

Bryan Moyers, Council Member
David Brundage, Council Member
Holly Gray-Moore, Mayor Pro-Tem



Carl E. Gierisch, Jr., Mayor

Brian Darby, Council Member
Hogan Page, Council Member
David Thompson, Council Member

**MINUTES
ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP
NOVEMBER 16, 2021
CITY HALL COMMUNITY ROOM #132
500 S. OAK STREET
7:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Carl E. "Scooter" Gierisch, Jr.; Council Members: Brian Darby, David Brundage, Hogan Page, and David Thompson; City Manager Scott Campbell, and City Secretary April S. Hill.

DEPT. STAFF: Assistant City Manager Cody Petree, Director of Fiscal and Administrative Services Vicki Rodriguez, and Chief of Police Jeriahme Miller.

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Holly Gray-Moore and Council Member Bryan Moyers.

A. CALL CITY COUNCIL TO ORDER

Mayor Gierisch called the City Council Workshop to order at 7:22 p.m.

B. PUBLIC INPUT

No one wished to speak.

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation regarding Roanoke Police Department New Law Enforcement Center and Court Facility.

City Manager Scott Campbell introduced Don Wertberger with 720 Design.

Mr. Wertberger gave an overview of the projects he and his firm have been involved in, stating he has spent 35 plus years designing public safety facilities.

Mr. Wertberger gave an overview of the Needs Assessment for the Police Department's New Law Enforcement and Court Facility, which will be on a 5.5-acre site.

City Manager Scott Campbell asked Mr. Wertberger how many lanes would be in the range.

Mr. Wertberger stated there are eight (8) regular lanes and two (2) or three (3) at a longer yardage.

Council Member Hogan Page asked what makes the range cost so much per square foot, since it is a lot of open space and not finished out like an office building.



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Mayor Gierisch stated ventilation, Kevlar backstops, and bullet traps are required for ranges and this adds to the cost.

Mr. Wertberger stated that a large portion of the cost is for the HVAC system, in addition to the safety requirements.

Chief of Police Jeriahme Miller stated they incorporate de-escalation training in ranges, and they are no longer about shooting.

Mr. Wertberger stated that the range is a multipurpose training facility.

Assistant City Manager Cody Petree asked if the helicopter pad was just a concrete pad.

Mr. Wertberger stated that it is, but it also includes lighting.

Mr. Campbell asked Chief Miller if there would be opportunity for rental of the range.

Chief Miller stated there is a great opportunity for rental. Chief Miller further stated that the Roanoke Police Department currently rents range time at facilities in the surrounding area, some with a wait time of 1 year. In addition, they barter with other cities for range time at their facilities.

Council Member David Brundage asked what type of backup power the facility would have.

Mr. Wertberger stated the cost estimate includes a generator that would be capable of running the entire facility, as opposed to an emergency backup generator that is limited.

Council Member Brundage asked if the generator would be gas powered.

Mr. Wertberger stated Federal Agencies do not recognize gas as a reliable backup emergency power source, they only recognize diesel.

Mr. Petree stated that strategically this is a much better location, as opposed to the Police Department's current location.

Chief Miller stated that the location is perfect, since it is in an industrial area, which is less intrusive to residents when officers/staff go in and out 24 hours a day.

Council Member Brian Darby stated the gun range keeps being referred to as an "extra," but is it really an extra. In relation to needs vs wants, the range is more of a need.

Council Member David Thompson stated the range needs to be included in the plan. Mr. Thompson asked if it would change the cost estimate, if the range were included.

Mr. Wertberger stated the cost estimate includes the range.

Director of Fiscal and Administrative Services Vicki Rodriguez gave an overview of possible funding for this project.



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Council Member Page asked what the current expenses of using other ranges is.

Chief Miller stated that currently they use a bartering system with other cities for use of their ranges, and this would alleviate that.

Council Member Page asked if the range would have potential to create revenue.

Chief Miller stated that it would, as there are plenty of police departments in need of renting range time.

Council Member Darby stated that like the recreation center and swimming pool, it will never pay for itself, but it will offset the annual cost.

Chief Miller stated that there is a shortage of available ranges in the area.

Council Member Thompson asked if the IT (Information Technology) personnel and equipment space has been taken into consideration with this project.

Chief Miller stated that it has been included.

Council Member Thompson asked if there are going to be redundancies put into place, if a building goes down.

Mr. Wertberger stated there are redundancies.

Mayor Gierisch stated during the planning process of the New Roanoke City Hall, they toured other city hall's and asked, what would we do different. Mayor Gierisch further stated, "We wanted to get it right the first time". Therefore, with this project, we are doing the same.

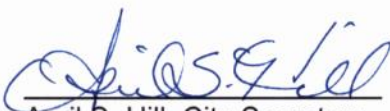
Council Member Page asked if the holding area was included in the cost estimate.

Mr. Wertberger stated that it was not.

Mr. Campbell gave an overview of possible funding for this project and the process for implementing it.

D. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gierisch adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.


April S. Hill, City Secretary



Carl E. "Scooter" Gierisch, Jr., Mayor