



GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, October 26, 2021
Minutes

The City of Rome General Administration Committee met at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 in the Carnegie Training Room.

Members present:

Chairman Jamie Doss	Commissioner Jim Bojo
Commissioner, Bill Collins	Sammy Rich, City Manager
Toni Rhinehart, Finance Director	Kristy Shepard, HR/RM Director
Johnny Bunch, OTS Director	Lisa Smith, Tourism/RTC
Mark Green, Recording Secretary	

Members absent:

Bill Collins, Commissioner	Joe Smith, City Clerk
Meredith Ulmer, Assistant City Manager	Andy Davis, City Attorney

Guests in attendance:

Chris Boden, Rome City Schools	Chuck Shaw, Gallagher
Doug Walker, City of Rome Public Relations	

Chairman Jamie Doss called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM.

I. Minutes

The Minutes from July 21, 2021, August 4, 2021, and September 8, 2021 were approved by common consent.

II. New Business – None.

III. Old Business – None.

IV. Reports

Golf

Patrick Kirn presented the reports for Stonebridge Golf. Kirn began, "We are sitting at a \$47,000 profit." Applause filled the room. Kirn continued, "Our memberships are still strong." Regarding expenses, Kirn advised the committee of the intent to hire an additional assistant manager in the coming year. The report indicates that Golf Ops is up from last year. Kirn mentioned an increase price of range balls as one of the primary reasons the Golf Ops line item is increased. Kirn concluded, "We expect to finish in the black this year."

Doug Walker questioned, "What was the college tournament that was out there yesterday?" Kirn responded, "They are out there today too. It is the Chick-Fil-A invitational that Berry hosts... it is a great event."

Rome Tennis Center (RTC)

Lisa Smith provided a report for the Rome Tennis Center. Smith began, "I have a couple of really (items of) good news. Starting today, the Cliff-Drysdale Tennis transition team is in town. They will be with us for three days... we are really excited about that." Regarding facilities, Smith reported that programming fees are 157% over budget.

Smith notified the committee of an increase in the cost of goods for the RTC. Smith concluded, "We are really excited. We have a good team... it has been a great recovery. It is time now for a tennis business to take over the RTC."

OTS Report

Johnny Bunch commented, "We are making our move to the .gov domain. The Federal Government, in 2019, passed a bill that all government agencies would have to move to a .gov email address... Beginning November 1st, that email address will be available to everyone (employees).

Bunch notified the committee that the City now has a Network Security Technician. This position has been filled by Havish Deepnarain. Regarding network security, 10% of the City's internet traffic is hostile. Doss questioned, "Where is it coming from?" Bunch responded, "All over... the attackers have gotten pretty smart."

Help desk tickets: Opened: 886 Closed: 799 Pending/Open: 87

The Granicus report indicates that 57 total views occurred. The viewership was led by Rome, Atlanta, Cartersville, Washington, and a host of other locations.

The MyRome Application had 13 work orders completed, and 8 are still in progress.

Human Resources Reports

Kristy Shepard presented reports for the Human Resources department. Shepard began by reviewing the Personnel Activity Report. Shepard began, "We all know we are struggling in the Police Department. We are down 17, but we are trying new recruitment efforts... A lot of our trade positions, like our Heavy Equipment Operators, we are struggling with those. I don't believe that is just municipalities, but the whole state/country (is struggling with hiring for these positions) as a whole." Shepard did notify the committee of an upcoming internal job fair, which will take place on December 1. The Diversity Breakdown report indicates that 108 employees have been hired this year, and 90 have separated.

Doss questioned, "What can we do about filling those police positions?" Shepard responded, "We have been trying to get a flyer together to send out and post online. Now that a flier is in place, we have several of our officers out there recruiting. Sammy Rich commented, "The chatter is pretty positive about the number of folks who are being talked to."

In previous meetings, questions were raised regarding Commission Compensation. Shepard commented on the subject after reviewing the personnel reports. Shepard commented, "There was one follow up to do (regarding Commissioner Compensation)." Someone wanted to know the age of the commissioners and size of commissions (from other municipalities surveyed). A lot of the HR departments will not respond with the ages, and we are one of the larger commissions.

Shepard moved forward to cover her report on Group Health Insurance. Shepard began, "We have shopped our health insurance (plan), that is why Chuck (Shaw) is here. We have asked Chuck to help us. We have been with Anthem over 25 years. The Customer Service, pass through fees, are a bit overwhelming. We confirmed that we are moving over to Cigna effective January 1, 2022. It is the same program that Floyd County has." Shepard went on to make more positive comments regarding the transition to Cigna.

Chuck Shaw commented, "It was a long process. We looked at over six different carriers... Cigna was by far the most competitive option. I think it is a great opportunity for the City to see a higher level of customer service... I think this is a positive move going forward."

Doss questioned, "What about the rate structure?" Shepard commented, "That was part of this transition process. We attempted to not pass anything on to the employee this year. However, depending on how claims continue to move, we will probably look at it mid-year. At this point, we are not passing on a rate increase."

Barron Stadium

Sammy Rich commented, "We did not include this as an agenda item, but I would like to introduce Chris Boden, who is the Athletic Director for Rome City Schools (RCS)." Rich reminded the Committee that one of the results of the new Barron Stadium Agreement is for a representative of RCS to report on Barron Stadium at the General Administration Committee meetings. Boden began, "Part of being the Athletic Director at RCS, is that I help manage Barron Stadium." Boden provided the committee with a report for Barron Stadium.

Commissioner Doss commented, "It is great that the stadium is being used by a lot of people. Have we had any feedback from Shorter (University)?" Boden responded, "... I think it has gone pretty well." Doss commented, "I am glad you (Boden) attended the meeting... I think we need to continue to work together."

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Green

Mark Green, Recording Secretary