



Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 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

W. Keith Bell) **Council Members**
Andy Jackson)
Curtis Strickland)

Kelly Traynham, City Manager
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney
Traci Storey, City Clerk
Carmen Johnson, Finance Director
Lawrence Wiggins, Police Chief
Ashley Thomas, Main Street Director
Kristyn Anderson, Planning & Development Director
Kelly Daughtry, Parks & Recreation Director
Richard Cook, Fire Chief

Absent: Rex Stainback, Councilman
Christina Caudle, Human Resources Director
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director

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

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

Adoption of Business Agenda

Mayor Doughtie stated that Item 9 needed to be removed from the agenda. He asked Council members if there were any known conflicts of interest with respect to the matters before them this evening and called for a motion to adopt the meeting agenda with the removal of Item 9.

There being no conflicts, motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda with the removal of Item 9.

Approval of City Council Minutes

Motion was made by Councilman Strickland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant and unanimously carried to approve the February 3, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting minutes as drafted.

New Business

Consideration of Ordinance No. 2026.08 (Bleachers at Ledgerwood)

Finance Director Johnson said during the 2025 Storm, the bleachers at Ledgerwood Park were damaged. Reimbursement was included in the insurance claim funds received on July 10, 2025. Those funds were processed as a deposit to the prior fiscal year since that is when the event occurred. Those funds reverted to fund balance when the fiscal year was closed. The Parks & Rec Department is now ready to order and replace the bleachers, so a budget amendment is needed to put the funds back into the current fiscal year. She presented the following budget ordinance:

**Ordinance No. 2026.08
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, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, according to the following schedule:

SCHEDULE A – PROJECT FUND REVENUES

Fund Balance – P&R – Replace Bleachers at Ledgerwood	
Project Revenues – P&R – Replace Bleachers at Ledgerwood	\$10,500.00
FUND PROJECT TOTAL	\$10,500.00

SECTION 2. The following additional revenues and reductions in appropriations are available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026, in order to meet the foregoing appropriations, according to the following schedule:

SCHEDULE B – PROJECT FUND EXPENDITURES

Funding to General Fund – P&R – Replace Bleachers at Ledgerwood	
Project Expenditures – P&R – Replace Bleachers at Ledgerwood	\$10,500.00
FUND PROJECT TOTAL	\$10,500.00

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, seconded by Councilman Bell, and unanimously carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2026.08 in the amount of \$10,500.00 to replace the damaged bleachers at Ledgerwood Park.

Consideration of Ordinance No. 2026.09 (Donation to Parks & Rec Department)

Finance Director Johnson said the Parks & Recreation Department received a donation in the amount of \$15,000.00 from Angels Closet to be used for youth sports. She presented the following budget ordinance:

**Ordinance No. 2026.09
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, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, according to the following schedule:

SCHEDULE A – PROJECT FUND REVENUES

P&R Dept. – Donations to the P&R Dept. Project Revenues – P&R Dept.	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
FUND PROJECT TOTAL	\$15,000.00

SECTION 2. The following additional revenues and reductions in appropriations are available for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, in order to meet the foregoing appropriations, according to the following schedule:

SCHEDULE B – PROJECT FUND EXPENDITURES

P&R Dept. – Donations to the P&R Dept. Project Expenditures – P&R Dept.	<u>\$15,000.00</u>
FUND PROJECT TOTAL	\$15,000.00

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption.

Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Strickland, and unanimously carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2026.09 in the amount of \$15,000.00 for a donation to the Parks & Recreation Department.

City Manager Traynham said \$15,000 is a significant donation from a charitable organization, and they certainly extend their sincerest gratitude to the Angel's Closet organization, and especially Mr. Gilbert Portela for their generosity and their dedication to youth sports in the community. The City will be sure to use the money for good purposes as included in the intent for the donation.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Traynham reminded City Council that the next City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, due to the Primary Election on Tuesday, March 3rd with Lloyd Andrews serving as a voting precinct.

She provided the following updates from City Administration:

- **Pavement Condition Study (PCS)** – The pavement conditions data has been collected by the contractor, WithersRavenel. This step included WithersRavenel riding each street segment following a nationally recognized distress identification manual to determine the severity and extent of seven (7) distresses used to determine the condition of each segment and the entire roadway network. After post processing the PCS data from the field, a weighted average PCI (inventory) by lane miles will be produced for the entire roadway network as a general health indicator. WithersRavenel will prepare a report that describes methodologies, procedures, and recommendations that will be explained at an online deliverable meeting with City Staff. We anticipate this to occur in late February/early March.
- **Police Department – Community Engagement with Crime Stats Meetings.** Community meetings to be held at advertised locations throughout the city to provide crime statistics and offer citizens the opportunity to engage with RRPD leadership. The first community crime stats meeting will be held on Monday, February 23, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the tenant space formerly occupied by Boys & Girls Club within the New Town Neighborhood Resource Center, 116 W. 3rd Street. The RRPD plans to participate in the CTE Career Fair at Northwest High School on 2/26 from 9AM until 12 noon.
- **TJ Davis Recreation Center** – Adult Industrial League Basketball season starts tonight with games scheduled on Tuesdays and Thursdays through mid-April. Come out and cheer on Team City of Roanoke Rapids! On February 26, the Parks & Rec Staff will host a basketball tournament with a local Adult Day Group. Spring program registrations are currently being accepted via RecDesk for youth Baseball.
- **Library** – please visit and view their America 250th display.
- **Roanoke Canal Museum** – Friends of the Canal are hosting an event on February 26 to discuss native wildflowers found along the trail and a book signing with Jack Gates.
- **Emry Park Skate Park** - A ribbon cutting is planned with the Brightspeed sponsor on March 11, details coming soon! As part of the park renovation, the walking trail will be relocated behind the new skate park. This work will start after the ribbon cutting event. There are also some improvements needed to the parking lot to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety.

- **Sign Enforcement** – City Staff have been directed to assist in removing “bandit signs” from the public street rights-of way as they are generally illegal and subject to removal by NCDOT or the local municipality. A variety of bandit signs are littered throughout the city, particularly at intersections, or posted on utility poles. We understand that these signs cost money to make, therefore, removed signs will be temporarily stored for collection at the Public Works complex at 1313 Hinson Street. These signs are allowed on private property with the permission of the landowner. We understand that businesses have a legitimate need to advertise and we encourage interested parties to contact the Planning Department to ensure compliance with our Sign Ordinance. Note: We will continue to maintain the position that political signs will not be removed by City Staff unless an immediate life/safety endangerment exists.
- The City is excited to officially welcome the **Roanoke Rapids Static**—a collegiate summer wood-bat baseball team—to our community. Games will start at the end of May and finish before the beginning of August. The Static will compete in the Old North State League and will call historic Doyle Field home starting this upcoming season. Fans can look forward to affordable, family-friendly entertainment all summer long, featuring top collegiate players from across the country, plus theme nights, community events, youth engagement programs, and local partnerships that make every game a full summer experience. Join us in cheering on the Static and bringing more summer energy to Halifax County – we will see you at Doyle Field! Visit the team website at www.roanokerapidsbaseball.com to learn more!

City Manager Traynham called upon Jacob Dixon, General Manager of the team to share some information.

Mr. Dixon introduced himself and stated the Roanoke Rapids Static is a collegiate level baseball team. It is part of the Old North State League which is a subsidiary partnership with The Players League. He thanked the City of Roanoke Rapids for letting them be a part of the community. Their mission is to create a family-friendly atmosphere at the ballpark but to also make an impact on youth at the same time.

He said they plan to have a youth camp and take part in community activities to build the whole community up. Their goal is to have a longstanding relationship and partnership with Roanoke Rapids for years to come. It will be a family-friendly atmosphere at an affordable price for all ages and all groups. There will be family nights and theme nights to just have fun at the ballpark and to develop these college players, which is a big deal. The Old North State League is an established league, which is great for our area.

Mr. Dixon stated as a former college baseball player, it would have been amazing to come play in a summer league at this level in his hometown. A big deal for them is the support of the community through sponsors and host families to bring these kids

from out of town to be able to have a safe place to stay. Everyone has to be a college athlete to play on this team. More information can be found on their website.

Mayor Doughtie said they were glad it has moved to the point that it has and he thinks the community is looking forward to having it. He thanked Mr. Dixon for stepping up.

City Manager Traynham said they've had some questions about the name of the team. She explained that it has to do with the origins of hydroelectric power being generated here in Roanoke Rapids. Mr. Dixon added the team's logo is an electric eel for the dam and power being a big part of this community.

City Manager Traynham said they were pleased that they incorporated the black and gold colors that are the City's official colors, but highlighting with the blue. They will be complementary to the existing home field.

Mayor Doughtie asked City Manager Traynham what was going on with the cones in front of City Hall at the corner of 11th Street and Roanoke Avenue. She replied during the snow and ice removal, there were some pieces of concrete that came up; it is a sidewalk repair.

Finance Director's Report

Finance Director Johnson reported for the month of January 2026, General Fund year-to-date receipts totaled \$14,053,236.87 and year-to-date expenditures totaled \$11,687,607.97. As a result, year-to-date revenues exceeded expenditures by \$2,365,628.90.

She stated the City recognized higher Ad Valorem Tax collections in January as a result of taxpayers remitting payments in December before the assessment of penalties. That was their last substantial revenue source for the fiscal year.

Other Business/Closed Session

Motion was made by Councilman Strickland, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, and unanimously carried to go into Closed Session to consult with the City Attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(3).

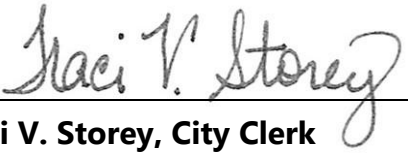
City Council took a brief recess before going into closed session.

Minute Book Pages 22237 - 22241 contain Minutes and General Account of a Closed Session which have been sealed until such time as public inspection of those minutes would not frustrate the purpose of the Closed Session.

Adjournment

City Council returned to Open Session. No action was taken.

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Approved by Council Action on: March 4, 2026