

Thursday, February 26, 2026

AGENDA

Welcome Adam Mastrangelo

- Call to Order
- Welcome to Members and Guests
- Safety Information
- Reminders

Fire-Side Chat Discussion Teresa Mastrangelo

- Roanoke City Manager – Valmarie Turner

Closing Remarks/Reminders ALL

Adjourn

Minutes for General Meeting

February 26, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by the president of the association, Adam Mastrangelo. There were 71 people in attendance. He welcomed everyone and asked how many of those present were attending their first meeting. Six people raised their hands. He also showed a postcard mailer that had been sent out to targeted areas and asked if anyone had received one in the mail. No one responded. He then addressed some safety information before the program began. He noted the exits, the restroom location, identified who was CPR trained, the location of the fire extinguishers, and who would call 911 in the event of an emergency.

Adam reminded everyone to enjoy the food and refreshments at the back table, and he thanked Susan and Robb Lipes for bringing the hot coffee from the Grandin Road 7-11. Appreciation was also given to Eva O'Hare who was manning the sign-in table and to Jim Eaton who was the bellman at the church entrance.

The program was turned over to Teresa Mastrangelo who in turn introduced Valmarie Turner, the Roanoke City Manager. The remainder of the meeting focused on the City Manager answering the following set of questions which had been submitted by the residents of Greater Deyerle.

1. Would you share a bit about your journey in public service and what ultimately brought you to Roanoke?

Valmarie stated that she had an undergraduate degree in business economics and a master's in public administration. She was previously a loan closer in Tampa, Florida, where she oversaw millions of dollars of grant money from the federal government to do low income housing. She found that she enjoyed helping people professionally, and it was personally rewarding as well. Then she moved to Loudoun County, Virginia, where she became the Deputy County Administrator. She became interested in Roanoke when she attended a conference here. She was impressed with its beauty and wanted to call it home.

2. How would you describe your leadership approach and the values that guide you?

Valmarie stated that she relies heavily on faith to guide her. She believes in the saying, "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you." She believes in inspiring others and providing so all humans can succeed. She believes in a teamwork approach to solving all problems.

One word answers.

- 1. One word to describe Roanoke today?** *Beautiful*
- 2. One word Roanoke needs more of?** *Money*
- 3. One word that captures the city's biggest challenge right now?** *Money*
- 4. One word that excites you about Roanoke's future?** *Money*
- 5. One word that motivates you on tough days?** *Prayer*

6. **Coffee or tea?** *Tea*
 7. **Early bird or night owl?** *Both*
 8. **One word that makes Roanoke's community special?** *Inclusive*
 9. **One word that guides your leadership style?** *Inspiration*
 10. **One word you hope people will associate with your tenure?** *Committed*
-

3. **Now that you've been in the role for a year, what has surprised you most about the challenges and opportunities facing Roanoke, and how has that shaped the way you lead?**

Valmarie stated that one thing she doesn't do is run away from challenges. She has noticed that the poverty level has remained consistent for the last ten years, so we need to find opportunities for employment. There is a large unhoused population whose needs need to be addressed, but without sufficient funding, the city has to be creative in their solutions.

4. **When you look ahead a few years, what's your vision for Roanoke's future?**

Economic development is a priority for Valmarie. Roanoke needs the appropriate infrastructure and communication structure in order to accommodate a large business like Amazon. She is also interested in repurposing buildings in Roanoke to house residents and accommodate businesses as well.

5. **What are your top priorities as City Manager in 2026?**

Stabilizing the organization is one of Valmarie's priorities. She is focused on Roanoke being in good financial standing and avoiding the debt dependency. With revenue growth only being 6% this year, the city will have to be creative with how they will finance new projects.

6. **During your first year, Roanoke has been navigating several complex and highly visible issues that have sparked strong community reaction. From what you've learned in your first year, how do you approach decisions that balance economic opportunity, quality of life, and community trust?**

The job of a Public Information Officer has been created, so the City of Roanoke will have a more effective and efficient way of communicating with its citizens. The position is held by Jenel Few. Multiple platforms for communicating info will be used. Citizens may also go to the Roanoke City website for alerts and other information.

7. **How do you plan to strengthen trust, transparency, and communication between City Hall and the community?**

The communications officer will be able to get information to the citizens, so they will not feel misinformed about the events in the city.

- 8. As you may have noticed coming into Greater Deyerle-our neighborhood does not have sidewalks or shoulders; we have no park; and are not served by the city bus system - how can the City of Roanoke help improve the quality of life within this neighborhood?**

Valmarie introduced Ross Campbell, the Director of Public Works. He stated that Greater Deyerle was not the only neighborhood without sidewalks. There is a backlog of 400 sections of Roanoke City where sidewalks are needed, so he suggested we get our desired locations added to the list. Regarding Traffic Calming, Ross said that he asked his team what are some immediate things that the City can do. As a result of those conversations, the City has 4 Speed Feedback Signs (Digital) that they'll have on order. They will place a set (2 each) of Pole Mounted Speed Display (PMSD) Signs on Mudlick and a set (2 each) on Deyerle to help emphasize to those passing through the neighborhood that the posted speed is 25 mph.

- 9. On infrastructure, how is Roanoke preparing for the future-roads, stormwater, climate resilience, and long-term planning? For instance, the roads in our neighborhood have not been paved for more than 20 years.**

Ross Campbell also addressed the crumbling streets in the neighborhood, especially Brandon Avenue, and he said that Roanoke's streets are on a scale in the high 60's (0-100) as compared to the nation's streets. However, the good news was that the Greater Deyerle Neighborhood is on the calendar for new pavement in 2027.

- 10. The Roanoke Valley has lost some large employers over the past few years- What do you see as Roanoke's biggest opportunities for economic growth and job creation?**

We need to capitalize on the sciences, specifically Virginia Tech and Carilion. And we also need to capitalize on all types of manufacturing and retail.

- 11. How can Greater Deyerle help the City of Roanoke?**

Valmarie stated that Greater Deyerle is very active in the community and she asked that we remain active. Greater Deyerle needs to inform the city when things are going well (e.g. it was recognized that the GDNA won the Neighborhood Improvement Award from Roanoke City for refurbishing the neighborhood gateway signs and how this project was fiscally responsible). Valmarie stated that Greater Deyerle also needs to inform the city about changes that need to be made or problems to be addressed. She continued that it was because of Greater Deyerle's advocacy in the community that we brought about some changes last year in a short amount of time. Appreciation was given to the city for acting promptly in addressing Greater Deyerle's Safety concerns regarding the Hybrid Canine incidents.

Valmarie acknowledged Council Member Powers for being at the meeting tonight and thanked her for her support. She also introduced two other city employees with her tonight, Jeff White, Code Compliance Coordinator and Brian Haynesworth, Solid Waste Manager.

That concluded the Fire-Side chat discussion with the City Manager.

Teresa Mastrangelo showed appreciation to Officer Lt. Daniel Moore for ticketing some speeders in the neighborhood.

Woody Deans of Belle Aire Circle announced to the group that his home was recently broken into and cautioned everyone to watch out for suspicious persons. He also stated that a home on Keagy was entered that same weekend.

Adam Mastrangelo announced that the next meeting will be in April, although no date has been set. We will review and vote on the VA SCC Articles of Restatement of GDNA. He will also update everyone on the status of GDNA's Pedestrian and Traffic Calming efforts and put together a team of individuals to manage and direct the traffic calming efforts in the Greater Deyerle neighborhood.

The meeting adjourned at 07:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet H. Kubik
Secretary GDNA