



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

May 20, 2025

Sam King Room

2:00 PM

Committee Members Present

Commissioner Harry Brock

Commissioner Elaina Beeman

Commissioner Bill Collins

Also in Attendance

Sammy Rich, City Manager

Chief Troy Brock, Fire

Division Chief Clete Bonney, Fire

Chief Denise Downer-McKinney, Police

Major Mark Tison, Police

Assistant Kelly Ledford, City Manager's Office

Director Toni Rhinehart, Finance

Director Tim Herrington, EMA

Deputy Chief Brad Roberson, Fire

Division Chief Jamie Stone, Fire

Assistant Chief Rodney Bailey, Police

Major Rusty Blair, Police

Doug Walker, Public Information Officer

Director Suzanne Roberts, DDA

Guests

Mr. Ralph Davis

Mr. Charles Love

Call to Order

Chairman Brock called the meeting to order, and the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by common consent.

Guests

Chairman Brock welcomed Mr. Ralph Davis and Mr. Charles Love to the meeting, giving them both the opportunity to present their concerns.

Mr. Charles Love expressed his concerns with large unscheduled events being held at local parks without notifications and/or permits. He referenced recent events held at Parks Hoke and Eagle Park that were both unscheduled and included food trucks and multiple inflatables with hundreds of people attending overtaking the parks. No one had a permit for special use of the parks. Mr. Love informed everyone that the issue has been discussed with Rome Floyd Parks and Recreation staff members who agree there needs to be some uniformity in how these activities are handled in all parks throughout the City of Rome and Floyd County.

Mr. Ralph Davis, who serves on the Board for the Rome Floyd Parks and Recreation, stated that he feels it is best to be proactive and address the issue before something happens. He added to increase awareness, in the absence of the Director he discussed with the Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation the possibility of having signs placed at the parks which read "No Special Events without prior approval, required permits, and fees" and include Rome-Floyd Parks and Recreation contact information. A sample

of how these signs would look will be presented at the next Rome Floyd Parks and Recreation Board Meeting for the Board's approval and/or disapproval.

Public Safety Committee Chair, Commissioner Brock requested the City of Rome ordinance regarding the parks be added to the signs before it is presented to the Rome Floyd Parks and Recreation Board for approval. Mr. Davis stated he would include the city ordinance on the signs.

Mr. Charles Love next spoke to the committee about the North Rome area regarding the continued issues with loud music coming from both residents and vehicles and the disorderly conduct in the area. He stated that people continue to be disorderly and play their music loud and continue to hang out late at night. This disturbs the elderly neighbors who have lived in the area for years.

Assistant Chief Rodney Bailey told Mr. Love that the police department is aware of the issues in the North Rome area. He reported the total number of calls 911 has received YTD pertaining to this area in North Rome and the number of citations that have been issued to residents. Assistant Chief Bailey assured Mr. Love the department is monitoring the area and working with Code Enforcement on building code issues and violations. The police department plans to be more visible in the area, making more cases.

Animal Control/PAWS

A written report on activities at Public Animal Welfare Services (PAWS) was distributed to the committee for review.

Emergency Management

A written report on activities at Emergency Management was distributed to the committee for review.

Director Tim Herrington stated EMA has been assisting Floyd County Board of Education and Georgia Highlands College with various training exercises. EMA has also partnered with Atrium Health Floyd in conducting some of their community events and have been having more events at the EOC Building. They also continue to work with the Floyd County School's Explorer Program.

Director Herrington reminded everyone that hurricane season begins June 1st and explained that EMA will coordinate with first responder partners as they have in the past.

E911

A written report on activities at E911 was distributed to the committee for review.

Fire

A written report on activities at the Fire Department was distributed to the committee.

Division Chief Stone reported 715 calls for service during the month of March, 279 in the city and 436 in the county. There were 220 inspections conducted and 59 educational classes. In April there was a total of 546 calls for service, 279 in the city and 267 in the county. There were 364 inspections, and 18 educational classes were conducted.

Division Chief Bonney stated the department recently participated in drills with nursing students at Georgia Highlands College. The department is working with Armuchee High School on a drill which will involve various agencies in the area.

Division Chief Bonney informed the committee the department is now working out of the new maintenance shop and the bidding process has begun for renovations on station 2. He added that the department received the new brush truck, which has been put in service and has already been very useful. He also reported the refurbishing of engine 1 as being at about 75% complete.

Division Chief Jamie Stone reported department wide training on Hazardous Materials was conducted in March and training was conducted with thermal engine cameras in April.

The department sent four firefighters to Kentucky to assist with the cleanup after the storms. They served as part of the Georgia Search and Rescue Team Task Force Six during the flooding. The department received numerous compliments for the service and professionalism they provided while working there.

Deputy Chief Brad Roberson reported the department having four openings due to retirements with that total possibly becoming five soon. The department is hoping to begin accepting applications in October 2025 for the upcoming spring rookie class.

Police

A written report on activities at the Police Department was distributed to the committee.

Chief Downer-McKinney stated the department is currently going through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) certification review. The file review portion has been completed, and the actual on-site portion will begin on June 23rd.

Chief Downer-McKinney also reported that the department's Women's Firearm Class continues to be very popular with each class being full before the registration deadline.

Assistant Chief Rodney Bailey gave an update on the department's staffing as currently having eight vacancies which includes one who recently resigned to teach for the Floyd County Board of Education. There are four cadets in the police academy who will graduate on Friday, May 23rd and the department hopes to have four to ready to start the next police academy in July.

Major Blair reported a slight decrease in crimes against property and a decrease in total crimes against society for the month of April. Sector 2 (West Rome) and Sector 6 (North Rome) continue to have the higher volume of calls for service with those numbers being high on Friday and Saturday.

Major Tison reported that the Criminal Investigation Division has assigned 191 cases YTD and have cleared 164 cases. The Training Division has conducted numerous community relations programs reaching some 2,677 individuals YTD and conducted officer/civilian training with some 833 attending.

The Rome Floyd Metro Task Force has made 91 arrests YTD executed 24 search warrants. So far this year they have seized 17 firearms and various amounts of drugs.

Assistant Chief Bailey referred to the issues on the trails and in the downtown areas. To assist in combating these issues, he presented a proposal called the City of Rome Bicycle Ambassador Program.

This program would be ambassador patrols on E-Bikes assisting in promoting a safe and welcoming downtown area. The program would provide safety enforcement and visitor assistance while the department is hiring and training new police recruits.

Commissioner Elaina Beeman made the motion to present this proposal to the full commission, Commissioner Collins seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Adjourn

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Stone".

Kim Stone, Secretary