



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

November 18, 2025

Sam King Room

2:00 PM

Committee Members Present

Commissioner Harry Brock Commissioner Elaina Beeman

Also in Attendance

Sammy Rich, City Manager
Director Katy Walters, PAWS
Deputy Chief Brad Roberson, Fire
Division Chief Clete Bonney, Fire
Linda Patty, Fire Education
Assistant Chief Rodney Bailey, Police
Major Rusty Blair, Police
Captain Chris DeHart, Police
PFC John Giles, Police
Becky Smyth, Purchasing

Joe Smith, City Clerk
Chief Troy Brock, Fire
Division Chief Jamie Stone
Training Division Chief Phillip Little, Fire
Chief Denise Downer-McKinney, Police
Major Mark Tison, Police
Captain Trixie Morgan, Police
Sergeant Arron Thacker, Police
Toni Rhinehart, Finance

Absent

Commissioner Bill Collins

Guest

Mr. James Gonsman

Call to Order

Chairman Brock called the meeting to order, and the minutes of the September 23rd meeting were approved by common consent.

Mr. James Gonsman

Mr. Gonsman introduced himself, stating that he was the owner of *JS Gonsman LLC & Towing*. He explained that he had been on the City's on-call wrecker rotation but had been removed. Mr. Gonsman stated he would like to know why he was removed from the rotation and what would be required for his company to be added back to the rotation.

Assistant Chief Rodney Bailey explained that PFC John Giles manages the wrecker services and is in charge of ensuring companies meet the requirements, maintain the proper insurance and provide services while following city ordinances. He referred to PFC Giles to explain why Mr. Gonsman's company was removed from the rotation.

PFC John Giles stated that he had received complaints from officers regarding JS Gonsman LLC Towing and possible violations of the City of Rome On-Call Wrecker Ordinance.

PFC Giles explained that he reviewed the officer's videos and noted multiple city ordinance violations. Due to the violations of the City's On-Call Wrecker Ordinance and the evidence from the officer's Axon Video, JS Gonsman LLC & Towing was removed from the on-call wrecker list. PFC Giles notified Mr. Gonsman in writing that his towing service was being removed from the wrecker rotation, and his ordinance violations were outlined in the letter. Mr. Gonsman was also told he could review the officer's video if he wanted to do so but hasn't.

Mr. Gonsman asked how long his towing service would continue to be removed from the wrecker rotation. Assistant Chief Bailey stated the department would take it under advisement and get back with Mr. Gonsman.

Animal Control/PAWS

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

Director Katy Walters stated the department has been super busy with 2,174 animals taken in year-to-date with the live outcome being at about 90%. They are still offering free microchips for those who are interested in having pets microchipped.

Emergency Management

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

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.

Chief Troy Brock introduced Fire Educator Linda Patty. Ms. Patty explained that as part of fire education she would like to increase awareness for those individuals with special needs. Ms. Patty presented an item referred to as a seatbelt cover used for medical alerts. The item wraps around a seatbelt of passengers who have special needs and/or medical issues. The wrap would identify the individual's need, whether the need be for someone who is autistic, someone who is diabetic or someone with other medical needs. This wrap would be beneficial to a first responder who may be providing care for someone with special needs. The wrap would give the first responder medical information that may not be known otherwise.

Division Chief Stone reported 537 calls for service during the month of August, 289 in the city and 248 in the county. There were 295 inspections conducted and 14 educational classes. In September there was a total of 606 calls for service, 288 in the city and 318 in the county. There were 346 inspections, and 66 educational classes were conducted. For the month of October, there were 628 calls for service, 332 in the city and 296 in the county. There were 340 inspections conducted and 63 educational classes were conducted.

Division Chief Stone stated the department completed hazmat refresher training with five employees receiving Hazardous Material Certification. There were 14 individuals who attended training to become certified CPR Instructors. The next recruit graduation will be December 11, 2025.

Division Chief Bonney reported that the renovation of Station 2 is complete. The refurbishment of Engine 1 is finished, and the ladder truck is next to be refurbished.

Deputy Chief Brad Roberson stated the department has six high school students in the internship program and one former intern about to graduate from rookie school.

Police

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

Chief Denise stated the training division recently completed the last Women's Firearms Class using the indoor range. The indoor range is being renovated and will become the department's evidence room. The department has four recruits who will graduate on Friday, November 21st to be sworn in on December 5, 2025. Two female recruits have been hired and will start the academy in January.

Major Blair pointed out that the report indicates zero murders year to date but there have been two murders. There was an error in the formula used to calculate this number. There was a decrease in the total of crimes against property and crimes against persons compared to last year. There was also a decrease in drug violations and DUI's. There was an increase in the number of citations and warnings as well as the number of calls for service.

Major Mark Tison stated YTD the Rome Floyd Metro Task Force has made 208 arrests for 612 cases and executed 52 search warrants. They have seized \$145,000 in cash, 17 vehicles, 45 firearms and various types of drugs with a street value of 1.6 million dollars.

The Training Division has conducted numerous training programs and sent officers to various training classes with some 1,900 officers attending for a total of 18,582 hours. They also conducted community relations programs with 6,078 in attendance.

The Criminal Investigations Division has assigned 503 cases, made 133 arrests with 349 counts and have executed 150 search warrants.

Assistant Chief Rodney Bailey stated an upgrade to the department's current radios was included in the 2023 SPLOST. Additional money for the radio upgrade for the police department was included in the 2026 budget. Another department had ordered those same radios but for some reason backed out of the purchase. The Harris Radio representative contacted Assistant Chief Bailey to offer these radios to the Rome Police Department at a significantly reduced rate. He requested the money to purchase be moved from the 2026 budget and the 2025. This would allow for the purchase of these radios at a lower cost.

Commissioner Elaina Beeman made a motion to present this request to the full commission for approval. The motion passed by common consent.

Adjourn

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

Respectively submitted,



Kim Stone, Secretary