prior to occupancy:

Planning & Development Department, Davie Volunteer Fire Department, Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District, and NCDOT.

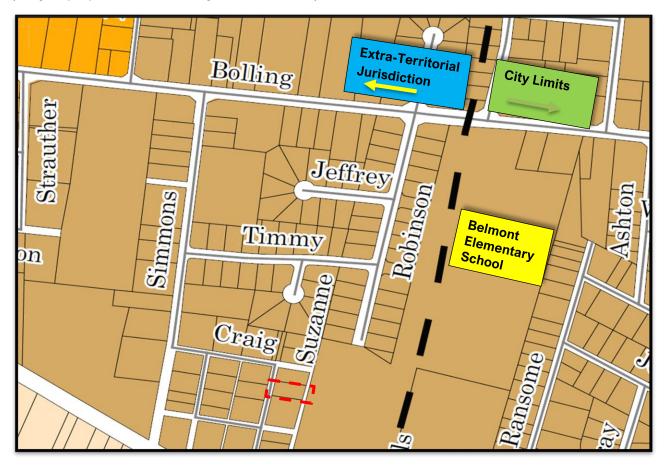
The Land Use Ordinance (LUO) states that the R-8 district is designed, "<u>to accommodate single family</u> <u>dwelling unit and differ primarily in the density allowed as determined by the minimum lot size</u> <u>requirements set forth in Section 151-181.</u>

#### SUBJECT PARCEL VICINITY MAP (Aerial Photo)



#### See zoning map excerpt.

(Subject properties identified by red dashed line)



#### Planning and Development staff has made the following findings concerning this request:

The requested permit is within its jurisdiction according to the table of permissible uses; or

The requested permit is within Extra-territorial Jurisdiction Limits. Duplexes are authorized within the R-8, Residential District, with a Special Use Permit. The request is to allow for the construction of a duplex at the proposed parcel classified under 1.000 per LUO Section 151-149, Table of Permissible Uses.

The application is complete; or

The application is complete.

If completed as proposed in the application, the development will comply with all of the requirements of The Land Use Ordinance; or

The development will comply with all of the requirements of the Land Use Ordinance if completed as proposed in the application.

#### The following seven (7) items were considered and evaluated as follows:

1: ingress and egress to the lot and proposed structures, especially by pedestrians and automobiles, is safe and convenient in terms of access and traffic flow; and,

<u>Staff finds this to be true. This site has frontage on Craig Street an improved State of North Carolina</u> road.

2: off-street parking and loading effect on adjacent property (in terms of traffic generation, economic impact, noise, glare and odor) similar to uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

<u>Staff finds little potential for negative impact on neighboring properties. The proposed use of the property is unlikely to cause any traffic generation issues.</u>

3: refuse disposal effect on adjacent property with similar uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

Staff finds no likely negative effect should occupants utilize common practices in refuse disposal. Halifax County Waste Management provides refuse and disposal services.

4: utilities are available; and,

Staff believes this is true, with connections and extensions coordinated with appropriate entities.

5: the type, dimensions and character of screening and buffering satisfactorily screens adjacent property; and,

Staff finds screening to be adequate for a use that replicates the surrounding area.

- 6: signs and lighting affect adjacent property similar to uses permitted in that zoning district; and,

  Staff believes that exterior lighting is to be the norm for a similar property.
- 7: required yards, open space and existing trees and other attractive and natural features of the land are preserved.

Staff believe this is probably true. This lot is currently undeveloped.

Given the preceding, Staff has made the following findings concerning this request:

#### If completed as proposed, the development, more probably than not:

(a) provide no material endangerment to the public health or safety; or

Staff believes this is probably true. The applicant shall be required to comply with all applicable federal, state and local codes and ordinances. An assessment of the previously referenced seven items used to evaluate areas of concern indicate no specific endangerment to the public health or safety.

(b) the use will not substantially injure the value of the adjoining or abutting property; or

<u>Staff believes this is probably true. Staff finds no specific reasons for potential negative effects on the value of adjoining or abutting property.</u>

(c) the use will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; or

<u>Staff believe this is probably true. The proposed use will be residential in nature and in character with the existing surrounding residential land uses.</u>

(d) the use will be in general conformity with the Comprehensive Development Plan, Thoroughfare Plan, or other plan officially adopted by the City Council.

Staff finds this to be true. The plans as submitted will agree with the policies of the Comprehensive Development Plan, Thoroughfare Plan as well as the Land Use Ordinance and other officially adopted plans of the City. The Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use map designates this area as suitable for residential development. The property is located within the existing Extraterritorial Jurisdiction and the staff believes it is in conformity with the following Comprehensive Development Plan policies:

#### **Section 6. Future Land Use**

#### **Residential Land Use**

1.19 Consider allowing different housing densities to abut one another as long as proper buffering and design is provided as needed and traffic generated by such land use does not mix within the neighborhood

Goal 3: Support infill development as an action essential to the continued development of Roanoke Rapids.

THE APPLICANT HAS ADDRESSED THE REQUISITE QUESTIONS, WHICH MUST BE ANSWERED BY THE CITY COUNCIL IN HIS APPLICATION. IT IS YOUR OBLIGATION TO ENSURE EACH HAS BEEN ADEQUATELY ADDRESSED AFTER HEARING ALL PARTIES PRIOR TO RENDERING YOUR FINAL DECISION.

#### Planning & Development Staff Review

After a complete review of the information submitted by the applicant, it is the Staff's opinion the request satisfactorily meets some requirements of Sections 151 - 49 of the Land Use Ordinance. Staff recommends approval of the request as submitted.

Property owners within 100 feet of the subject property were notified of this public hearing by first class mail, sent November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Advertisements for this hearing were published on Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in the RR Daily Herald.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant opened the public hearing to receive sworn testimony.

#### **Peter Gitto**

Mr. Gitto, (owner/applicant) of 7320 Bassett Hall Court, Raleigh, NC who was duly sworn, stated he was the licensed general contractor and owner of this project. He believes he has built approximately sixteen (16) homes in Roanoke Rapids in the last five years. He was familiar with Roanoke Rapids and knows the town staff. He has a subdivision approved that he is trying to make the numbers work which is located off of Cross Creek Parkway for 72 townhomes. NCDOT likes to add-on requirements that make things expensive. He is trying to work those numbers and make it work. He just picked up another lot today that he plans to build another house on Appleberry Court in Roanoke Rapids. He was very familiar with the town and would like to explore different ways to bring in growth to town. He found this lot and looked around the neighborhood and saw there were townhomes around there. He saw it was allowed by a special use permit which he was familiar with getting special use permits. So, he did a site plan, found the townhome that would work and hopefully will get approval by City Council tonight to build a townhome. He corrected himself and said a duplex. He stated he builds them like a townhome; there are two sides. If they look at the site plan, they will see that. He asked Planning & Development Director Anderson if she had a copy of the site plan. She did have a copy and showed the plan to City Council members. Mr. Gitto continued to say this lot was wide enough that he could build it where it appears to be a townhome and it is just a duplex. The requirements for a duplex and a townhome are very similar with a firewall down the middle. He is building this exact home in Dunn, NC right now and has built in Goldsboro. He loves in-fill lots and has been doing in-fill lots for as long as he knows. The downside to infill lots is you're the only guy around sometimes, so people don't know what exactly is going on. The good thing about in-fill lots is the City get new development on existing, cleared, ready-to-go buildings pads that they don't demo to knock down a forest. It is always his goal to find projects that can work for everybody. He has actual building plans that show a four-bedroom duplex on each side for a total of eight bedrooms. He will be renting them out. He does not rent by the bedroom and does not think Airbnb makes logical sense here. This is what he's built before. He said he was actually building one in Durham as well. It will have a one-car garage. He tries to do garages because he finds they make things go a little nicer for when people parking on the driveway out front. He believes it is a total of 2400 sq. ft.; 1,800 sq. ft. per side; it will say it on the plan, but they are 4-bedroom, 2-1/2 bath duplexes.

Councilman Strickland ask Mr. Gitto if he would be the owner and landlord or will he sell it. Mr. Gitto replied it depends. He is a property manager; he manages 795 properties and owns 132. He doesn't ever commit himself in these meetings to keeping it. If the market made sense and someone came and offered him \$500,000 for it right now and wanted to buy it, he would sell it to him. If he cannot make the price and numbers work, he usually keeps it and puts in a 30-year loan. He restated that he

doesn't ever commit to that in these meetings unless he is required to. He will always list it for sale because if it's the right number, he'll sell everything.

#### **Kathy Little**

Ms. Little, 220 Craig Street, who was duly sworn, stated she lives on the adjoining property that he (Mr. Gitto) wants to put this duplex. She has been in her home for 24-1/2 years. She's had several people to live in the house that was adjoining to the property that he wants, but at that time it was a house and property all together. Then the house was sold but the property was sold separately. They had some problems with the person that lived in the house, but again he owned the house and the property. She does not want this duplex in her neighborhood. She lives in a single home; it is one story. She does not think it come to their advantage. She thinks it would put their property down by having a duplex because when you rent to people you never know who is going to be there. The people that had the house before rented it, they lived in Wake Forest, and their son was here, and he was nothing but a problem. She had to call the Sheriff's Department several times because he pulled a gun on her neighbor, he pulled a gun on a lady who bounced up against his mailbox while they were trying to move a mobile home around the curve. He barricaded in his house, and they had to have the Sherriff's Department over there. He had PTSD. She and her neighbor that is also here tonight saw him walking in his house with a gun all dressed out in uniform and saying, "hut-one, hut-two." She is 73 years old and doesn't want to live in that kind of mess again. She thinks that is probably what they may have because you never know. The people that buy these properties and put this stuff up don't live here so how do they know what's going on. She does not want it put there. It is only ¼ of an acre. She did not know how much property she has to have from her property line to their property line, but she did not think it was enough. It is only .7508 feet supposedly across the front and the back is 149. Her lot is 150 ft. by 149 ft. Her house is over here, and she has a 75-foot lot that would adjoin them. She really does not want it there. She thinks it will bring their property down because from what she understands, but does not know for sure, that it is going to be a tall duplex. She went through it, Julie went through it with the neighbor they had before, and it has put them in a shaky situation with someone bringing guns out and threatening people.

With no further comments, Mayor Pro Tem Bryant closed the public hearing.

Councilman Jackson asked if there were any existing duplexes on Craig Street. Planning & Development Director Anderson replied there were no existing duplexes on Craig Street. There are single family homes, but duplexes are permitted in R-8 by Special Use Permit.

## <u>City Council Quasi-Judicial Forum and</u> Conditional Use Permit Evaluation Work Sheet

## Gitto Enterprises, Inc- 240 242 Craig Street - Request for Duplexes

#### **SECTION I:**

- 1. The requested permit is within its jurisdiction according to the table of permissible uses; or
- 2. The application is complete; or

**SECTION II:** The following seven (7) items were considered and evaluated as follows:

- 1: ingress and egress to the lot and proposed structures, especially by pedestrians and automobiles, is safe and convenient in terms of access and traffic flow; and,
- 2: off-street parking and loading effect on adjacent property (in terms of traffic generation, economic impact, noise, glare and odor) similar to uses permitted in that zoning district; and,
- 3: refuse disposal effect on adjacent property with similar uses permitted in that zoning district; and,
- 4: utilities are available; and,
- 5: the type, dimensions and character of screening and buffering satisfactorily screens adjacent property; and,
- 6: signs and lighting affect adjacent property similar to uses permitted in that zoning district; and,
- 7: required yards, open space and existing trees and other attractive and natural features of the land are preserved.

**SECTION III**: Please refer to the Public Hearing Testimony, Staff Report and items 1-7 of Section II on previous pages when evaluating the following motions.

Mayor Pro Tem Bryant asked City Council to consider each one of the following Findings of Fact:

## (a) Will not materially endanger the public health or safety; or

Motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Bell and unanimously carried that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit will not materially endanger the public health or safety.

### (b) Will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property; or

Motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Strickland and unanimously carried that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit will not substantially injure the value of adjoining or abutting property.

#### (c) Will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located; or

Motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Strickland that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit will be in harmony with the area in which it is to be located. Councilman Stainback, Councilman Strickland and Councilman Bell voted in favor; Councilman Jackson opposed. Motion carried.

## (d) Will be in general conformity with the Comprehensive Development Plan, Thoroughfare Plan, or other plan officially adopted by the City Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Strickland, seconded by Councilman Bell that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested permit will be in general conformity with the Comprehensive Development Plan, Thoroughfare Plan, or other plan officially adopted by the City Council. Councilman Stainback, Councilman Strickland and Councilman Bell voted in favor; Councilman Jackson opposed. Motion carried.

#### SECTION IV FINAL DECISION

Motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Stainback that based on the public hearing testimony and the foregoing staff report dated November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, it is the consensus of the City Council that the requested Special Use Permit be granted to <u>Gitto Enterprises</u>, <u>Inc</u> (Applicant/Owner) for <u>Duplexes</u> located on Craig Street at Halifax County Parcel # 0905008 with the conditions set forth by the Land Use Ordinance. Councilman Stainback, Councilman Strickland and Councilman Bell voted in favor; Councilman Jackson opposed. Motion carried; SUP granted.

## **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Traynham reminded City Council that the HCIA meets tomorrow night at 6:00 p.m. in Scotland Neck. The City Council has two scheduled meetings left in

2025: December 2<sup>nd</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup>. The City observes the same holiday schedule as the NC Office of State Human Resources. City offices/facilities will be closed next week on Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 28<sup>th</sup> in observance of Thanksgiving. Thursday and Fridays refuse routes will be collected on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

She reported City staff are preparing for the holiday season and announced the following upcoming City holiday events:

- **Christmas on the Avenue** Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 6 9 p.m. in Centennial Park and 1026 Roanoke Avenue. Activities will also be in the 900 and 1000 blocks of Roanoke Avenue hosted by the Main Street program. There will be hayrides, Chamber of Commerce also hosting activity across the street and the lighting of the Christmas Tree just after 6:00 p.m.
- **Christmas at the Canal** Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. 12 p.m. at the Canal Museum
- Christmas Parade Sunday, December 7th at 2 p.m. Registrations can be completed online through the RecDesk program. She stated as in other years, public safety is the City's number one priority of events, especially the parade. Some of the rules and safety guidelines include that all vehicles are required to be registered, insured and licensed. She said they were not saying they could not have candy, but they would like the candy in the curb, not the street. Mostly for the protection of human life, they are requesting entries not throw or toss candy from vehicle, float or trailer. Candy ends up in the middle of the street which causes spectators, especially children, to want to enter the street and enter the path of travel of the parade. This can be very dangerous. Anyone who wishes to pass out candy, City staff are asking that a pedestrian walk alongside entry to do so. Other things prohibited during the parade are carrying firearms except as allowed, taking pets and for people not to hamper, obstruct or interfere with the parade. Goal is to have a safe and enjoyable parade.

City Manager Traynham said yesterday the Thanksgiving/Holiday bonus benefits were distributed to eligible employees. She expressed gratitude to City Council for maintaining that tradition and keeping that expense in the FY2026 budget.

She reported tomorrow night Public Works will be conducting a streetlight outage survey. They do this quarterly to identify lights that are not working or need some maintenance and submit the report to Dominion Energy.

She said the Main Street Advisory Committee held its first official meeting last week. The response from the community has been much larger than expected. The

additional call for student interest has risen to the occasion where a subcommittee for students may be considered. This past Saturday, Main Street Director Thomas welcomed the 4-H Club who participated in a project to improve the vegetative planters along Roanoke Avenue. The initial intent was for new plants to be installed, but that will be future activity. The Main Street program is encouraging businesses to decorate their storefronts for the holiday season. Yesterday, some students from KIPP school initiated a holiday art project by painting some storefront windows.

City Manager Traynham stated the Planning Department remains consistently busy with development inquiries and several things underway. There has been some uptick in recent months. She expressed pride in staff of all the City departments.

She asked everyone to tune in the radio station on Thursday morning because the parade Grand Marshal will be announced to the public.

City Manager Traynham announced the newly elected officials will be sworn in during the next City Council meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> by Superior Court Judge, Brenda Branch.

## **Finance Director's Report**

Finance Director Johnson presented the financial report for the period ending October 31, 2025. During the month of October, General Fund year-to-date receipts totaled \$9,448,721.04. General Fund year to date expenditures totaled \$6,029,874.85. As a result, Year-To-Date Revenues exceeded Expenditures by \$3,418,846.19. After the month of October, 29.8% of the appropriated budget has been expensed.

She reported the City is in good financial standing for October.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Bell, and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Traci V. Storey, City Clerk