

ROME CITY COMMISSION

Monday, May 23, 2022

The Rome City Commission met at 6:30 p.m. this date in the City Commission Chambers of City Hall, 601 Broad Street. Mayor Stevenson presided with Mayor Pro Tem Cochran and Commissioners Bojo, Beeman, Doss, Quick, Askew, Collins, and McDaniel present. Commissioner Askew opened the meeting with prayer and led in the salute to the flag.

Minutes – May 9, 2022

The Minutes of the May 9, 2022, meeting, as submitted in writing by the Secretary, were approved by an unanimous consent.

Champion of Georgia’s Cities Award – Senator Chuck Hufstetler

Commissioner Bojo and Mr. DeMetris Causer from GMA presented a proclamation for a Champion of Georgia’s Cities Award to Senator Chuck Hufstetler. The Champion of Georgia’s Cities Award is presented at the end of every two-year legislative term to state legislators who actively support major municipal initiatives and goals. Senator Hufstetler introduced his family members present, thanked the community for their continued support, and highlighted accomplishments in the legislative session this year that will benefit all Georgia citizens.

National Cancer Survivors Day

Commissioner Quick presented a proclamation recognizing Sunday, June 5, 2022, as National Cancer Survivors Day. This proclamation was presented to Ms. Sarah Husser who is the Fundraising and Outreach Coordinator for Cancer Navigators.

Louvenia “Lou” Jordan – 100th Birthday

Commissioner Beeman read a proclamation recognizing Ms. Louvenia “Lou” Jordan on her upcoming 100th birthday. Ms. Jordan will celebrate her 100th birthday on Friday, May 27. She was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

Employee Scholarship Recipients - 2022

City Manager Rich stated that the City of Rome continues their employee-funded scholarship program. This program is funded by voluntary \$1/per pay period contributions from City of Rome employees. Since the inception of this program in 2006, 96 students have benefited from this program. These students are children or grandchildren of City of Rome employees.

For 2022, there are four \$1,000 scholarship recipients. Mr. Rich announced the following recipients, who in turn listed the school they will be attending along with their program of study. Their parents or other relatives present with them tonight were introduced.

- 1) Emma Grace Burns (not present)
- 2) Sydney Hickman – Auburn University, Engineering (Father - Steven Hickman/Fire)
- 3) Robbie Cole Hunt (not present)
- 4) Taylor Alexandra Abbott – Jacksonville State University, Business Marketing (Mother – Kelley Parker/City Manager’s Office)

Committee on Committees - Nominations

Commissioner Collins announced that the Committee on Committees has nominated Ms. Monica Burge to fill a vacancy on the Library Board.

There were no objections to this nomination. A vote is scheduled for the June 13th City Commission meeting.

A22-05-01 Annex property at 112 Fieldwood Road

Annexation file A22-05-01, the request to annex property at 112 Fieldwood Road, identified as Tax Map # K13Y-346 with Suburban Residential zoning (no change) was presented. The Planning Commission and Staff have recommended approval of this annexation request.

Assistant Rome Planner Brice Wood reviewed this file, displaying maps and photographs of the subject and surrounding properties. Mr. Wood stated that this property adjoins another parcel owned by the applicant that is already within the City limits.

Mayor Stevenson called a Public Hearing to order concerning the annexation request. There was no one to speak in favor or opposition, and the Public Hearing was closed.

With there being no discussion or questions by the Commission on the annexation request, Commissioner Quick moved to approve the annexation of property at 112 Fieldwood Road, identified as Tax Map #K13Y-346 with no change in the current zoning of Suburban Residential as requested. Commissioner Bojo seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

SUP22-05-01 – Special Use Permit for a change in use at Oyo Hotel on Avenue A

SUP22-05-01, the request for a special use permit for a change in use from a hotel to apartments for property zoned Community Commercial located at Avenue A, identified as Floyd County Tax Parcel J13Y-479 was presented. The Planning Commission has recommended approval of this SUP request as submitted. Planning Staff has recommended approval of this SUP request with conditions.

Assistant Planner Brice Wood reviewed this file, displaying maps and photographs of the subject and surrounding properties. Mr. Wood stated that this proposed redevelopment would consist of 22 dwelling units and would be an appropriate reuse of the hotel and provide a buffer to the Avenue A neighborhood against a commercial strip center and out-parcels. Mr. Wood stated Planning Staff has recommended approval on the condition that the number of units be limited to 14 units per acre, which is consistent with what is allowed in Multi Family-Residential zoning and with what staff has required from the hotels that have previously made the same SUP request. This property is slightly over an acre. However, the Planning Commission has recommended approval of this SUP request as submitted with no conditions.

Mayor Stevenson called a Public Hearing to order concerning the SUP request. Speaking in favor of the SUP request was Mr. Wayne Robinson, 613 Turner McCall Boulevard, Rome. Mr. Robinson displayed a drawing of his proposed reuse of the Oyo Hotel to apartments. 22 one-bedroom apartments are proposed with a painted brick façade, new roof, the addition of columns,

and fenced parking area. No one was present to speak in opposition to the SUP request, and Mayor Stevenson closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Quick moved to approve the SUP request for a change in use from a hotel to apartments for property zoned Community Commercial located at Avenue A, identified as Floyd County Tax Parcel J13Y-479 as submitted with no conditions. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion.

Mayor Stevenson asked if there was any discussion from the Commission. Commissioner Collins questioned Brice Wood if the Planning Commission's vote to approve the SUP request included the conditions recommended by Planning Staff. Mr. Wood stated that the Planning Commission's vote did not include the conditions recommended by Planning Staff. Mr. Wood stated that whether to approve the SUP request with or without the Planning Staff's recommended conditions would be decided by the City Commission. Commissioner McDaniel emphasized the Commission's focus on redeveloping properties like this small hotel to apartment buildings and the improvement it will be to this area and the adjoining Avenue A historic neighborhood. Commissioner Askew asked Mr. Robinson the cost of rent, and Mr. Robinson replied approximately \$1,000 a month. Commissioner Cochran asked Commissioner Quick if his motion to approve the SUP request was without the condition by the Planning Staff, and Commissioner Quick replied that his motion did not include the condition recommended by the Planning Staff. Commissioner Doss acknowledged the proven reputation of Mr. Robinson's previous projects in our community.

With there being no further discussion, the vote was unanimously in favor.

Z22-05-03 Rezone property at 0 Burnett Circle

Z22-05-03, the request to rezone from Office Institutional to Suburban Residential for the property located at 0 Burnett Circle, identified as Floyd County Tax Parcel H13J-130 was presented. The Planning Commission and Staff have recommended approval of the rezoning request.

Assistant Planner Brice Wood reviewed this file, displaying maps and photographs of the subject and surrounding properties. The applicant is requesting to rezone the parcel from Office Institutional to Suburban Residential to construct a single-family residence. Mr. Wood stated that the majority of the neighboring parcels consist of Suburban Residential.

Mayor Stevenson called a Public Hearing to order concerning the rezoning request. Speaking in favor of the rezoning request was Mr. Walt Busby, 333 W. 9th Street, Rome. Mr. Busby stated that his plan is to construct a single-family residence on this parcel, which is currently a parking lot. There was no one present to speak in opposition to the SUP request, and Mayor Stevenson closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Quick moved to approve the request to rezone from Office Institutional to Suburban Residential for the property located at 0 Burnett Circle, identified as Floyd County Tax Parcel H13J-130. Commissioner Collins seconded.

With there being no discussion or questions by the Commission on this rezoning request, the vote was as follows:

YES: Cochran, Beeman, Doss, Quick, Askew, Collins, McDaniel
ABSTAIN: Bojo

Z22-05-04 Commerce Court

Z22-05-04, the request to rezone from Heavy Commercial to Light Industrial for the property located at 14 and 15 Commerce Court, identified as Floyd County Tax Parcels J15W-250 and J15W-251 was presented. The Planning Commission and Staff have recommended approval of the rezoning request.

Assistant Planner Brice Wood reviewed this file, displaying maps and photographs of the subject and surrounding properties. The applicant is requesting to rezone these parcels from Heavy Commercial to Light Industrial for the purpose of a general warehousing operation and wishes to use the structure as a carpentry studio/storage area.

Mayor Stevenson called a Public Hearing to order concerning the rezoning request. There was no one to speak in favor of or in opposition to the rezoning request, and Mayor Stevenson closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Quick moved to approve the request to rezone from Heavy Commercial to Light Industrial for the property located at 14 and 15 Commerce Court, identified as Floyd County Tax Parcels J15W-250 and J15W-251. Commissioner Askew seconded.

With there being no discussion or questions by the Commission on this rezoning request, the vote was unanimously in favor.

Z22-05-05 Redmond Road

Z22-05-05, the request to rezone from Neighborhood Office Commercial to Duplex Residential for the property located at 301 and 303 Redmond Road, identified as Floyd County Tax Parcels I13W-098 and I13W-099 was presented. The Planning Commission and Staff have recommended approval of the rezoning request with the condition that the units face outwards toward Redmond Road and Timothy Avenue.

Assistant Planner Brice Wood reviewed this file, displaying maps and photographs of the subject and surrounding properties. The applicant is requesting to rezone these parcels from Neighborhood Office Commercial to Duplex Residential for the construction of four duplex residences with a total of eight units. Mr. Wood stated that the proposed use is consistent with another duplex development currently being constructed at the corner of Redmond Road and Raymond Avenue.

Mayor Stevenson called a Public Hearing to order concerning the rezoning request. Speaking in favor of this rezoning was Mr. Wayne Robinson, 613 Turner McCall Boulevard, Rome. Mr. Robinson displayed a drawing of his proposed redevelopment for the property, which will blend well with the neighborhood. There was no one to speak in opposition to the rezoning request, and Mayor Stevenson closed the Public Hearing.

Commissioner Quick moved to approve the request to rezone from Neighborhood Office Commercial to Duplex Residential for the property located at 301 and 303 Redmond Road, identified as Floyd County Tax Parcels I13W-098 and I13W-099 with the condition that the proposed duplex units face outwards toward Timothy Avenue and Redmond Road. Commissioner Askew seconded.

Mayor Stevenson asked if there was any discussion by the Commission on the rezoning request. Commissioner Cochran asked if the proposed duplex units would be facing outwards toward Timothy Avenue and Redmond Road since the drawing of the proposed project shows them facing inwards to a common courtyard. Commissioner Quick asked Mr. Robinson to clarify this for the Commission. Mr. Robinson stated that the drawing did show the duplex units facing inward. However, during the Planning Commission meeting, it was recommended that the duplex units face outwards toward Timothy Avenue and Redmond Road, and he agreed with their recommendation.

With there being no further discussion or questions by the Commission on this rezoning request, the vote was unanimously in favor.

Joint Services Committee

Mayor Stevenson announced that the Joint Services Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 7 at 8:30 a.m. at the Floyd County Administration Building.

Finance Committee

Commissioner Cochran reported that the Finance Committee met recently with the Rome City Board of Education presenting their budget for the 2022-2023 school year. Among other items, this budget includes a \$2,000 employee raise, and no millage increase is expected to cover these expenses.

Public Works Committee

Commissioner Cochran reported that service issues where City and County streets come together were discussed at their last meeting. There were no immediate resolutions, and discussion of these service issues will continue.

Redevelopment Committee

Commissioner Bojo announced that the Redevelopment Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 25 at 2:30 p.m. in the Sam King Room at City Hall.

Water and Sewer Committee

Commissioner Bojo announced that the Water and Sewer Committee will meet on Thursday, June 2 at 9:00 a.m. in the Sam King Room at City Hall.

Historic Preservation Committee

Commissioner Beeman reported that the Historic Preservation Committee met last week. Two certificates of appropriateness were approved for a property on Glenn Milner Boulevard and a property on Broad Street.

Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful

Commissioner Beeman reported that Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful met today. Saturday, June 18 has been designated as “Your Community Cleanup Day”. Neighborhoods, churches and community organizations are encouraged to participate in this event from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A thank you appreciation luncheon will follow at Ridge Ferry Park.

Library Board

Commissioner Beeman announced that the Library Board will meet on Thursday, May 26 at 4:00 p.m. in the Sarah Hightower Regional Library and that the groundbreaking ceremony for the amphitheater project, located between the trail system and the Oostanaula River at the Sarah Hightower Regional Library, will be held on Tuesday, May 24 at 3 p.m. The summer reading program will begin on May 31. The supplies have been ordered and received for the story walk on the trails, and plans are underway to implement this program.

Tourism

Commissioner Doss announced that the Tourism Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 25 at 11:45 a.m. in the Rome Area History Center.

Rome/Floyd Planning Commission

Commissioner Quick announced that the Rome/Floyd Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, June 2 at 2:30 p.m. in the Sam King Room at City Hall.

Public Safety Committee

Commissioner Askew announced that the Exchange Club of Rome recognized Corporal Keith Sheffield of the Rome/Floyd County Fire Department and Police Officer Tony Boston of the Rome Police Department as officers of the year on Friday, May 20.

Solid Waste Commission

Commissioner Askew announced that the Solid Waste Commission meeting that was scheduled for Tuesday, May 24 has been cancelled.

General Administration Committee

Commissioner Collins announced that the General Administration Committee will meet on Tuesday, June 21 at 11:00 a.m. in the Carnegie Building.

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Commissioner McDaniel announced that the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission will meet on Thursday, May 26 at 11:00 a.m. at the Rome Civic Center.

Rome/Floyd Parks and Recreation

Commissioner McDaniel announced that the Rome/Floyd Parks and Recreation has prepared a needs assessment survey for citizens to complete. There has been a very low response to the survey thus far. Commissioner McDaniel encouraged the Commissioners and community members to please complete the survey.

Memorial Day Holiday Closing

City Manager Sammy Rich announced that City offices will be closed on Monday, May 30 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Monday's garbage route will be serviced on Tuesday, and Tuesday's garbage route will be serviced on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday's schedule will not change.

Adjourn

With there being no further business, Mayor Stevenson adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Joye G. Weeks
Assistant City Clerk