



Joint Services Committee Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Caucus Room, 12 East 4th Ave. 8:30 AM

STAFF PRESENT: Wright Bagby, *Chair, Floyd County Board of Commissioners*
Allison Watters, *Vice Chair, Floyd County Board of Commissioners*
Sundai Stevenson, *Mayor, Rome City Commission*
Mark Cochran, *Mayor Pro-Tem, Rome City Commission*
Jamie McCord, *County Manager*
Erin Elrod, *County Clerk, Community Services Division Director*
Sammy Rich, *City Manager*
Meredith Ulmer, *Assistant City Manager*
Joe Smith, *City Clerk*
Kelley Parker, *Assistant to the City Manager*
Doug Walker, *Public Information Officer, City of Rome*

PRESENT VIA PHONE: Rob Ware, *Mayor, City of Cave Spring*

OTHERS PRESENT: Olivia Morley, *Rome News-Tribune*

I. Welcome — Floyd County Chair, Wright Bagby

Chair Bagby called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of the May 3, 2022 Minutes

The minutes were approved by common consent.

III. New Business

a. SPLOST discussions

County Clerk Erin Elrod stated as of right now the plan for applications is to open the system application project on July 1st and run it through mid-November. This would allow time to have City and County employees to review and vet the citizen projects before the committee would begin meeting in late May or early June.

Mr. McCord then called the City of Cave Spring Mayor Rob Ware and Mrs. Elrod gave him an overview of the proposed timeline from the system application

project until the November 2023 election date. Mr. Ware stated it sounded similar to their previous process, Mrs. Elrod stated it was with the exception of changing the citizen application process and allowing staff to actually vet those processes to ensure that the committee understands the possible operational costs that could be associated with these projects.

Mayor Ware asked what the deadline would be for citizen applications on projects. Mrs. Elrod stated November 2022. Mr. Ware stated his concern is timing for staff to have enough time to survey the applications and predict the impact of the project on operations. Mr. McCord stated they would have about five to six months for this. Mr. McCord also assured Mr. Ware this would not be the determining factor for considering a project, it would just be evaluated by staff as an estimate for costs and impact. Mayor Ware stated the process sounded good to him. Mr. McCord stated the next steps would be to publicize it and give both Boards an overview.

Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Cochran asked the Committee's opinion on guidelines regarding budget and the number that would be presented with a project. City of Rome Mayor Sundai Stevenson and City Manager Sammy Rich then discussed the expectations and the scope for the committee and what guidelines that would entail.

Mayor Ware stated one of the things that we have gotten away from is passing a complimentary GO (General Obligation) Bond issue with the SPLOST; years ago when they did that they were able to save money by doing that, however he noted that is not the case now. Mr. Rich stated he agreed depending on the project. Mayor Ware stated with the recent inflation, we needed to revisit that concept. Chair Bagby agreed.

Vice Chair Watters asked where we were in regards to signage, Mrs. Elrod stated it was in progress and should be completed in July and August.

b. LOST discussions

Mr. McCord stated he and Mr. Rich have been discussing LOST over the last few weeks and have focused on Parks and Recreation and the County Police Department and gave a brief overview on those discussions. Stated Floyd County is one of the few counties in Georgia to have their own police department, and only five (5) of those have millage rates which has been the discussion for the unincorporated areas. Mr. McCord stated if we pick and choose what we focus on to see what is equitable, the County Police do serve both the city and county. Mr. McCord then went over counties that are in comparison with our situation. Stated it is less complicated to just focus on Recreation and the Police Department, but if you make one change, you would then need to look at the overall picture, including but not limiting to, population, general fund, and some other inequities.

Chair Bagby asked if we voted on the time frame at the last meeting, Mr. McCord stated we did not and we are currently ahead of deadlines. By July 1st, we have to start negotiations where we would have sixty (60) days to complete negotiations,

if we have not completed those, we would need to start working towards arbitration and a Resolution adopted before December 30, 2022. Stated right now the rate for Floyd County is at 56.5, City of Rome at 41.7, and City of Cave Spring at 1.8.

Chair Bagby asked if there was any action that the entities needed to take in regards to this or is this already in place. Mr. McCord stated the County would need to formally submit a letter as a formality stating when the discussions are to be held.

The committee then discussed different millage rates across Georgia counties and different factors to consider for rates. The committee agreed all aspects needed to be considered in these discussions. Mr. Rich stated the City appreciates their partnership with the County Police, and they are interested in exploring the options. Chair Bagby stated he would like to see the recommendations from Mr. McCord and Mr. Rich from their discussions and go from there.

c. Parker Fiber at EOC

Mr. McCord stated we previously approved an agreement ten (10) years ago when Parker provided fiber to the Emergency Operations Center when the facility was built, we paid in advance a ten (10) year agreement with them to provide internet; this agreement is expiring at the end of July or August and a proposal has been received with a monthly increase of \$650 per month for up to thirty-six (36) months; however, they also provided an alternate offer of a ten (10) year pre-pay plan in the amount of \$50,000.00 with a savings of \$28,000.00 which would also lock us into a price for ten (10) years. Mr. McCord stated he and Mr. Rich had discussed it earlier in the week and believed the pre-pay plan is the best option. Chair Bagby asked for a motion to recommend to the commissions. Mayor Stevenson made a motion to approve, seconded by Vice Chair Watters with everyone voting in favor.

d. Banty Jones Park

Mr. Rich stated at the last discussion, the City had expressed the desire to utilize ARPA money, however they now have entitlement money that needs to be spent and will be opening bids on the ninth. Stated there was some discussion at the most recent Parks and Recreation meeting and from the City's perspective, they are awaiting acknowledgement from the County on the operations and expenses. Mrs. Elrod stated they also discussed the timeline, with the bid opening on Thursday with a thirty (30) day opening, which would be ongoing through mid-July, with another Joint Services meeting the first Tuesday in August, where all the numbers should be available. Stated Parks and Recreation Director Todd Wofford would then be able to visualize the true plan and provide more accurate operating costs. Stated they would then be able to bring the numbers to the next Joint Services meeting, and based on the recommendation from Joint Services, take it to the Recreation Board, where it would then be taken to both City and County Commissions for approval. Mrs. Elrod stated this would most likely call for a Special Called Recreation Board meeting in August.

e. Focused on Floyd / Bridge Academy

Vice Chair Watters stated while attending Tourism Board, there was a discussion regarding the need to have a joint session with both City and County services for their Focused on Floyd and Bridge Academy programs. Mrs. Elrod stated she and Mr. Rich have previously discussed this and she would reach out to Sarah Huffman at the City to organize a joint session for each program to interact and discuss their services.

IV. Other Business

V. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned.