



JOINT SERVICES COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022  
8:30 A.M.  
SAM KING ROOM

PRESENT:

Sundai Stevenson, Mayor, Rome City Commission  
Mark Cochran, Mayor Pro-Tem, Rome City Commission  
Wright Bagby, Chair, Floyd County Board of Commissioners  
Sammy Rich, City Manager  
Jamie McCord, County Manager  
Toni Rhinehart, Director of Finance, City of Rome  
Susie Glass, Director of Finance, Floyd County  
Joe Smith, Clerk, City of Rome  
Erin Elrod, County Clerk  
Doug Walker, City of Rome Information Officer  
Rob Ware, Mayor of Cave Spring  
Bekki Fox, Director of Community Development, City of Rome  
Molly Majestic, City of Rome  
John Bailey, RNT  
Doug Crowder, WRGA

WELCOME:

Mayor Sundai Stevenson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. The minutes of the February 1, 2022, meeting were approved by common consent.

LOST:

The Committee discussed several questions that needed to be answered regarding the upcoming LOST Renegotiation, including the makeup of the negotiating committee and timing of the meetings. The following was determined:

- The committee will be made up of 3 committee members from the City, 3 committee members from the County and Mayor Rob Ware of Cave Spring.
- The committee would begin having informal meetings, but the county would not send the initial letter to the Department of Revenue until June which would allow negotiations to begin July 1. They would then have 60 days to come to an agreement.
- The Joint Services Committee will begin meeting on a monthly basis throughout the process with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:30 a.m.
- If the group reaches an impasse in May, the group can then discuss the type of resolution needed (arbitrator/mediator).

## SPLOST:

Both McCord and Rich mentioned that the SPLOST project application needs to be improved. There was discussion about how citizens' SPLOST committees have worked in the past and all agreed that these committees would still be used in the upcoming SPLOST discussion. There was consensus that going forward, that the staff would need to be given specific information regarding the projects: total cost breakdown, governmental split (who owns, who operates) and agreed that it would take several months to vet the projects before the information could then be presented to the citizens' SPLOST committee for consideration. The target date for a new SPLOST referendum would be the November 23, 2023, election. Regarding SPLOST money equitable distribution, McCord reminded the committee that the percentage share for the 2017 SPLOST was 64.78% for the County, 33.21% for the City and 2.01% for Cave Spring, which was not as equally distributed as prior SPLOST referenda. It was further decided that the group will have a timeline of the SPLOST process by the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and would discuss opening applications for the SPLOST committee in the June Joint Services Committee meeting.

## BANTY JONES SPLASH PAD:

Rich reviewed the Rome Floyd Recreation agreement that had been negotiated in 2015, making specific reference to the city removing certain functions from the agreement: Barron Stadium, Maddox Track, Throws Center, West 3<sup>rd</sup> Tennis Center, and maintenance of all trails within the city limits. Rich stated that the City has allocated \$1.7 million of ARP funds for recreation and that the splash pad was originally going to be part of that funding. However, Bekki Fox found that there were monies from Community Development Block Grant funding that could be used so the city has moved forward with that option. The City's Purchasing Department is currently working on an RFP for the splash pad that will be put out to bid soon. The City of Rome, in partnership with the Northwest Georgia Housing Authority, has also applied for a \$1.5 million federal Choice Neighborhood Grant which would include expanding the park, adding a decorative entrance, playgrounds, and walking trails, among other upgrades. Fox stated that the plan for the splash pad was recently put on hold because Parks & Rec Director Todd Wofford stated that the county would not support the operational cost and maintenance of the project.

Chairman Bagby indicated the County Commission had not taken a position on the splash pad but were very much open to the concept as it was part of a larger redevelopment of the neighborhood. McCord asked about the estimated cost and Fox replied that Wofford had estimated \$16,000-17,000 for chemicals (based off the cost to maintain the Town Green fountains). Elrod asked if the estimate included manpower/additional staff, however, it wasn't known if this was included in Wofford's estimate. Rich mentioned that it would be good to know that if the City invests this substantial amount of money, the County will support, especially in light of the many savings the city created for the county by removing functions from the original agreement. Bagby asked about the timeline for the demolition of the John Graham Homes to construct a mixed variety of living options. Fox stated that the Housing Authority had applied for tax credits and would know more in November but reminded that the redevelopment of that area would be done in phases over several years. Mayor Stevenson suggested that Fox present and discuss this information about Banty Jones Park and the redevelopment plans to the County Commission. McCord stated that Fox can present at an upcoming county caucus meeting. McCord reiterated the importance of knowing the exact amount needed to maintain the splash pad before any decisions could be made.

ELECTIONS UPDATE:

McCord updated the group on the progress of the new election office location at the Health Department and said the move was 95% complete and is “extraordinarily better” than what they have had. The server (belonging to the state) would still need to be moved and there are still a few technology updates to be completed. Newly approved elections supervisor, James Stephens, has recently completed training in Athens as part of obtaining his certification. Poll workers will begin training soon, as well. Early voting, which begins in May, will be held at the new office on E. 12<sup>th</sup>.

TRAILS UPDATE:

Rich shared a video, produced by Doug Walker, of the installation of the new bridge over Little Dry Creek. The bridge will connect the trail near Avenue A and W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street to the Mt. Berry Trail behind the Post Office. Rich updated the committee that the bridge over Big Dry Creek has been ordered and expected to be on site in June or July.

OTHER BUSINESS:

McCord added that the Myra H was successfully moved to Ridge Ferry Park 2 weeks ago and once the area is complete, a special ceremony will be held. McCord mentioned the extraordinary restoration and carpentry work done by Jim Dixon and Bob Harris, among others. Rich stated that an extra camera has been added to the ECO Center to provide more security.

With their being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelley Parker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Kelley Parker  
Assistant to the City Manager