



GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 21, 2022
Minutes

The City of Rome General Administration Committee met at 11:00 AM on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, in the Carnegie Training Room.

Members present:

Commissioner Bill Collins, Chairperson
Commissioner Jamie Doss
Meredith Ulmer, Asst. City Manager
Toni Rhinehart, Finance Director
Johnny Bunch, IT Director
Colt Gaston, RTC
Chris Boden, Rome City Schools

Commissioner Elaina Beeman
Sammy Rich, City Manager
Joe Smith, City Clerk
Kristy Shepard, HR/RM Director
Lief Smith, Stonebridge
Lisa Smith, Tourism / RTC
Mark Green, Recording Secretary

Members absent:

Andy Davis

Guests Present:

Kelley Parker, Assistant to the City Manager

Doug Walker, Public Information Officer

Chairman Bill Collins called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM.

I. Minutes

The minutes from the April 26, 2022, meeting were approved by common consent.

II. New Business

Committee Meeting Protocol Discussion

Commissioner Collins began by introducing a discussion on committee meeting protocol. More specifically, his discussion was pointed towards committee assignments and the ability of Chairpersons to call and cancel meetings and modify agendas for meetings. Collins commented, "... I would like for the commissioners to have the ability to call or cancel a meeting." Collins continued to provide examples of when it might be necessary for the Chairperson of the committee to cancel a meeting or modify the agenda.

Meredith Ulmer commented, "... If you all want to take official action, you can do that. But I didn't want anyone to feel that they couldn't add something, even today, if they wanted to."

After brief discussion, it was decided that no official action needed to be taken regarding committee meeting protocol.

III. Old Business

City Commission Compensation

Kristy Shepard presented an update regarding City Commissioner Compensation and the proposed increase to commissioner salaries. Shepard began, "In our previous General Administration Committee meeting, you all approved increasing the salary for a City Commissioner to \$12,000 per year (the current salary is \$8,400). Joe (Smith) has given that to the attorney. The attorney will draft the amendment." Joe Smith commented, "In summary, it (the Charter Amendment) is in the works. The next step is for the attorney to present the ordinance amendment to us." Collins questioned, "Do you think we will have it (the amendment) in hand by the next meeting?" Smith responded, "I think we will have it in our hands by the next meeting."

City Elections Update

Meredith Ulmer presented an update on City Elections and the estimated cost for the City to conduct their own elections. Ulmer provided a detailed summary of the information she gathered. Ulmer commented, "The estimated cost for the first year is \$513,000 (+ legal fees). After the first year, the estimated cost per election is \$78,000." The report indicates that the elections invoice the city received from Floyd County in 2021 was \$59,500.00.

Commissioner Collins congratulated Ulmer on her research and commended her for doing a great job. Commissioner Doss questioned Collins, "Knowing the additional cost and liability, are you still serious about the City holding its own elections?" After a brief discussion, Collins asked that this topic be brought up later. Doss questioned, "Do you think this might be good for a retreat (topic)?" Rich commented, "It is a perfect retreat topic... There are a lot of moving parts to it."

Youth Council Update

Kelley Parker provided an update on the City's potential youth council. Parker began, "I did some research, starting with the Georgia Municipal Association." Parker provided a brief overview of who would comprise the youth council and how applicants could be nominated. Parker commented, "We really do want to have kids from every corner of Rome (participate)."

Commissioner Beeman thanked Parker for her work on this project and commented on her (Beeman's) desire for young people to have a voice in our community. Collins commented, "I think this will give young folks an edge up."

IV. Reports

Stonebridge Golf

Joe Smith and Lief Smith presented the reports for Stonebridge Golf. Joe Smith commented, "We are in the black at this point, and we are ahead of where Indigo Golf forecasted us to be at this point in the year." Lief Smith commented, "We are off to a good start. We had three complete rainouts in May. Besides that, everything is trending in the right direction."

Lief Smith offered a glowing review on the condition of the course and credited the superintendent with the success. Smith continued to update the committee on the current clubhouse remodeling project. Smith also provided updates related to current programming and specials being held at the course.

Commissioner Collins asked if we could hold a General Administration meeting at Stonebridge and the Tennis Center in the near future. Joe Smith responded, "We have done that before, and we can certainly do that again."

Rome Tennis Center

Colt Gaston presented the reports for Rome Tennis Center. Gaston commented, "I am feeling really good about the Center." Gaston provided the committee with information related to current and future events that are taking place at the tennis center. Gaston informed the committee that the tennis center recorded profit for the months of April and May. Gaston commented, "The summer is starting off with some great events."

Lisa Smith commented, "I do want to add that our capital improvement project at our downtown facility is almost complete." Collins questioned, "Do we have any signage on the roads (for the Tennis Center)?" Rich responded, "We have some DOT signs along the road. The tennis sign is not very extravagant, but we might could construct a more prominent sign."

Barron Stadium

Chris Boden provided a report for Barron Stadium to the Committee. Boden began, "We have finished up with a lot of track, soccer, and graduation." Boden continued to review various expenditures on the submitted report. Regarding programming, Boden notified the Committee of the upcoming Corky Kell Classic and State track meet.

OTS Report

Johnny Bunch commented, "Data storage at the Police department needed to be increased to 1 year due to the extension of court dates. With that, storage was doubled to allow this retention timeframe." Bunch notified the committee of the need for a network upgrade. Bunch commented, "Our last network upgrade was in 2010... Our current network can no longer provide the bandwidth that is needed to service the City... The OTS System Administrator and HP's network design team reviewed our requirements and designed a network to carry the data traffic." The total cost for the upgrade is \$173,965.00. Regarding the funding for the upgrade, Rich commented, "I think this will be a good use of some of our American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding."

**MOTION: Commissioner Beeman motioned to move forward with funding the Network Upgrade with ARPA funds.
2nd motion: Commissioner Doss seconded the motion.**

Help desk tickets: Opened: 925 Closed: 828 Pending/Open: 97

The Granicus report indicates that 26 total views occurred. The viewership was led by Rome, Atlanta, Ashburn, and a host of other locations.

The MyRome Application had 22 work orders completed, and 6 are still in progress.

Human Resources Reports

Due to time constraints, Kristy Shepard presented a brief report for the Human Resources department. Shepard commented, "The positive is we are only down 12 Police Officers right now, and it is about to be 11."

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Green

Mark Green, Recording Secretary