

## **ROME CITY COMMISSION**

**Monday, May 22, 2023**

The Rome City Commission met at 6:30 p.m. on 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 Beeman opened the meeting with prayer and led in the salute to the flag.

### **Minutes – May 8, 2023**

The Minutes of the May 8, 2023, meeting, as submitted in writing by the Secretary, were approved by unanimous consent.

### **Public Works Week**

Commissioner Beeman presented a proclamation proclaiming the week of May 18 – 25 as Public Works Week in the City of Rome. This proclamation was presented to Public Works Director Chris Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins spoke on behalf of the City Public Works employees and outlined some of the major duties performed by his various departments, along with some interesting statistics.

Commissioners Doss, Collins, and Mayor Stevenson spoke on behalf of the excellent employees in the City of Rome’s Public Works departments.

### **BRIDGE Academy Graduates**

Human Resources Director Kristy Shepard and Assistant to the City Manager Kelley Parker spoke on behalf of the current (2<sup>nd</sup>) class of the City of Rome’s BRIDGE Academy. The BRIDGE Academy is a mechanism to help train city employees for supervisory advancement. The highlights of this nine month program were presented. The BRIDGE Academy graduates in the class of 2023 are as follows:

- Karen Austell – Transit
- Jennifer Bailey – DDA
- Gina Brown – Purchasing
- Cara Burgess – Human Resources
- Valerie Connell – Police
- Brandon Cook – Water
- Havish Deepnarain – OTS
- Tyler Fabian – Transit
- Mark Green – Clerk’s Office
- Ryan Harris – Police
- Kurtis Klemke – Water Reclamation
- Molly Majestic – Community Development
- Jenny Morales – Public Works
- Jenalee Roberts- Police
- Deron West – Public Works
- Brice Wood – Planning

### **Carrie Jones**

Ms. Carrie Jones, PO Box 1142, addressed the City Commission. Ms. Jones stated that her comments tonight were regarding consistency.

Ms. Jones referenced the oath of office that the City Commissioners take each time they are elected to office. Ms. Jones also quoted sections of the Rome City Charter as they pertain to the duties of the Rome City Commission. Additionally, Ms. Jones commented on Rome's adult entertainment ordinances, particularly referencing section 23-304 as it relates to potential, unpunished violations that occurred during the 2022 PFLAG event held in Heritage Park. Ms. Jones encouraged the City Commission to either enforce our adult entertainment ordinances or change those regulations.

### **Park Court Closing**

Commissioner McDaniel moved to adopt an ordinance which would finalize the process to close a portion of Park Court and deed the closed property to the adjoining property owners. Commissioner Beeman seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

### **A23-05-01 Annex 7 Billy Pyle Road**

Commissioner Quick presented annexation file A23-05-01 the request to annex property located at 7 Billy Pyle Road, identified by Floyd County Tax Map Number H13O-182, with zoning of Suburban Residential (no change). The Planning Commission and staff have unanimously recommended approval of this annexation request.

Assistant Rome/Floyd Planner Brice Wood reviewed this file, displaying maps, and photographs of the subject and surrounding properties. Mr. Wood stated this is a single family residential home.

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

Commissioner Quick moved to approve the annexation of 7 Billy Pyle Road with Suburban Residential zoning. Commissioner Askew seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

### **Z23-01-04 Rezone Technology Parkway**

Commissioner Quick presented rezoning file Z23-01-04 the request to rezone property located on Technology Parkway, identified by Floyd County Tax Map number H12W-016F and H12Z-006A, from Light Industrial to Heavy Industrial. Planning Commission staff has recommended denial and a motion made at the Planning Commission to deny the rezoning request failed via a 5-2 vote. As a result, a recommendation for approval has been submitted to the City Commission. Commissioner Cochran left the room at the introduction of this topic and did not return until this matter was concluded.

Assistant Rome/Floyd Planner Brice Wood reviewed this file, displaying maps, and photographs of the subject and surrounding properties. Mr. Wood stated that the owner of this property would like to establish a wood incinerator operation at this site. The primary reason for staff denial is the size of the lots. These lots are fairly small for a property zoned Heavy Industrial. Mr. Wood referenced a letter of opposition from Berry College and one from the Rome/Floyd Industrial Development Commission. Comments regarding this potential use have also been submitted by the Georgia Forestry Commission.

Mayor Stevenson called a public hearing to order concerning this rezoning request. Speaking in favor of the rezoning was Mr. Lee Bagley, 932 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Mr. Bagley is the owner of this property and stated that he would like to relocate his wood incinerator operation to this site. Mr. Bagley stated that his operation uses a high level of technology and does not produce any smell, smoke, and very little ash. Mr. Bagley stated that he owns this property and since there has been little development on Technology Parkway during the past 10 years, he would like to use his property for this operation. He stated that if a better use for this property is found, his incinerator can be moved from the site with no permanent modifications to the property. With there being no further comments, Mayor Stevenson closed the public hearing.

Commissioner Quick moved to approve the rezoning request and Commissioner Collins seconded.

Commissioner McDaniel asked if there are any similar facilities of this nature in Floyd County and he asked if warehouse facilities were allowed in a Heavy Industrial zone. Mr. Wood stated that he was not aware of any similar facilities and that warehouses are not allowed in an H-I zone, but are allowed in an L-I zone.

The motion to approve the rezoning was adopted by the following vote:

**YES: Beeman, Doss, Quick, Askew, Collins, and McDaniel**  
**NO: Bojo**

**Z23-05-05 Rezone 1219 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave**

Commissioner Quick presented rezoning file Z23-05-05 the request to rezone 1219 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. identified by Floyd County Tax Map number J14J-328 from Community Commercial to Light Industrial. The Planning Commission and staff have unanimously recommended approval of this rezoning.

Assistant Rome/Floyd Planner Brice Wood reviewed this file, displaying maps, and photographs of the subject and surrounding properties. Mr. Wood stated that there are no other Industrial zoned properties adjoining this site, however there are Heavy Commercial adjoining zones. The applicant indicates they plan to use this property for coffee grinding and roasting. This facility would likely be served by box trucks, rather than tractor trailers.

Mayor Stevenson called a public hearing to order concerning the request. There was no one speaking in favor or opposition and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Quick moved to approve the rezoning request of 1219 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. from Community Commercial to Light Industrial. Commissioner Askew seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

**Memorial Day Holiday**

City Manager Rich reported that City offices will be closed on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. Garbage, yard waste, and recycling services will be amended next week due to the holiday. The Walker Mountain Landfill will be closed on Memorial Day.

**Rome/Floyd Development Authority**

Mayor Stevenson announced that the rescheduled meeting of the Rome/Floyd Development Authority will meet on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the boardroom at 800 Broad Street.

**Health Board**

Commissioner Cochran announced that the Health Board will meet on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at noon at the Floyd County Health Department.

**Community Redevelopment Committee**

Commissioner Bojo announced that the Community Redevelopment Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the Sam King Room.

**Billy Pyle Property – Land Bank Authority**

Commissioner Bojo moved for the City of Rome to transfer property owned by the City of Rome to the Rome/Floyd Land Bank Authority. This property is located on Billy Pyle Road near the intersection of Coker Drive and identified by Floyd County Tax Map number H13Y-678. The City of Rome will keep a 40 foot strip of property within this tract that will be used for water and sewer access. Commissioner Askew seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

**Banty Jones Park**

City Manager Rich was asked to report on funding from the Governor’s Grant Program to be used at Banty Jones Park. Approximately \$2.2 million is expected to be received for this facility. Banty Jones will become Rome’s newest community park.

**Transportation Policy Committee**

Commissioner Bojo announced there will be a called Transportation Policy Committee meeting on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. in the Carnegie Training Room.

**Water and Sewer Committee**

Commissioner Bojo announced that the Water and Sewer Committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> has been postponed. A rescheduled date will be announced when available.

**Downtown Development Authority**

Commissioner Quick announced that the Downtown Development Authority will meet on Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Carnegie Training Room.

**Rome/Floyd Planning Commission**

Commissioner Quick announced that the Rome/Floyd Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the Sam King Room.

**Solid Waste Commission**

Commissioner Askew announced that the Solid Waste Commission will meet on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Sam King Room.

**General Administration**

Commissioner Collins announced that the General Administration Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> has been cancelled.

**Tourism**

Commissioner McDaniel announced that the Tourism Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m. at the Rome Area History Center.

**Executive Session**

Mayor Stevenson announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the beginning of tonight's meeting. The purpose of this Executive Session was to discuss a pending litigation matter and no votes were taken. Commissioner Beeman moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner McDaniel, and the motion passed with a 5-3 vote. Commissioner Quick moved to adjourn Executive Session, Commissioner Beeman seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

**Adjourn**

With there being no further business, Mayor Stevenson adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Joseph F. Smith  
City Clerk