

City of Rome
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
August 27, 2025

PRESENT:

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

Guests: City Clerk Joe Smith

Absent: Assistant City Manager Meredith Ulmer
Vicki Blair, Recording Secretary

Committee Chairman Jim Bojo called the meeting to order and the minutes from the July 24th 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 July financial statements starting with revenues for General Fund. Title Tax Fee Revenues and Intangible Taxes are up from 2024. Local Option Sales Tax collections increased in July and are above 2024 YTD. There was a big hit to the sales tax collections in June as the result of a sales tax audit. Tax on liquor and mixed drink taxes are consistent with last year. The Georgia Power franchise fee is up for 2025. Business licenses are up from 2024 as well. Police fines are up from 2024, although Red Speed revenues are down from prior year by nearly \$71,000 YTD. Interest income has remained strong and is still at an all-time high.

All departments are mostly within budget, but a budget revision in the future may need to occur for a few departments. Public Safety expenses are much higher than 2024 but still under budget. Ms. Rhinehart then began a quick review of the intergovernmental expenses and transfers out. Several of those were impacted largely with the salary survey and implementation. General discussion was had regarding the amount of the contribution paid to the Fire Fund, which is approximately \$11M from the City General Fund with the same amount being paid by the County. There is a dedicated millage in the county for Fire services. Operating revenues in the Water & Sewer Fund are up significantly, and interest income is still very strong. Settlement revenues of approximately \$168M have been received to date. Revenues for the Building Inspection Fund are below last year but above YTD budget. City and County permits are down significantly from last year. Expenses have increased since 2024 but are under budget. Events have been steady at The Forum, which has a serious economic impact on the entire downtown area. The Forum Fund does show a loss but that is mostly due to depreciation and some capital outlay that has not yet been reimbursed from the Hotel/Motel Fund. Collections are up in the Hotel/Motel Fund YTD, but several hotels were behind in payments until recently.

In other business. City Manager Sammy Rich addressed a comment that was made in a previous City Commission meeting regarding commissioners not being involved in the finances of the city. He reminded the committee that staff budget procedures are in line with charter rules and regulations regarding how the budget is developed. When budgets are entered by the departments, the department managers are advised to present those budgets to their respective committees for review with the committee members. Each of those budgets are then presented to the Finance Committee for review and questions. He also stated each commissioner is welcome to attend any other committee meeting at any time. Ms. Rhinehart reminded everyone that there is an independent audit every year. This audit company does not work for the city; they are independent of the City and of the employees. General discussion was then had in reference to the increase in property taxes. Ms. Rhinehart stated the City M&O, City Capital and School tax millage are

the exact same as last year. There was an advertised tax increase due to growth and commercial properties.

For all homesteaded properties in 2025, taxes will be the same as in 2024 for all city taxes. Floyd County did have a slight millage increase.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki Blair