

**City of Rome**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**June 25, 2025**

**PRESENT:**

Committee Chairman Jim Bojo  
City Commissioner Elaina Beeman  
City Manager Sammy Rich  
Assistant City Manager Meredith Ulmer  
Finance Director Toni Rhinehart  
Assistant Finance Director Kraig Ingalsbe

Guests: Becky Smyth, Purchasing Director  
Doug Walker, Public Relations  
Mo Burge, Rome News-Tribune  
David Crowder, Rome News-Tribune  
Ethan Marcum, Student

Absent: City Commissioner Wayne Robinson  
Vicki Blair, Recording Secretary

Committee Chairman Jim Bojo called the meeting to order and the minutes from the May 28th meeting were approved by common consent. He then turned the meeting over to Finance Director Toni Rhinehart.

Ms. Rhinehart began with a review of the May 2025 Financial Statements. The Title Tax Fee Revenues are up slightly from 2024, and intangible taxes are in line with 2024. Local Option Sales Tax is up for the month and above 2024. The Georgia Power franchise fee is up for 2025. Police fines are up but Red Speed revenues are down from 2024. Interest on investments are slightly down from 2024, but investment rates are still over 4% on all funds. Some departments are slightly above YTD budget, mostly due to three bi-weekly payrolls in May. Public Safety expenses are significantly above 2024 mainly due to the pay implementation and the increase in number of officers. Public Works expenses are slightly under YTD budget but slightly above 2024. Total Public Facilities are up from last year but mostly in line with YTD budget. Retirement costs are up from 2024 due to an increase in the required GMEBs contribution.

Usage revenues in water and sewer have increased from 2024 and are above budget. Investment income is a bright spot with the funds from the water filtration plant settlement.

Revenues in the Building Inspection department are down from 2024 but above YTD budget for 2025. City and County permits are down significantly from 2024. Expenses are up slightly but below budget.

Mainline revenue in the Transit Department is averaging around \$10k per month since the reinstatement of fares in April. Expenses are slightly above last year but under budget for 2025.

Revenues in the Fire Fund are where they are expected to be. Expenses are below budget but above 2024.

Hotel/Motel tax revenues have increased but mostly due to several hotels catching up their payments. May collections were down significantly. It is hopeful that revenues will reach budget in the coming months.

The Health Insurance Fund is holding its own. YTD revenues are slightly behind budget but above 2024. Claims and expenses are down slightly from 2024.

Golf revenues are above 2024 and expenses are above 2024 as well. Rounds are up from 2024.

A SPLOST report will be released soon showing an update on projects. Unity Point is close to completion which was a 2013 project.

Fee revenues for Landfill are above 2024 and above YTD budget. Expenses are below budget and almost identical to 2024. Available cash has increased in preparation for Phase 9 of landfill construction.

Solid Waste collections are in line with 2024 and just under YTD budget. Expenses are up mostly due to the pay implantation in 2024 but well under YTD budget.

Ms. Rhinehart then began a discussion regarding the proposed 2025 tax millage rate. She presented documents showing three different scenarios and reviewed the differences. City Manager Sammy Rich continued the discussion answering various questions and further explaining the importance of the potential increase. The recommendation to leave the millage the same as 2024 was recommended and supported unanimously by the committee. This will be presented to the full commission at the next meeting. Unless the roll back rate is adopted, the city is required to advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings. The first public hearing is scheduled for Monday, July 14<sup>th</sup> at the regular City Commission meeting, the second will be a day-time meeting on Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 10am, and the third will be held Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup> at the regular City Commission meeting. A public hearing is also planned for that evening to adopt the millage rate.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Blair