



COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2023
SAM KING ROOM
2:30 P.M.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Jim Bojo (Chair), Bonny Askew, Jamie Doss, Sammy Rich, Chris Jenkins, Joe Smith, Toni Rhinehart, Bekki Fox, Molly Majestic, Mary Hardin Thornton, Amanda Carter, Becky Smyth, Julie Smith, Meredith Ulmer, and Doug Walker.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Bojo called the meeting to order. The minutes of the March 1, 2023, Community Redevelopment Committee meeting were approved by common consent.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORTS:

Director Bekki Fox provided the committee with updates on ongoing Community Development projects. The Floyd Training Center Project is expected to go out for bid before months end. Construction should begin in late May or early June. The Banty Jones Park project is currently in the design process. The request submitted to Department of Community Affairs (DCA) to keep the Revolving Loan funds in the amount of \$460,000 was approved. These funds will now be allocated for CDBG eligible projects. An application for a \$2 million grant was submitted and if approved, will be used to fund other ongoing projects. Molly Majestic announced that April is National Fair Housing Month and explained that Community Development must regularly report to HUD any fair housing issues or efforts made in Rome. Majestic stated that National Community Development week takes place April 10 – 14 and gave an update on the various activities planned during the week. Amanda Carter gave a PowerPoint presentation to update the committee on the Rome/Floyd County Land Bank goals, ongoing property renovations, and upcoming new property construction for 2023. The property at 312 Kingston Avenue is an ongoing renovation project and Pro-Active Contractors, Inc. is doing the renovation work. Two properties, 216 and 303 E. 20th Street, have been donated to the Land Bank. Plans to donate 216 E. 20th Street to TRED were also discussed. In addition, two new homes are to be built by Pro-Active Contractors, Inc. at 1 Orchid Place in east Rome and 7 Forsyth Street in north Rome. Property titles for 411 Superba Avenue, Spring Creek Street, 2 Blacks Bluff Road, and Line Street are currently in the process of being cleared. Future potential property build sites were also discussed.

PROJECT MANAGER UPDATES:

Mary Hardin Thornton announced applications were submitted to Senator Warnock’s and Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene’s office for their 2024 fiscal year budget. The applications submitted are as follows:

Senator Warnock

- Transportation and Trails grant for Jackson Hill Historic District connection to Ridgeferry Park in the amount of \$2 million.
- Maple Avenue Sidewalk Improvements grant in the amount of \$2.3 million.
- Water Department grant for Enterprise Corner Utilities in the amount of \$12 million.
- Rome Floyd County Fire (submitted in 2 parts) grant for Self-Breathing Apparatus and Radio updates in the amount of \$2.2 million.

Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene

- Rome Floyd County Fire grant for Self Breathing Apparatus and Radio updates. The amount was not given.

Thornton discussed future grant applications for additional funds from the Department of Transportation, National League of Cities Energy Efficient Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG), and ARPA funds.

UPDATE – NORTH BROAD YOUTH CENTER SPLOST PROJECT:

Sammy Rich gave an update regarding previous discussions to relocate the Youth Center playground. Rich stated city attorney John Hawkins advised it is legally okay to relocate the SPLOST project if the project is not eliminated. Rich stated Greater Refuge Ministries church will manage the playground. Commissioner Doss expressed concerns about potential liability issues. It was decided a meeting may be needed to specifically discuss the management details of the playground and potential liability issues.

UPDATE – REDEVELOPMENT AREA – MARTHA BERRY & NORTH ROME:

Sammy Rich explained there was a recent conference call between him, Toni Rhinehart, and Stan Reecy of KB Advisory Group. Based on the conversation, the existing drafts may need to be revisited to ensure the city’s intentions are clear. The project will be put on hold until the “Redevelopment Area” concerns are resolved. As a result, the previously agreed upon date to vote on March 30, 2023, will need to be extended.

ANNEXATION:

Chairman Bojo asked if future annexations should be based on specific properties identified by the city to annex or “let it slide by again”. Potential annexation locations were discussed based on previous conversations. Celanese Village and various west Rome properties were mentioned as potential annexations. A suggestion was made to make more information available to citizens to educate them on the benefits of annexing into the city. Askew and Doss agreed forced annexations should not be considered.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Bojo adjourned the meeting at 3:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deena Adams, Office Coordinator, City Manager's Office