

**City of Rome**  
**FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015**

**PRESENT:**

Committee Chairman, Evie McNiece  
City Commissioner Bill Irmischer  
City Commissioner Milton Slack  
City Manager, Sammy Rich  
Finance Director Sheree Shore  
Assistant Finance Director Toni Rhinehart  
Assistant City Manager, Patrick Eidson  
Guests:  
News Media  
Joe Smith, City Clerk

Chairman McNiece called the meeting to order, and the minutes from the August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting were approved. Joe Smith, City Clerk was recognized and given the floor to discuss the next agenda item.

**PROPOSED 2016 ALCOHOL, RENTAL, AND BUSINESS LICENSE FEES**

Mr. Smith distributed to the committee a draft resolution outlining his proposed rental fees for 2016 for the Civic Center, Auditorium, and Senior Center. As he explained, all of these facilities are maintained properly and all appear to be under market rates for other venues comparable to them. The proposed increases are not across the board, some percentages increase are less than others—the increases are based on market and other venue costs. The Civic Center rental is increasing \$50 and the regular commercial rental on the Auditorium is increasing \$100. Mr. Smith noted that he is hopeful that all of these facilities can be more fully utilized and marketed in 2016. There is no differential charged for out of city rental, only weekend events. After some further discussion, Commissioner Slack made a motion to approve the proposal to take to the full Commission, Commissioner Irmischer seconded, and the motion carried. The rates will be sent to the full Commission at the first meeting in November. Also brought to the committee was the current Alcohol licensing rate structure. Mr. Smith noted that it is his recommendation as well as with conversation with Mr. Rich and Ms. Shore for budget purposes that the current alcohol rates be left as is for 2016. The existing structure has had some growth and does have potential for increased revenues based on growth in sales. The committee agreed on this recommendation. Also discussed was the current Business License rate structure. Again, this structure has built in revenue growth with the tables. There was an increase in the tables last year and it was staff's recommendation to leave the existing tables with NO increase for 2016. This was also agreed by the committee. All of these rates will be discussed at the full City Commission.

## REVIEW SEPTEMBER 2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Ms. Shore noted to the committee that we would look briefly at the statement highlights.

### GENERAL FUND:

She directed them first to the General Fund revenues section. Prior Year Tax Revenue continues to be up over last year and budget—but does not include the amount allocated to the school board for the current year. She also pointed out the continued decrease in motor vehicles, noting that at the current decline, in two more years, the revenue would probably be phased out. As also expected, the title tax fee, although slightly up over last year, appears to have peaked. Intangible taxes are still up over 2015, which is a good economic indicator. Ms. Shore did note to the committee that sales tax revenue is presented at gross receipts, with the repayment to the state presented as a payment later in the statements. This allows the true receipts to be shown in comparison to this year's budget. Alcohol taxes continue to be stagnant. Business licenses as previously mentioned are up slightly over last year and over budget. Police Fines have inched up some over last year, with a noticeable jump in Environmental Court fees. Interest and Costs continue to mirror the increase in prior year tax revenues. Cemetery fees show a decline, mainly in sale of lots. Overall operating revenues are up some 4.7%.

On the expense side, Ms. Shore noted that most all departments are in line with budget and last year's expenses. Mr. Rich noted that this is what has been so frustrating in trying to handle the DOR issue, is that outside of that expense, this has been a good year so far for City finances. The repayment to the state is noted under the Other Expenditures, with an amount of \$555,431. All communication with the DOR lately has not indicated that there is any more reimbursement to be made, so we are optimistic this is the final number. Without that expense, the General Fund would only be slightly over last year's total expense numbers.

### WATER FUND:

Moving to the Water/Sewer Fund, the monthly usage revenues were up over last year, and now are slightly higher than 2015. On the expense side, again most all departments were in line with anticipated budgets. That leads to a great month in bond coverage with 2.16 for the month and 1.75 overall year to date.

### BUILDING INSPECTION FUND:

Ms. Shore did note a bit of good news, pointing out that the department had another good revenue month in September, and now had a net income of \$114,387 through September. This is all due to a substantial increase in the permit revenue.

### TRANSIT FUND:

Ridership revenues are still down from last year, although the contribution from the School Board is up due to the addition of an extra route. This amount will be up for the next year with a slight increase in charges, as well as one and possibly two additional routes due to the increase in the student population in the system. Expenses are up, mainly in the personal service side, but still within budgeted numbers.

### TOURISM FUND:

Gift Shop sales are up over last year, and the transfer from General represents the contribution for the Communications Director. This is still a work in progress, trying to manage her hours and the reimbursements from the various revenue sources.

### FIRE FUND:

Expenses are up in personal services and supplies, but outside of depreciation, are within budgeted numbers. The fund did budget a use of fund balance for this fiscal year, but hopefully

will end the year better than anticipated. The county is still behind one month's payment, but has indicated they will be caught up by the November payment.

HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUND:

Hotel taxes continue to track above last year, another positive economic indicator, and the 2% for the Tennis Center appears to be slightly above anticipated projections. With the addition of the Hampton Inn slated to open soon, hopefully the City can be poised to handle a larger conference base with the additional hotel rooms close to the forum.

HEALTH INSURANCE FUND:

Claims paid continue to track above budget and above last year, with the number of claims appearing to not be the issue, but in the number of those middle to higher range paid claims. The City is in the process of performing a more in depth analysis of these claims to better determine how to mitigate this going forward. Mr. Rich also noted that we are also undergoing the renegotiations for the Health Clinic, which should be completed by the end of the year.

SPLOST FUND:

Ms. Shore did note to the committee that work for the City Auditorium was getting underway and there was a large encumbrance for lighting shown within the project totals. Mr. Rich noted that this was an attempt to ensure that when they shut down for the renovations, that all of the necessary materials and such were in hand, since they certainly wanted to be down for rentals as short a period as possible. With the first monies in hand since our tennis center bond issue, please just note the accounting for the Tennis center bond proceeds, and the subsequent first payment into the sinking fund for the first annual payment on the bonds in 2016.

LANDFILL FUND:

Revenues at the landfill continue to increase, actually another positive economic indicator as most of this is in the commercial line item. Expenses are running in line with last year, and the fund has a net income year to date.

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:

Although revenues are slightly up from last year, this is mainly due to the increase in rates, as the normal scope of garbage collections does not change much. Ms. Shore did note that as user fees come in line, this fund becomes more self-sufficient and less tax dependent.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Ms. Shore just noted to the committee that a quarterly grant reimbursement had been booked, so the fund looks more in line with anticipated revenues and expenses.

PUBLIC FACILITIES FUND:

Ms. Shore did want to let the committee know that the renewal lease contract between the City and DFACS was very near completion. We have been working on this for over a year as the City was tied to very little increases as this contract was tied to the first one.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND:

With the restructure of this department, the City is still analyzing the reimbursement needs. Expenses are in line, but grant reimbursements are behind anticipated amounts. The fund does still have a net deficit through September.

CAPITAL FUND:

Most equipment purchases are out for bid or in, and the largest project amounts are for the Crescent Avenue Bridge and the West Third Debt Payments.

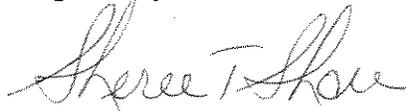
OTHER:

Ms. Shore did note that she and Mr. Rich are well into the 2016 budget process, and hopefully would have a draft for review at the November Finance Committee meeting.

Chairman McNiece also mentioned that the ad-hoc committee that was assigned to the sales tax refund issues concerning DOR had their first meeting and actually has some draft changes up and ready. She is prepared to discuss those at the next City Commission meeting along with any other updates that she hears from GMA.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sheree T. Shore".

**Sheree T. Shore**

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** by the Rome City Commission and it is hereby resolved by the authority of same that the fee schedule book of the City, authorized by Rome City Code Section 8-36, be revised to establish the attached rates for Civic Center, Auditorium, and Rome Senior Center rental fees effective January 1, 2016.

**RENTAL RATES**

<u>CIVIC CENTER</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
BUILDING RENTAL	\$650	\$700
BARBECUE HOUSE	190	200
AMPHITHEATER	150	150

ALL CIVIC CENTER RENTALS ON FRIDAY, SATURDAY, OR SUNDAY ARE SUBJECT TO A 10% PREMIUM.

AUDITORIUM

NON-PROFIT, LOCAL	\$450	\$ 500
NON-PROFIT, OTHER	1000	1100
COMMERCIAL	1000	1100
REHEARSAL, NON-PROFIT, LOCAL	225	250
REHEARSAL, NON-PROFIT, OTHER	500	550
REHEARSAL, COMMERCIAL	500	500
GRAND PIANO	150	175

ROME SENIOR CENTER

BUILDING RENTAL	\$260	\$275
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ADOPTED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOSEPH F. SMITH  
SECRETARY  
ROME CITY COMMISSION

## RESOLUTION

The following Schedule of Fees for Licenses for the privilege of operating a business which sells malt, alcoholic or vinous beverages is hereby established for the year 2015 under the provisions of Code Section 11-8.

<u>A. Malt Beverages (Beer)</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
a. Retail beer package sales	\$ 825	\$ 850
b. Retail sale of beer for consumption on the premises		Volume Based System (See separate resolution)
c. Wholesale beer distributor	\$1930	\$1990
d. Temporary for one-half (1/2) day for approved non-profit organization sponsored functions	\$ 30	\$ 30
<u>B. Vinous (Wine)</u>		
a. Retail wine package sales	\$2800	\$2885
b. Retail wine package sales in conjunction with liquor package/pouring	\$ 625	\$ 650
c. Retail sale of wine for consumption on the premises		Volume Based System (See separate resolution)
d. Wholesale wine distributor	\$1930	\$1990
e. Temporary for one-half (1/2) day for approved non-profit organization sponsored functions	\$ 30	\$ 30
<u>C. Liquor</u>		
a. Retail liquor package sales	\$5000	\$5000
b. Retail sale of liquor for consumption on the premises		Volume Based System (See separate resolution)
c. Wholesale liquor distributor	\$5000	\$5000
d. Manufacturer	\$5000	\$5000
e. Temporary for one-half (1/2) day for approved non-profit organization sponsored functions	\$ 60	\$ 60
<u>D. Off Premise, Alcohol Catering</u>		(See separate resolution)

All licenses under these classifications are subject to all requirements of Chapter 3 and Chapter 11 of the Rome City Code.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2014.

  
Joseph F. Smith, City Clerk

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rome City Commission, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of same, that the fee schedule book of the City be revised to establish the following rates for annual Malt Beverage and Wine Pouring Licenses to be effective for calendar year 2015.

For Existing Beer Pouring Businesses (Renewals):

\$1,060 plus .42 for each case (24/12 oz.) equivalent purchased during the previous 12 month period. If a business has been open for less than 12 months, a 12 month estimate will be made based on the period in which the business has been in operation.

The amount due will be calculated by the City Clerk and all establishments will be billed each November for the next calendar year period.

No outlet will be charged more than \$2,500 for a beer pouring license in 2015.

For New Beer Pouring Businesses:

\$1,530 when purchased during December through June  
\$765 when purchased during July through November

For Existing Wine Pouring Businesses (Renewals):

\$1,060 plus .45 for each liter purchased during the previous 12 month period. If a business has been open for less than 12 months, a 12 month estimate will be made based on the period in which the business has been in operation.

The amount due will be calculated by the City Clerk and all establishments will be billed each November for the next calendar year period.

No outlet will be charged more than \$2,500 for a wine pouring license in 2015.

For New Wine Pouring Businesses:

\$1,530 when purchased during December through June  
\$765 when purchased during July through November

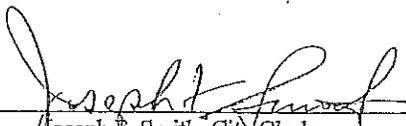
All Malt Beverage and Wine pouring license for both existing and new businesses are issued for a calendar year and will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

All licenses are subject to all requirements of Chapter 3 and Chapter 11 of the Rome City Code.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2014

For 2015:

Base: Fee increased \$0 per year  
Per Case/Per Liter: Fee increased \$.03  
New Business: Fee increased \$0 per year

  
Joseph F. Smith, City Clerk

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Rome City Commission, and it is hereby resolved by the authority of same, that the fee schedule book of the City be revised to establish the following rates for annual Liquor Pouring Licenses to be effective for calendar year 2015.

For Existing Businesses (Renewals):

\$2,990 plus \$2.34 for each liter purchased during the previous 12 month period. If a business has been open for less than 12 months, a 12 month estimate will be made based on the period in which the business has been in operation.

The amount due will be calculated by the City Clerk and all establishments will be billed each November for the next calendar year period.

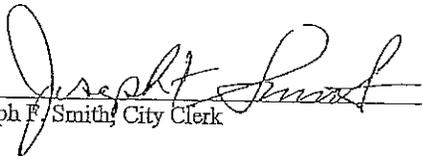
For New Businesses:

\$5,460 when purchased during December or January  
\$5,250 when purchased during February  
\$5,050 when purchased during March  
\$4,850 when purchased during April  
\$4,650 when purchased during May  
\$4,450 when purchased during June  
\$4,250 when purchased during July  
\$4,050 when purchased during August  
\$3,890 when purchased during September  
\$3,650 when purchased during October  
\$3,460 when purchased during November

All liquor pouring license for both existing and new businesses are issued for a calendar year and will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

All licenses are subject to all requirements of Chapter 3 and Chapter 11 of the Rome City Code.

Adopted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 2014

  
Joseph F. Smith, City Clerk

For 2015:

Base: Fee increased \$0 per year

Per Liter: Fee increased \$1.10

New Business: Fee increased \$0 per month