



GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Minutes

The City of Rome General Administration Committee met at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, in the Carnegie Training Room.

Members present:

Commissioner Bill Collins, Chairperson
Sammy Rich, City Manager
Joe Smith, City Clerk
Kristy Shepard, HR/RM Director
David Hoyt, Stonebridge Golf
Lisa Smith, Tourism/RTC
Mark Green, Recording Secretary

Commissioner Randy Quick
Meredith Ulmer, Asst. City Manager
Toni Rhinehart, Finance Director
Johnny Bunch, OTS Director
Colt Gaston, RTC
Chris Boden, Rome City Schools

Members absent:

Commissioner Jamie Doss

Andy Davis, City Attorney

Guests present:

Doug Walker, Public Information Officer
Dr. Eric Holland, Rome City Schools

Kelley Parker, Assistant to the City Manager

Chairperson Bill Collins called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM.

I. Minutes

The minutes from August 23, 2022, October 6, 2022, and February 2, 2023 were approved by common consent.

II. New Business

Broadband Ordinance – Meredith Ulmer

Meredith Ulmer began by introducing a draft of the City's potential Broadband Ordinance. Ulmer commented, "As you know, the Planning department is working on the 5-year comprehensive plan update. One of the new requirements to the update from DCA (Department of Community Affairs) is for cities across the state to become "Broadband Ready" cities." Ulmer notified the Committee that adopting this ordinance would make the City eligible to apply for state grants to be used for internet connectivity.

Collins questioned, "What would that actually do for Rome?" Ulmer responded, "It would allow us to be eligible for federal and state funding." After a brief discussion, a motion was made.

MOTION: Commissioner Quick motioned to send the Broadband Ordinance to the Commission for approval.

2nd motion: Commissioner Collins seconded the motion.

II. Old Business

Youth Council – Kelley Parker

Kelley Parker began a discussion regarding the proposed Youth Council. Parker began by explaining the background behind the idea for the City to have a Youth Council. Parker was joined by the Superintendent for Rome City Schools (RCS), Dr. Holland. Parker informed the Committee that Dr. Holland and RCS have a program similar in nature to the City's idea for a Youth Council. Parker commented, "After talking with Dr. Holland, I think this is something that we can work together on."

Commissioner Quick commented, "Rather than completely reinventing the wheel, ... I think it would be wonderful to build this partnership, work together, and utilize the resources that a lot of communities don't have." Commissioner Collins commented, "I couldn't have said that better."

MOTION: Commissioner Quick motioned to approve the City to continue to work with RCS on the Youth Council. 2nd motion: Commissioner Collins seconded the motion.

III. Reports

Stonebridge Golf

Joe Smith and David Hoyt presented the reports for Stonebridge Golf. Smith began by commenting, "As is always the case, we are "in the red" early in the year." The report indicates that Stonebridge's YTD net operating income for 2023 is (\$56,782). Smith noted that Stonebridge was "further behind" last year, and still managed to finish "strong."

Smith continued to offer positive comments regarding the course. Commissioner Quick commented, "We are heading in the right direction." Commissioner Collins asked Hoyt, "How is your help?" Hoyt responded, "In general, the ones that do work for us are great... I am very happy with them." Commissioner Collins requested that a future General Administration meeting be held at Stonebridge. Smith notified the committee of an upcoming irrigation system and cart path project at the course.

Rome Tennis Center

Colt Gaston presented the reports for Rome Tennis Center. Gaston commented, "Today is a great example of what has been going on for the last two months." Gaston informed the committee that several local high schools were participating in regional tournaments. Gaston reminded the committee that the Tennis Center wanted to "keep the price right" for local schools. In addition to local schools, Gaston reported that a few colleges in the state have been renting the indoor facilities. Gaston continued to inform the committee of many future tournaments and professional events upcoming at the tennis center.

The financial reports submitted for RTC indicate the Rome Tennis Center at Berry College had net income of (\$11,513), and the Downtown center had a net income of \$8,516 for the month of February. Gaston commented on the growth of pickleball at the Downtown center. Commissioner Quick questioned, "How broad are the demographics for pickleball?" Gaston responded, "I think the question is how long it is going to sustain... I think a lot of us thought it would fade away, but it is coming on stronger." Commissioner Collins questioned, "Has research been done for the possibility of us having a marquee sign on Martha Berry Highway?" Lisa Smith responded, "We do have plans for a monument sign at Match Point Way... Before 2020 hit, we budgeted for a marquee sign on Turner McCall." Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a marquee sign. Collins asked that the City explore the idea of creating a marquee sign for the purpose of advertising the tennis center.

Barron Stadium

Chris Boden presented the reports for Barron Stadium. Boden began by informing the Committee of several positive comments he has received regarding Barron Stadium. Boden notified the Committee that Barron Stadium has hosted two professional soccer events in the past calendar year. In addition, Boden informed the Committee that Shorter University will host their home games at Barron Stadium in 2023. Boden also noted many future events taking place at Barron Stadium.

Boden reminded the committee that 2024 will be the 100th anniversary of Barron Stadium. With that, he is planning on creating a committee to plan a celebration. Doug Walker presented an idea for the committee to consider. Collins questioned, "Do we have any film of old East Rome or West Rome football games?" Boden responded, "... I haven't found anything."

OTS Report

Johnny Bunch presented the reports for the Office of Technology Services (OTS). Bunch commented, "We have begun to roll out the changeover from HP switching to the Fortinet product. The new switches will raise our security posture to better respond to security threats." Bunch notified the committee that the malicious attacks against our system have increased.

Help desk tickets: Opened: 1,440 Closed: 1,327 Pending/Open: 113

Human Resources Reports

Kristy Shepard presented the Human Resources Reports. Shepard began, "The first reports show we have 652 filled positions right now. 599 are full-time (positions)." Shepard notified the committee of the departments with vacant positions. Shepard reviewed the diversity breakdown and the separation by years of service reports.

Risk Management Reports

Kristy Shepard presented the Risk Management reports. Most notably, the pharmacy at the Employee Clinic amassed \$22,438 in savings for the month of March 2023. Regarding group health insurance, Shepard notified the committee that claims are "not looking good for this year." With that, a mid-year review will be held this year to assess premium costs. Shepard continued to review the reports submitted for workers' compensation claims and liability claims.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Green

Mark Green, Recording Secretary