



# Minutes of the Roanoke Rapids City Council

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Roanoke Rapids was held on **Wednesday, March 4, 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)  
Rex Stainback)  
Curtis Strickland)

Kelly Traynham, City Manager  
Geoffrey Davis, City Attorney  
Traci Storey, City Clerk  
Carmen Johnson, Finance Director  
Christina Caudle, Human Resources Director  
Ashley Thomas, Main Street Director  
Kristyn Anderson, Planning & Development Director  
Richard Cook, Fire Chief  
Larry Chalker, Public Works Director  
Lawrence Wiggins, Police Chief

**Absent:** Kelly Daughtry, Parks & Recreation 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 there was an addition to the meeting agenda. A Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Litigation needs to be added under New Business as Item 6 e). 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 aforementioned amendment.

There being no conflicts, motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, seconded by Councilman Bell, and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda with the addition of Item 6 e) Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Litigation.

### **Public Comment (Scheduled)**

#### **Ephraim Brodsky**

Mr. Brodsky thanked City Council for listening to his comments the last time he came about deferred maintenance. He heard the Mayor say something at the end of the meeting about the pavement study that was coming, that's great, but how were they going to pay for it. He was going to talk about that. There are mechanisms that they can pay for it because all the pavement needs to be replaced. There's a certain timeline and since he has been here nothing has been replaced. Most people he's talked to said nothing has been replaced this century.

He referred to his handout (On file in Clerk's Office). It shows the population over time; he can only go back to 2011 because that's where the County audits start. The City's audits are available online starting in 2009. The year by year analysis showing 2011-2024, in 2011 the population in Halifax County was 54,173 and their law enforcement budget (Sheriff's Office only), was \$3.9M. In 2024, the population sank 13.26% to 46,992 but the law enforcement budget more than doubled to \$8.2M. The population went way down and the budget more than doubled. He asked what does that tell them. It tells them a lot. Looking at the City's numbers, the population went down also, but it went down a lot less, 7.50%. The City's law enforcement budget went up also, but it did not double. It went up 31.30% so what does that mean. He asked why it did not go up as high. Part of the reason it did not go up as high is because the City eliminated some officers; they do not have as many officers as they had back in 2011. Another reason it is so high is because everything is more expensive. Right now there is a law enforcement shortage; it is very difficult to recruit officers. Officers are being paid more in areas right around the City; the County and Emporia, Virginia are paying more. When they have these choices they go to whoever is paying more, it makes the most sense for their families.

Mr. Brodsky said they just had an election cycle that ended yesterday. The State Representative had an interview a few weeks ago that he listened to and it really spoke to him. In this interview, the interviewer asked him what was his goal for District 27, what would he like to see from the State. He replied that he knew he lived in a very poor district. District 27 is one of the poorest in the state, but they still send some tax dollars back to the state, but not as much as Wake County. His goal was to bring those tax dollars back to build and develop the area. Mr. Brodsky stated thinking under that lens, shouldn't their goal be for the County's tax dollars to work for the

municipality of Roanoke Rapids as well. They may think he is picking on them, or he is in the wrong audience, but he went to the County as well. He is trying to advocate for the City. There are some things they could do on their level. This goes back to a comment he made a few times ago regarding the 911 lawsuit. While he was researching the 911 lawsuit, he learned a lot of things. He learned they do not have to pay for that by statute; that saved the City about \$500,000 a year. He also learned if they did not have a municipal police force, the County Sheriff's Office would be required to respond to the City's calls for no additional money. They would not have to give them a penny. He asked how does that make sense. Because a few years ago while he was living in the state, Enfield lost all their police officers, and they had to enter into a contract with Halifax County. They were paying them \$100 per hour to have the deputies on-site. He questioned how that was legal. The reason that was legal is because they kept their police department intact; they did not want to lose it or dissolve it. In order to keep it, the County was allowed to charge them \$100 per hour until they hired people back and eventually they did.

He said right now they are paying \$4.5M in the last budget for law enforcement. That \$4.5M for the City represents 34¢ of the 64¢ in their ad valorem budget; more than 50% of the ad valorem budget. They have other means to make money, that is not the City's only revenue stream; property tax isn't everything. Law enforcement represents 34¢ of the 64¢ and that 34¢ is based on \$131,000 per cent that the City Manager based the budget on. If they looked at the County and if they were spending \$4.5M, it would only cost 10¢ on the County tax because the County gets \$450,000 per cent. Because the County does not respond to calls in the City, effectively they are subsidizing everybody that doesn't live within the municipality and paying for their own; they are double paying and they don't have to. That is a quarter of the budget they could get back right away. People would not lose their jobs, they would just be reclassified. The County would need to hire people, there is still a shortage, it's just changing it. It is kind of like ECU Health bought a practice here that existed and named it ECU Health; it's still the same practice.

### **Approval of City Council Minutes**

Motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Stainback, and unanimously carried to approve the February 17, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting minutes as drafted.

### **New Business**

#### **Proclamation Establishing Red, White and Blue Fridays**

Mayor Doughtie read the following proclamation:

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Roanoke Rapids Establishes Red, White and Blue Fridays**  
**To Mark the Semi-Quincentennial Celebration**

**WHEREAS**, with the adoption of the Halifax Resolves, the first official call for independence by any colony, during the Fourth Provincial Congress on April 12, 1776, nearly three months prior to the Declaration of Independence; and

**WHEREAS**, Halifax County has played a pivotal role in the foundation of our nation, including being the site of the first reading of the Declaration of Independence in North Carolina on August 1, 1776, by Conelius Harnett, President of the Council of Safety, and serving as a military depot and recruiting center throughout the Revolutionary War, including a brief occupation by Lord Charles Conwallis' troop on their march to Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Halifax County was also a significant political center for the State of North Carolina. Once the war was over, Halifax hosted the Fifth Provincial Congress, where North Carolina's first state constitution was adopted, and Richard Caswell was appointed as our state's first governor; and

**WHEREAS**, independence and freedom have been long sought after by all people of Halifax County over the last 250 years, including people of color and indigenous people who fought in the Revolutionary War and are remembered as patriots, freedom-seekers who worked their way along the Roanoke Canal and Roanoke River in their quest for a free life, indigenous people who advocated for the preservation of their land and culture, Civil Rights leaders like Sarah Keys Evans who refused to give up her seat on a bus, and workers like Crystal Lee Sutton (known as Norma Rae) who stood up for the rights of working people; and

**WHEREAS**, during the next 250 years, the City of Roanoke Rapids will continue to strive for a better quality of life for all citizens through public education, economic and workforce development, affordable housing, strong infrastructure, stewardship of natural resources, public safety, disaster management, health and human services, recreation, arts and culture, and more;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the City of Roanoke Rapids joins Halifax County in marking the Semi-Quincentennial Celebration through wearing our patriotic colors of red, white, and blue on Fridays throughout 2026 and encourage other municipalities, schools, businesses, organizations and our citizens to do likewise.

**ADOPTED**, this 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

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Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor  
City of Roanoke Rapids

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Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

Motion was made by Mayor Pro Tem Bryant, seconded by Councilman Jackson and unanimously carried to approve the proclamation establishing Red, White and Blue Fridays in the City of Roanoke Rapids throughout 2026.

**Consideration of Ordinance No. 2026.10 (Revised Donation to Parks & Rec)**

Finance Director Johnson stated during the February 17, 2026, City Council meeting, City Council adopted a budget ordinance for a donation to the Parks & Recreation Department from Angels Closet to be used for youth sports. The donor's check included community scholarship funds that were not intended for administration by

the City. City Council will need to rescind the previous budget ordinance and adopt the new one to reflect the generous donation of \$12,500 to benefit youth recreation programming. The City will refund the overpayment to the account holder. She presented the following budget ordinance:

**Ordinance No. 2026.10  
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.<br><b>Project Revenues – P&amp;R Dept.</b> | <b><u>\$12,500.00</u></b> |
| <b>FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$12,500.00</b>        |

**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.<br><b>Project Expenditures – P&amp;R Dept.</b> | <b><u>\$12,500.00</u></b> |
| <b>FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$12,500.00</b>        |

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Motion was made by Councilman Strickland, seconded by Councilman Jackson, and unanimously carried to rescind Ordinance No. 2026.09 and adopt Ordinance No. 2026.10 in the amount of \$12,500 for a donation to the Parks & Recreation Department.

**Consideration of Ordinance No. 2026.11 (SHIIP Grant)**

Finance Director Johnson presented the following budget ordinance for SHIIP Grant funds to the Senior Center:

**Ordinance No. 2026.11  
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 – Senior Center – SHIIP Grant<br><b>Project Revenues - P&amp;R</b> | <b>\$11,200.00</b>        |
| <b>FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>  | <b><u>\$11,200.00</u></b> |

**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 – Senior Center – SHIIP Grant<br><b>Project Expenditures - P&amp;R</b> | <b>\$11,200.00</b>        |
| <b>FUND PROJECT TOTAL</b>  | <b><u>\$11,200.00</u></b> |

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

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Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor

Motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Strickland, and unanimously carried to adopt Ordinance No. 2026.11 in the amount of \$11,200.00 for SHIIP Grant funds awarded to the Senior Center.

**Presentation of Main Street District Business and Alignment**

Main Street Director Thomas stated she would be presenting the completed Main Street District building inventory in the context of documented market demand and outlining a logical next step for Council’s consideration.

She explained the visitation and retail leakage data were provided through a retail marketplace analysis delivered by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, using Placer.ai location intelligence analytics and Claritas retail data. These tools are commonly used in economic development to understand visitation patterns, consumer behavior, and unmet retail demand within defined trade areas. The data applies specifically to the geographically defined geofence of the Main Street District. This area spans from just north of the railroad along Roanoke Avenue, south to the railroad at Julian Alsbrook, extending east and west from Jackson to Hamilton along that corridor, with the exception of 10th Street which extends east to Williams and several blocks west to Madison. All visitation, retail leakage, and field inventory data referenced this evening apply specifically to that defined district boundary.

Main Street Director Thomas reported the Main Street District experiences approximately 1.3 million visits annually, from nearly 98,000 unique visitors each year. In practical terms, that means nearly one hundred thousand individual people come through the district each year, and many of them return multiple times, indicating repeat activity rather than one-time visitation. Additionally, 78 percent of those visitors originate within ten miles, meaning the district primarily serves local residents and surrounding communities. This level of repeat visitation indicates the district is already functioning as a regular community activity center. In short, they do not have a traffic problem. People are already here.

She said the retail marketplace analysis also helps them understand how well the district captures local consumer spending. Retail leakage refers to consumer spending that originates within a community but occurs somewhere else. Within the 10-minute drive time surrounding the Main Street District, retail leakage totals approximately \$30 million annually. Again, this is data provided by the NC Department of Commerce for this geographic area. Even capturing ten percent of the 10-minute retail gap would represent approximately \$3 million in local spending returning to businesses within the district. That level of capture equates to roughly \$30 per person per year staying within the local economy. That illustrates how modest shifts in where residents choose to spend can translate into meaningful support for local businesses.

Main Street Director Thomas stated to better understand how the Main Street District is positioned to capture that opportunity, staff conducted a comprehensive block-by-block building inventory through direct field observation.

- Total structures: 160
- Businesses currently operating: 118
- Vacant storefronts or suites: 36

Buildings were categorized based on observable exterior conditions:

- Good condition: 92
- Fair condition: 59
- Poor condition: 9

This means 94% of district structures are in good or fair condition.

She stated they must be honest about the visual reality. While a building may be structurally "fair", to a visitor, faded paint, broken windows, and a general sense of blight create a "blah" factor. This visual perception acts as a barrier and can make

the district feel "closed" in some places, which discourages people from stopping, staying, and spending that \$30 here.

She acknowledged the owners of the 118 operating businesses as well as those property owners, many of whom she has spoken with personally, who are making significant strides to address the longstanding blight condition and fill their storefronts. They are local stewards investing in the character of the district. The vacancy and distress they see are often from longstanding neglect by absentee owners or a lack of stewardship. This neglect from a few hurts the property values and safety perceptions of the many who are working hard. Active buildings create active streets, and active streets create more welcoming public spaces.

Main Street Director Thomas said the data tells them people are coming. The market analysis tells them demand exists. The building inventory tells them most structures are stable. However, a subset of underutilized or distressed properties limits their ability to fully align available space with that market opportunity. The data shows opportunity, the inventory shows constraints. This is not a traffic issue, it is not a demand issue, it is a property alignment issue.

She stated the logical next step is to explore structured Property Alignment strategies, which may include:

- Direct engagement with property owners to better understand barriers to occupancy, encourage reinvestment in underutilized buildings, and learn from property owners who have successfully activated and maintained their properties.
- Exploration of voluntary improvement tools, such as façade improvements or redevelopment incentives, that support owners who are willing to invest in their properties.
- Evaluation of strategies that support reinvestment, occupancy, and long-term stability of district properties.
- Review of existing statutory tools available to municipalities, where appropriate.

Any recommendations would return to Council with clearly defined options and transparency. Staff respectfully request Council's direction to evaluate these alignment strategies and return with structured options.

Councilman Bell referenced the data concerning the exterior conditions of the buildings and asked if there was any kind of assistance or grants from local, state or federal programs and how would she prioritize funds to do façade improvements to the buildings.

Main Street Director Thomas replied there are grants available, but they are few and far in between. She is more than willing to look, and she has applied for grants since she has been with the City. They are in some holding space for some of those. As far as what they would do for prioritization, she believes having an application that is open for all is best. They would not “cherry-pick” which properties to choose and they would open it up for those who able to fill out the application and proceed with the guidelines set forth. They would move forward with as many as possible.

Mayor Doughtie asked if she had any information or an update about the McCrory Building. Main Street Director Thomas deferred that question to City Manager Traynham.

City Manager Traynham said the last they spoke with the owner of the McCrory Building, they were working to secure financing and intending to move forward with the project. They reported they had gotten through hoops with Historic Preservation. The City is waiting on the developer to take the next step.

Mayor Doughtie said he did not believe there was anything in the agreement because when they asked the question about if the owner did not follow through with the completion of the building, did the City have any recourse; he believed the answer was no. He asked if there was a time limit on what the owner had to show for the \$300,000 the City gave him.

City Manager Traynham stated she did not have the file with her right now but will be glad to present some of that information at the next meeting.

Mayor Doughtie asked Main Street Director Thomas if the businesses listed as currently operating included the mix of faith-based, civic and government organizations in that number.

Main Street Director Thomas replied they were included in the structures within the district that were not primarily residential.

Mayor Doughtie said those are some of the better-looking buildings they have. The thing about that is they do not generate any revenue and don't pay any taxes on it. It makes it difficult to help the district be profitable. Sometimes there are so many people at those places that it makes it difficult to park on the Avenue.

Councilman Strickland asked if they could get a copy of the report. Main Street Director Thomas replied she would email it to them.

Main Street Director Thomas invited City Council to attend the next Main Street Committee meeting which will be held on Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room at City Hall.

**Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Litigation, Ratification of Interlocal Agreement and Transfer of the New Town Resource Center to Halifax County**

Attorney Davis said he wanted to talk about the settlement of a dispute between Halifax County and the City over E-911 services. He reported the County actually acted on this Monday during closed session as allowed by general statutes. Now it is time for the City to do its part. One thing he and the County attorney talked about, and the County attorney talked to the Commissioners about, was going ahead and doing this on the record so they could answer questions from Council. He said they had talked about this in closed session two weeks ago. A lot of what he was going to say would be repeated for Council, but he thinks it's important explain it to the public.

He believes most people are familiar with the situation concerning E-911 over the last couple of years. *The Daily Herald* and *RRspin.com*, who are both in attendance tonight, have done a good job reporting this over the past few years. He explained about 5-6 years ago the City Council made the determination to exit the agreement they had where the City provided some funding to the 911 Center in Halifax. The 911 Center handles dispatching to emergency responders, EMS, Fire, Police and Sheriff's Office. Previously over the last 20 – 25 years, since the inception of 911 services, there had been agreements where the City had shared a portion of that funding. The City took the position because of changes in the law, there was no obligation on a city to pay anything for dispatching services or any local government that is covered by an existing 911 dispatcher. The technical term is (PSAP) Public Safety Answering Portal. The law on this has never been clear. The City has taken the position that even though the law is somewhat silent on any kind of funding obligation, by receiving those dispatching services, the City would be obligated to pay it. As this litigation has gone on which the City of Roanoke Rapids kind of initiated, over the years, he has talked with many municipalities who have contacted him and City about the lawsuit because they were having the same issue. The City stopped paying and the City and County sued each other. That went to Superior Court in Halifax County. The Superior Court ruled against the City and said the City was obligated to pay it. The City appealed that to the Court of Appeals. The Court of Appeals sat on the case for two years and then threw it out on a standing decision saying they did not have to get to the merits of it. Attorney Davis stated he has to be careful as a licensed attorney talking too much about his views of court opinions that he disagrees with, so he has to be responsible. For a court to sit on a case for two years and to resolve it on standing after that, that communicates something to him. What it communicates to him is

that they are not going to decide this issue for them. Either the legislature has to decide, or the parties need to decide amongst themselves. The other part of that is, they failed to do that at their peril.

He stated since the October ruling, it has been in limbo. City Council knows there has been a lot of discussions behind the scenes about how they could work towards a resolution. He does not anticipate any interest from the Legislature because there hasn't been interest from them all the years it has been going on. He did not think they could look for a resolution there. He thinks over time what they will see is a tendency towards maybe combining even further the local PSAPs into larger organizations. He questioned what it would look like if they did not resolve the matter. He anticipates if the County wasn't satisfied, they would file a new lawsuit for monies owed. That would progress through the courts regardless of what the result was, the party who received an adverse decision would appeal it. There is no telling what happens with that. His point and one of the things that he tells clients when they are looking at potentially resolving a case, whether it's a settlement or some kind of compromise, is they are bargaining against their risk. Since the City exited the agreement, they have not paid any money to the County for 911 services. Over the last four fiscal years, the County's claim against the City of what they owe is almost \$1.7 million. For a City of this size and budget, that would be a significant amount of money that they would have to pay if they had an adverse decision somewhere down the road; that's not including all potential future costs. Those are hard numbers that they can look at and say, this is their risk if it didn't work out for them.

Attorney Davis said since the fall of last year, there have been a number of discussions back and forth between the City and County. It culminated in the settlement agreement which is included in their agenda packet. The settlement includes:

- Halifax County agrees to wipe out the \$1.6 million they say the City owes.
- Halifax County agrees the City owes no future costs.
- Halifax County will continue to provide services so long as there is a county-maintained 911 Center. There is a new interlocal agreement which is also included in their packet, to cover the different responsibilities under this arrangement and includes all this language.
- To settle the outstanding costs, the City of Roanoke Rapids will transfer ownership of the New Town Resource Center located at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Jackson Streets to Halifax County without any other charge.

City Attorney Davis stated essentially all costs are wiped out, all disagreements between them are resolved concerning the E-911 Center, no future payments, and the transfer of the New Town Resource Center. The New Town Resource Center was

built through an agreement with non-city funds. As part of that agreement, over time it would get turned over to the City, and it has. It has not been used by the City for any of its operations for several years now. For a number of years, there have been three organizations that the City has rented it out to and share different spaces in the building: Boys & Girls Club, CADA (Choanoke Area Development Association) and Halifax County (WIC). The Boys & Girls Club moved out so their part of space has been vacant for several years now. He said the building is aging and it is continuing to require maintenance. It is not an asset that the City is using materially at this time. He said through the negotiations, the County had indicated they would be excited to be able to get a footprint in that area of city and provide more county services to city residents.

He stated there were three items: the resolution, the actual settlement agreement and the new interlocal agreement which were included in their agenda packet. He asked for approval of the resolution which by text of it ties in all these items. The resolution also authorizes the transfer of the New Town Resource Center as allowed by NCGS 160A-274. He advised City Council to absolutely approve of this.

Councilman Strickland asked if the County ceases to provide 911 services, does the City get the building back.

City Attorney Davis replied no, and they cannot cease providing 911 service by law unless there is someone else willing to pick it up. His understanding is once the transfer is complete that it is permanent. If the County ceases providing service, the interlocal agreement would be terminated but that would not undo the transfer of ownership of the building. To be clear, emergency responders, law enforcement organizations, fire departments, etc. have to be part of a E-911 system. The County has agreed to continue operating it. If they were to stop operating it, they would have to have somebody to agree to take it on. He does not see that happening under current law. They had to put in some provisions to cover if there was some kind of massive reorganization which would invalidate any agreements they had anyway. He does not see that coming in the short-term. Anything more long-term would come the State and the City would be required to follow it.

Mayor Doughtie stated he thinks this is a good deal for the City and thanked Attorney Davis for getting this to the point so they can bring it to a conclusion. Attorney Davis said he appreciated the City's faith in pursuing this process. He could see the skepticism on faces when he came before City Council as far as saying the City needed to exit this and essentially go to battle over it. There is time to go to battle and time to call it off. He thinks they are at that point.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026.01**

Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Litigation,  
Ratification of Interlocal Agreement,  
and Transfer of the New Town Resource Center

*(City of Roanoke Rapids v. Halifax County, File No. 22 CVS 337)*

Whereas, Halifax County (the County), maintains the sole public safety answering point (“PSAP”) which takes emergency calls and dispatches them out to appropriate emergency responders within Halifax County, including the City of Roanoke Rapids (the City) and other municipalities in Halifax County; and

Whereas, since 1997, the County and the City, along with the other municipalities located in Halifax County, have participated in interlocal agreements whereby the City and the other municipalities agreed to reimburse the County for a portion of the County’s costs related to the maintenance of the County PSAP not covered by State 911 funding; and

Whereas, in July 2022, the City terminated its participation in the then existing interlocal funding agreement, taking the position that the County had the full financial responsibility of maintaining the County PSAP, and the County took the position that all units of local government participating in the use of the PSAP had a responsibility to provide financial support for the operation of the PSAP; and

Whereas, in May 2022, the City filed a declaratory judgment action in Halifax County Superior Court against the County, and the County timely responded with a counterclaim for declaratory judgment against the City regarding the above-described controversy (*City of Roanoke Rapids v. Halifax County*, File No. 22-CVS-337, hereinafter the Litigation); and

Whereas, on October 1, 2025, the North Carolina Court of Appeals issued an unpublished opinion ruling that neither the City nor the County had standing to bring their respective declaratory judgment actions; and

Whereas, in closed session pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(3), the City Attorney has presented a proposed settlement agreement (Settlement Agreement), a copy of which is attached to this resolution, in full settlement of the Litigation; and

Whereas, among other things, the Settlement Agreement provides that the County and the City (along with the other municipalities in Halifax County) will enter into a new interlocal agreement entitled “2026 Interlocal Agreement Regarding Local Funding of the Halifax County Central Communications Center” (the Interlocal Agreement), a copy of which is also attached to this resolution; and

Whereas, the City owns the parcel of real property located at 116 West Third Street, Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, Halifax County Parcel No. 09-00517 (commonly called the “New Town Resource Center”) together with all improvements lying thereon, and the Settlement Agreement contemplates the conveyance of this property to the County as part of a full settlement of the Litigation; and

Whereas, the City is authorized to convey City-owned real property to another local government such as the County without prior public notice or hearing pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 160A-274, et seq.; and

Whereas, the Roanoke Rapids City Council desires to approve and authorize execution of the Settlement Agreement, the Interlocal Agreement, and to lawfully convey the New Town Resource Center to the County, along with any other instruments necessary to carry out the terms and conditions of the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED:

1. The Roanoke Rapids City Council approves the Settlement Agreement, and the Mayor, City Manager and other necessary City officials are authorized to execute the Settlement Agreement in form substantially as presented to the City Council in closed session and attached hereto.

2. The Roanoke Rapids City Council approves the Interlocal Agreement, and the Mayor, City Manager and other necessary City officials are authorized to execute the Interlocal Agreement in form substantially as presented to the City Council in closed session and attached hereto. This approval and authorization shall constitute the ratification required under N.C. Gen. Stat. §160A-461. Execution of the Interlocal Agreement need not be contemporaneous with the execution of the Settlement Agreement, it being understood that the City and the County will confer with the other municipalities in Halifax

County regarding the execution of the Interlocal Agreement by those municipalities as well.

3. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11(a)(3), upon execution of the Settlement Agreement by the City and the County, the terms of the settlement shall be reported and entered into the City Council's minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time thereafter.

4. Pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. §160A-274 the Mayor, City Manager and other necessary City officials are authorized to execute the documents necessary to convey ownership of the New Town Resource Center to the County.

4. The City Attorney is authorized to file a Notice of Voluntary Dismissal in the Litigation at such time as he deems appropriate.

Adopted this 4th day of March, 2026.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Emery G. Doughtie, Mayor  
City of Roanoke Rapids

\_\_\_\_\_  
Traci Storey  
City Clerk

Motion was made by Councilman Stainback, seconded by Councilman Bell, and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution No. 2026.01 authorizing settlement of litigation, ratification of interlocal agreement and transfer of the New Town Resource Center to Halifax County.

## City Manager's Report

City Manager Traynham reported the following updates from administration:

### Police Department

#### o Community Engagement

- **Crime Stats Meetings.** Community meetings provide crime statistics and offer citizens the opportunity to engage with RRPD leadership. The first community crime stats meeting was held on February 23. We encourage all to attend the next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, April 23** at Kirkwood Adams Community Center.
- **Pathways Leadership Program by The Chamber of Commerce.** The RRPD will host a mentorship program during the morning of March 11 at City Hall.

### Parks & Recreation

- o **Emry Skate Park** - A Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening Event is planned with the sponsors including Brightspeed, Justin Kerr and donors on Wednesday, March 11 from 3:00 – 5:00.
- o **Aquatics.** Swimming Lessons start March 16

### Public Works

- o **Bag or Box Loose Leaves, Trimmings for Curbside Collection.** Curbside loose-leaf vacuum collection has ended for the season and will resume in Fall. Please bag or box vegetative yard waste (grass clippings, leaves, trimmings) for collection.
- o **Grass Cutting Season** is almost here. Central Garage staff are completing inventory and seasonal maintenance of our mowers and equipment for regular use.

### Main Street

- **Next Committee Meeting:** Monday, March 9 at 1:30 PM in City Hall
- **Statewide Annual Conference:** Main Street Director Thomas will be attending conference in New Bern, March 10-12.

### Planning & Development

- **301 Premier Blvd** (formerly Highway 55) **will reopen as FLAYVA!** Flayva USA is Baton Rouge based and offers a menu with southern influence and intentional flavor.
- Six (6) additional building permits have been secured by developer in Canal Walk.

### Fire

- Annual service testing underway for the trucks and equipment.
- A recent new hire brings the department back to current capacity, however they continue to seek applicants for the Fire Applicant Pool for interested persons.

### Human Resources

- Initiated the ONBOARD module of NEOGOV to provide online eForms, employment application tracking, management, and recruitment. Expect it to go live this spring.

### FY27 Budget Planning

- Departments have entered their operating budget requests and review meetings are underway this week with the Finance Director and City Manager. More information about the requests will be shared during the March 17 City Council meeting.
- Some things they are looking at in the fiscal year budgeting:
  - **Meeting ADA Standards for Website Accessibility.** The United States Department of Justice finalized a rule clarifying municipal websites and mobile apps be accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title II to meet the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) international standard (WCAG 2.1 Level AA). Compliance with this mandate helps ensure people with disabilities can access all government online services and information. **Compliance Deadline: by April 26, 2027, for communities with fewer than 50,000 residents.** We must plan now for future budget expenditures related to updating and maintaining an ADA-compliant web presence. Municipalities that do not comply could face real consequences, including lawsuits and settlements, Department of Justice complaints, mandated remediation timelines, legal fees and reputational harm. The NC League of Municipalities (NCLM) has developed an ADA compliance webpage with resources. City Administration will provide more information and next steps towards achieving compliance at an upcoming Council meeting. Will likely come with significant costs to comply.
  - **Audit Services | Request for Proposals (RFP).** The City of Roanoke Rapids has an immediate need to procure professional services for the purpose of entering into an audit contract for FY2026 and beyond. The City Council is responsible for selecting and entering into a contract with a qualified auditor. The City Administration intends to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for audit services utilizing guidance from the Local Government Commission (LGC). An evaluation and selection criteria and process should be contained in the RFP and used by the Review Committee (City Manager, Finance Staff, etc). The evaluation outcome will be presented to the City Council for concurrence and authorization to consider entering into an agreement with a prospective auditing firm. Guidance is available from the Department of NC Treasurer and LGC.
- FY27 Revenue Projections Memo from the NCLM is expected around April 1. During the month of March staff will be gathering more of expense needs and when they have revenue estimates that is when the balancing act begins.

City Manager Traynham stated as they talk about budgeting, the need for funds and department services, the City is aware of an issue with the Roanoke Valley Rescue Squad. The City will continue to work with the rescue squad to identify any service gaps until there is a better handle on the situation. Right now, the City does not know much to be able to offer so discussions are needed. They understand they have some fiscal needs and requests as well. They will work to balance those and look forward to some communication with the rescue squad about moving forward.

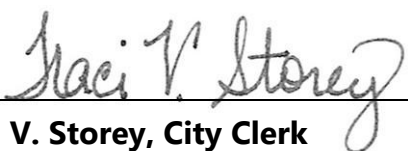
Mayor Doughtie asked if City Council would be getting information from the group that reviewed the roadway conditions.

City Manager Traynham replied yes. Last week staff received a brief presentation from the project engineer so in the next meeting or two they will have more information. They do have a comprehensive bit of information to read through and clarify with the engineer. They will bring that forward to them in the upcoming weeks.

Mayor Doughtie confirmed they had completed their services. City Manager Traynham said that was correct.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, motion was made by Councilman Bell, seconded by Councilman Stainback, and unanimously carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

  
Traci V. Storey, City Clerk

**Approved by Council Action on: March 17, 2026**