

# ROME CITY COMMISSION

Monday, January 10, 2022

The Rome City Commission met at 6:30 p.m. this date in the City Commission Chambers at City Hall, 601 Broad Street. Commissioners McDaniel, Stevenson, Bojo, Cochran, Doss, Quick, Askew, and Collins were present. Commissioner Askew opened the meeting with prayer and led in the salute to the flag.

## **Oath of Office – Ward 2 Commissioners**

Floyd County Chief Superior Court Judge Jack Niedrach was present and administered the Oath of Office to the Ward 2 Commissioners who were elected (or re-elected) during the 2021 Election. The oath was administered to Elaina Beeman, Jamie Doss, and Randy Quick. Each of these Commissioners will begin a 4-year term in office.

## **Executive Session**

Commissioner McDaniel announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the beginning of tonight's meeting on the motion of Commissioner Stevenson, seconded by Commissioner Bojo and an unanimous vote. One litigation matter was discussed. No votes were taken. Commissioner Askew moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Bojo seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

## **Minutes – December 20, 2021**

The Minutes of the December 20, 2021 meeting, as submitted in writing by the Secretary, were approved by an unanimous consent.

## **Elect Mayor**

Assistant City Attorney Frank Beacham assumed control of the meeting for the purpose of conducting the election of the 2022 Rome City Commission Mayor. Mr. Beacham opened the floor for nominations. Commissioner Collins nominated Commissioner Stevenson to serve as the City Commission Mayor for 2022. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Askew.

Commissioner Quick nominated Commissioner McDaniel to continue serving as the City Commission Mayor in 2022. Commissioner Doss seconded the motion. With there being no further nominations, the nominations were closed by unanimous consent. Mr. Beacham now called for a voice vote for the election of the 2022 Mayor. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner McDaniel – McDaniel  
Commissioner Stevenson – Stevenson  
Commissioner Bojo – McDaniel  
Commissioner Cochran – Stevenson  
Commissioner Beeman – Stevenson  
Commissioner Doss – McDaniel  
Commissioner Quick – McDaniel  
Commissioner Askew – Stevenson  
Commissioner Collins – Stevenson

Commissioner Stevenson was congratulated for being chosen to serve as the Rome City Commission Mayor for 2022. Commissioner Collins expressed his appreciation to Commissioner McDaniel for his leadership and service as Mayor during 2021. Commissioner McDaniel extended his congratulations to Mayor Stevenson.

**Elect Mayor Pro Tem**

Mayor Stevenson opened the floor for nominations for the 2022 Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Askew nominated Commissioner Cochran to serve as the Rome City Commission Mayor Pro Tem for 2022. Commissioner Collins seconded the motion. Commissioner Doss nominated Commissioner Quick to serve as the Rome City Commission Mayor Pro Tem for 2022. Commissioner McDaniel seconded the motion. There were no other nominations, and nominations were closed by unanimous consent. Mayor Stevenson called for a voice vote, and the results were as follows:

Commissioner McDaniel – Quick  
Commissioner Bojo – Quick  
Commissioner Cochran – Cochran  
Commissioner Beeman – Cochran  
Commissioner Doss – Quick  
Commissioner Quick – Quick  
Commissioner Askew – Cochran  
Commissioner Collins – Cochran  
Mayor Stevenson – Cochran

Commissioner Cochran was congratulated for his selection as the Mayor Pro Tem for 2022.

**Appoint City Manager**

Commissioner Doss moved to reappoint Sammy Rich to serve as the Rome City Manager for 2022. Commissioner Quick seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

**City Manager Appointments**

City Manager Rich recommended that the following officials and authorized agents, management staff, department directors, and other staff be appointed for 2022:

**I. Officials and Authorized Agents**

- |    |                                   |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1) | City Commission Clerk & Secretary | Joe Smith                                     |
| 2) | Assistant City Clerk & Secretary  | Joye Weeks                                    |
| 3) | City Attorney                     | J. Anderson Davis                             |
| 4) | Assistant City Attorney           | Frank Beacham<br>Stephen Moseley<br>Sam Lucas |
| 5) | Municipal Court Judge             | Chris Jackson                                 |

- |     |   |  |
|-----|---|--|
| 6)  | Assistant Municipal Court Judge   | John Scott Husser                                      |
| 7)  | City Physician  | Rome/Floyd Redmond Wellness Center                     |
| 8)  | Official Publication Organ  | Rome News-Tribune                                      |
| 9)  | Depositories & Investment Institutions:   |  |
|     | i. Bank OZK   |  |
|     | ii. Synovus   |  |
|     | iii. Greater Community Bank   |  |
|     | iv. First National Community Bank (Formerly known as Heritage First Bank of Rome) |  |
|     | v. Regions Bank   |  |
|     | vi. River City Bank   |  |
|     | vii. Truist Bank (Formerly known as SunTrust Bank of Northwest Georgia)           |  |
|     | viii. United Community Bank   |  |
|     | ix. Wells Fargo   |  |
|     | x. Local Government Investment Pool - State of Georgia                            |  |
|     | xi. East West Bank  |  |
| 10) | Auditor   | Mauldin & Jenkins<br>Certified Public Accountants, LLC |

**II. Management Staff**

- |    |                                 |                |
|----|---------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) | Assistant City Manager          | Meredith Ulmer |
| 2) | Assistant to the City Manager   | Kelley Parker  |
| 3) | Water & Sewer Division Director | Mike Hackett   |
| 4) | Finance Division Director       | Toni Rhinehart |
| 5) | Public Works Division Director  | Chris Jenkins  |

**III. Department Directors**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1) | Fire Chief – Troy Brock                   |
| 2) | Police Chief – Denise Downer-McKinney     |
| 3) | Human Resources Director – Kristy Shepard |

- 4) Community Development Director – Bekki Fox
- 5) City Clerk – Joe Smith
- 6) Solid Waste Director – Tim Garrett
- 7) Landfill Director – Lee Stone
- 8) Purchasing Director – Becky Smyth
- 9) Building Official – James Martin
- 10) Cemetery Superintendent – Jody Gonzalez
- 11) Street Department Director – Chad Hampton
- 12) Transit Director – Kathy Shealy
- 13) City Engineer/Engineering Services Director/Traffic Engineer – Aaron Carroll
- 14) City Arborist – Ernest Watson
- 15) Water Treatment Facility Director – Wayne Stanley
- 16) Water Reclamation Facility Director – Jeff Hill
- 17) Water Billing Director – Bryan Paris
- 18) Water/Sewer Operations Director – Brandon Cook
- 19) Office of Technology Services Director – Johnny Bunch
- 20) Downtown Development Director – Aundi Lesley
- 21) Rome/Floyd County Planning Director – Artagus Newell
- 22) Rome/Floyd E.C.O. Center / Keep Rome-Floyd Beautiful Coordinator – Hannah Bagley
- 23) Director of Tennis / Executive Director – Cliff Drysdale Tennis
- 24) Rome/Floyd E.C.O. Center Director – Ben Winkelman

**IV. Other Staff**

- 1) Greater Rome Convention & Visitors Bureau Executive Director – Lisa Smith

Mr. Rich noted that Mr. Jeff Hill has recently been appointed to serve as the new Water Reclamation Facility Director following the retirement of Johnny Massengill. Mr. Rich also pointed out that Cliff Drysdale Tennis will now be operating the Rome Tennis Center.

Commissioner Collins moved to approve these appointments as recommended. Commissioner Quick seconded, and the vote was unanimously in favor.

### **Rezoning and ULDC Amendments - First Reading**

Secretary Smith reported that the following two rezonings and ULDC amendments were being placed on First Reading:

- A) Z22-01-03 – Request to rezone from Community Commercial and Light Industrial to Multi-Family Residential for the property located at 410-414 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Floyd County Tax Parcel(s) J14F-062, J14F-063, J14F-064, J14F-065, J14F-066, J14F-067, J14F-068, and J14F-071. (Planning Commission recommends approval, 8-0).
- B) Z22-01-06 – Request to rezone from Multi-Family Residential and Community Commercial to Multi-Family Residential for property located on Woodrow Wilson Way. Floyd County Tax Parcel I13W-002. (Planning Commission recommends approval, 8-0).
- C) Approve ULDC Text Amendment – Allow Townhomes and Tri/Duplexes along major streets – With restrictions (Planning Commission recommends approval, 7-0).
- D) Re-Adopt Unified Land Development Code and Zoning Maps (Planning Commission recommends approval, 7-0).

There was no objection to this matter, and a Public Hearing will be scheduled for the January 24<sup>th</sup> City Commission meeting.

The ULDC Text Amendment regarding administrative variances to remove the side setbacks and road frontage received no recommendation from the Planning Commission and is not being placed on First Reading.

### **Street Closing Ordinance – Jennings Street, First Reading**

Secretary Smith reported that a street closing ordinance regarding Jennings Street was being placed on First Reading. This matter is scheduled for Second Reading on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Martin Luther King, Jr Holiday**

City Manager Rich stated that City Offices will be closed on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

### **Water Lawsuit Resolution**

Commissioner Bojo moved to adopt a resolution regarding certain settlements related to the City of Rome's lawsuit regarding PFAS in Rome's water supply. Commissioner Quick seconded the motion. This resolution would authorize City Attorney Andy Davis, within his discretion and upon consultation with the City Manager, to negotiate, effectuate, formalize, finalize, and/or otherwise agree to settlements with any defendants, or potential defendants in the lawsuit whose liability has been found or proven to be nominal, or inconsequential as compared to the substantial liability of the main defendants. Commissioner Bojo's motion was unanimously approved.

### **2022 Rome City Commission Date Changes**

Mayor Stevenson announced that the following City Commission date changes would occur in 2022:

- i) GMA Annual Conference Week – Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>
- ii) Christmas Week – Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

**Rome/Floyd Development Authority**

Mayor Stevenson announced that the Rome/Floyd County Development Authority will meet on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Manis Business Center.

**Transportation Policy Committee**

Commissioner Cochran announced that the Transportation Policy Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Carnegie Training Room.

**Historic Preservation Committee**

Commissioner Doss announced that the Historic Preservation Committee will meet on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m. in the Sam King Room.

**Alcohol Control Commission**

Commissioner Quick announced that the Alcohol Control Commission will meet on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers.

**Downtown Development Authority**

Commissioner Quick announced that the Downtown Development Authority will meet on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. in the Carnegie Training Room.

**Parks and Recreation**

Commissioner Askew announced that the Parks and Recreation Authority will meet in a full Board meeting on Tuesday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Thornton Center at North Floyd Park.

**Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Commission**

Commissioner Collins announced that the Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Commission will meet on Wednesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. in the ECO Center.

There will be a Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Service Day on Saturday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. till noon. There will be two service cleanup options – roadside cleanup or trail cleanup.

**Northwest Georgia Regional Commission**

Commissioner Collins announced that the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission will meet on Thursday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. in the Rome Civic Center.

**MLK Holiday**

Mr. Alvin Jackson, Sr. was present to comment on the 2022 Martin Luther King, Jr Celebration. Due to COVID restrictions, some of the normal activities will not take place this year; however, the annual parade will be held on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:30 a.m. The march will take place on Broad Street from First Avenue to City Hall. Mr. Jackson reported that local Health Director Dr. Voccio has advised that the outside march could be safely conducted, provided masks and distancing are observed. Mr. Jackson thanked the sponsor of this year's events and noted that this will be the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MLK, Jr. Celebration in Rome.

**Adjourn**

With there being no further business, Mayor Stevenson adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Joseph F. Smith  
City Clerk