

ROME CITY COMMISSION

Monday, August 8, 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 Bojo opened the meeting with prayer and led in the salute to the flag.

Minutes – July 25, 2022

The Minutes of the July 25, 2022, meeting, as submitted in writing by the Secretary with one correction noted, were approved by unanimous consent.

Gastroparesis Awareness Month

Commissioner McDaniel presented a proclamation recognizing August 2022 as Gastroparesis Awareness Month in the City of Rome.

Rezoning & Special Use Permit Requests – First Reading

Secretary Smith reported that the following Rezoning and Special Use Permit requests were being placed on First Reading:

- a) Z22-08-01 – Request to rezone from Community Commercial to High Density Traditional Residential for the property located at 11 W. Forest Street; Floyd County Tax Parcel J14E-231. (Planning Commission recommends approval, 7-0)
- b) Z22-08-05 – Request to rezone from Community Commercial to Multi-Family Residential for the property located at 23 Chateau Drive; Floyd County Tax Parcel J15W-469B and portions of parcels J15W-470, J15W-472 and J15W-471. (Planning Commission recommends approval with conditions, 7-0)
- c) SUP22-08-01 – Request for a special use permit to use as a house of worship for property zoned High Density Traditional Residential located at 333 Branham Avenue; Floyd County Tax Parcels I14W-433 and I14W-491. (Planning Commission recommends approval, 7-0)
- d) SUP22-08-02 – Request for a special use permit to operate an indoor gun range for property zoned Community Commercial located at 1200 Dean Avenue; Floyd County Tax Parcels J14J-343 and J14J-344. (Planning Commission recommends approval, 7-0)

A public hearing for these items is scheduled for the August 22nd City Commission Meeting.

Charter Amendment – Increase Rome City Commission Salary

Commissioner Collins reported that the General Administration Committee has recommended that the Rome City Charter be amended to increase the salary of the Rome City Commission and the Rome City Board of Education. This recommendation was placed on First Reading at the July 12th city Commission Meeting. The proposed amendment has been advertised in the Rome

News Tribune. It was continued on First Reading at the July 25th meeting and is now ready for action.

Secretary Smith explained that the proposed amendment would increase the Rome City Commission salary from \$8,400 per year to \$12,000 per year. The mayor would continue to receive a 10% premium. The Rome Board of Education members are paid a salary equal to half of the Rome City Commission salary. The City Commission salary was last increased with a charter amendment in August 1997. That action raised the City Commission salary from \$6,600 per year to \$8,400 per year. If this amendment is approved, it will go into effect January 2024 following the next City Commission election scheduled for November 2023.

Commissioner Collins moved to approve the charter amendment which would raise the City Commission salary from \$8,400 per year to \$12,000 per year as recommended by the General Administration Committee and Commissioner Askew seconded the motion.

There was brief discussion by the City Commission concerning this proposed amendment with Commissioner Collins reminding everyone that it has been 25 years since the salary was changed and the proposed increase is in keeping with elected officials' salaries of comparable cities. Commissioner McDaniel clarified that City Commissioners were eligible for other City benefits such as life insurance and health insurance. While not all Commissioners choose to have City health insurance those that do opt for health insurance receive a higher monetary benefit than the other Commissioners. Commissioner Askew stated that a salary increase will help attract new and younger City Commission candidates and help compensate them for the time spent away from their families. Commissioner Doss stated that the real compensation for a City Commissioner is the service they provide to city residents. Commissioner Quick reminded everyone that the City of Rome expends funds to help train City Commissioners through the Georgia Municipal Association and the University of Georgia. Commissioner Beeman spoke in favor of the proposed amendment. With the discussion concluded, the motion to adopt the amendment was approved by the following vote:

YES: COCHRAN, BEEMAN, ASKEW, COLLINS and MAYOR STEVENSON

NO: BOJO, DOSS, QUICK and McDANIEL

2022 Rome Board of Education Elections

Secretary Smith reminded the Commission that, while 2022 is not a traditional City of Rome election year, there will be an election held this year to fill the vacancy on the Rome Board of Education. Earlier this year Rome Board of Education member John Uldrich resigned. The remaining School Board Members appointed someone to fill that vacancy in the interim, however the remaining three years of the four-year term will be settled during the November 2022 election.

The qualifying period for those seeking to compete in the 2022 election will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Monday August 15th and will extend through 4:30 p.m. on Friday August 19th. Candidates wishing to qualify can do so in the City Clerks Office.

Local Option Sales Tax Committee

Mayor Stevenson announced that the Local Option Sales Tax Negotiation Committee will meet on Monday, August 15th at 1:00 p.m. in the Sam King Room with representatives from the Floyd County Commission.

Rome/Floyd Development Authority

Mayor Stevenson announced that the Rome/Floyd Development Authority will meet on Tuesday, August 16th at 10:00 a.m. at the Manis Business Center.

Rome City Commission Special Called Meeting

Mayor Stevenson announced that the Rome City Commission will meet in a Special Called Meeting with the Rome Board of Education on Wednesday, August 17th at 10:30 a.m. in the City Chambers.

Public Works/Traffic/Transit Committee

Mayor Pro Tem Cochran announced that the Public Works/Traffic/Transit Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 10th at 10:00 a.m. in the Sam King Room.

Low-Income Water Assistance Program

Bojo reported on the Low-Income Water Assistance Program funded by Tallatoona. The City of Rome has received \$60,446 year to date as a result of this program and approximately 160 persons have participated. This program is scheduled to end September 2022.

Alcohol Control Commission

Commissioner Beeman announced that the Alcohol Control Commission will meet on Monday, August 15th at 5:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers.

Historic Preservation Commission

Commissioner Beeman announced that the Historic Preservation Commission will meet on Wednesday, August 17th at 2:30 p.m. in the Sam King Room.

Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Commission

Commissioner Beeman announced that there was a Trail for Recreation and Economic Development (TRED) Clean Up held on Saturday, August 6th at the Rome Towne Green.

Tourism

Commissioner Doss reported that the Rome Tennis Center at Berry College continues to attract a large number of visitors to our community. Former Heavy Weight Boxing Champion Mike Tyson was in town recently as his daughter participated in an event at our Tennis Center.

Downtown Development Authority

Commissioner Quick announced that the Downtown Development Authority will meet on Thursday, August 11th at 8:30 a.m. in the Carnegie Training Room.

Fire Overview

Commissioner Askew announced that the Fire Overview Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 9th at 10:30 a.m. in the Sam King Room.

Mandy Maloney, Millie Kim and Logan Boss – Historic Preservation Commission

Commissioner Collins moved to reappoint Mandy Maloney, appoint Rev. Millie Kim and appoint Logan Boss to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission. Ms. Maloney and Rev. Kim will be appointed to three-year terms, Mr. Boss will fill the remaining term created by the resignation of Chris Davidson. Commission Doss seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Community Development Committee

Commissioner Collins announced that the Community Development Committee will meet on Wednesday, August 10th at 8:30 a.m. the Carnegie Training Room.

Northwest Georgia Regional Commission

Commissioner McDaniel announced that the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission will meet on Thursday, August 18th at 11:00 a.m. at the Civic Center.

Rome/Floyd Parks and Recreation

Commissioner McDaniel announced that the Rome/Floyd Parks and Recreation Committee will meet on Tuesday, August 16th at 12:45 p.m. at the Shorter Avenue headquarters.

Adjourn

With there being no further business, Mayor Stevenson adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Joseph F. Smith
City Clerk