



Sammy Rich, *City Manager*
Patrick Eidson, *Assistant City Manager*
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
W. Kirk Milam, P.E., *Manager*
Public Works Division
Chris Jenkins, *Public Works Director*
Water and Sewer Division
Mike Hackett, *Director*
Engineering Services Department
Aaron Carroll, R.L.S., P.E., *Director*
Rome Transit Department
Kathy Shealy, *Director*

PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSIT COMMITTEE
AND
TRAFFIC COMMISSION

February 8, 2017 10:00 a.m.
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Sundai Stevenson, Chairwoman
Commissioner Milton Slack
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Kirk Milam, P.E., Public Services Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Public Works Director
Sgt. Danny Story, Rome Police Department
Pfc. Richard Penson, Rome Police Department
Ms. Kathy Shealy, Director, Transit Department
Ms. Sue Hiller, Planning Director

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Stevenson called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the December meeting were approved by common consent.

POLICE REPORTS

January Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Sgt Story presented the January accident report. He noted that total traffic cases were the same as this time last year at 1,280. There was a fatality on Maple Street involving a pedestrian who was struck, during a storm when visibility was low. No charges were filed. The intersection with the highest number of accidents for

the month was Redmond Circle at Avenue with 10 accidents. Many were cited with following too closely which is related to speed. He noted that accidents occur mostly at the end of the work day and on lunch hours, with Friday being the highest accident day of the week. He added that fines and forfeitures are up from last year.

Sgt. Story reported there are two new DUI task force units starting today making that task force fully staffed.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Georgia Transit Association (GTA) Legislative Agenda

Ms. Shealy presented the Georgia Transit Association Legislative 2017 State Legislative agenda. Items being discussed include:

- Transit Governance and Funding
- Maximizing Transit Opportunities Under the New T-SPLOST Provision
- Permanent Motor Fuel Tax Exemption for Transit Systems
- Regional Transportation Planning and Service

She added that February 22nd is Capitol Day from 8:30 until 12:00 noon. This year there will be a Legislative reception on the 21st from 5:30 until 7:00 PM. Ms. Shealy and Ms. Lee will attend.

Mr. Milam noted the agenda does not change much from year to year. The motor fuel tax has been on the agenda since it was taken away. He added the State of Georgia doesn't support transit operational costs because outside of Atlanta, there isn't the same need as there is in the more developed transit systems in the northeast where it is a higher priority. We frequently get requests for rural services in the County but as long as we are struggling to provide the bulk of the local funding of operations it will continue to hinder our ability to expand our service area.

Commissioner Slack asked the size of our service area. Mr. Milam replied it is basically the city limits although we are allowed to go $\frac{3}{4}$ miles outside the limits. We are unable to service Georgia Highlands or some of the industrial areas and we can't service areas to just some areas. We must provide equal services to the entire County to get Federal funding for County services. The County could have a rural system, but they have chosen not to do that.

OLD BUSINESS

Pfc. Penson reported that a citizen brought it to the attention of Captain Pace that the foot prints painted in the crosswalks are discouraged by the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). He distributed copies of this section of the MUTCD for review.

Mr. Milam noted the one location that was approved as a public art expression but he will do some more research. He added that we do try to follow the MUTCD.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Close a portion of Dogwood Drive and Reservoir Street

Mr. Jenkins presented a request to permanently close the portions of Dogwood Drive and Reservoir Street that were taken out of use when Riverside Parkway was constructed and the overpass removed. He presented before and after photos of the area.

Mr. Milam added this request came up from the City attorney because of the conveyance of the property to Ledbetter which has already taken place. The City has not gone through the process of declaring it closed by Ordinance.

Commissioner Slack moved to close the unopened portions of Dogwood Drive and Reservoir Street as requested. Commissioner Stevenson seconded. The motion carried.

Request to Close a portion of 6th Avenue for Block Party May 7th from 12 noon to 3 PM

Mr. Jenkins presented a request to temporarily close a portion of 6th Avenue from Broad Street to East 1st Street for a block party from. They asked to close starting at 9 am until 4:30 PM for to allow for setting up. They have held a block part at this location for the past three years and no issues have been reported as a result.

Commissioner Slack moved to approve the request. Commissioner Stevens seconded. The motion carried.

Request to close a Portion of Unopened Florence Street.

Mr. Jenkins presented a request by Floyd Hospital Authority to close the unopened street, Florence Street. Located next to their property on Shorter Avenue, this street was platted but never opened. The adjoining property owners have signed the position and are in agreement with the closure. The property will be conveyed to the adjoining property owners.

Commissioner Slack moved to approve the request as presented. Commissioner Stevenson seconded. The motion carried.

OTHER

Ms. Hiller reported the Regional Commission announced they have been invited to apply for the GDOT 2017 Multimodal Safety and Access Grant. This grant is intended for relatively small project on state routes that improve access, make a connection or fill a gap in existing pedestrian or bicyclist infrastructure. There is a total of \$2 million in state funds being made available in FY17 to fund the construction phases of 50 to 20 projects state-wide. She added the intended projects would include items such as sidewalks, crosswalks, curb ramps, median refuge islands, flashing beacons, etc. Local governments must provide at least 30% in matching funds or in kind labor.

At the January Transportation Policy Committee meeting, projects identified for this grant were the Martha Berry Hwy/ Coligni Way, and the Dean Avenue corridor. The intersection at Martha Berry and Coligni Way would be made a little more bicycle friendly with wider crosswalks and curb cuts to connect to the Redmond trail. On the Dean Avenue Corridor they suggest adding sidewalk on the east side of Dean Avenue near the Stay Lodge, as well as to upgrade the crosswalk closer to East Central or possible add another crosswalk near East 9th Street. She noted that letters of support have been received from merchants along Dean Avenue. She added that this will be separated up into separate segments because we may be funded just for parts of it. She will proceed with the application and continue to work with Public Works because this is a 70/30 grant with the City providing the labor. She added that our Regional Commission doesn't have any other cities applying for this.

Mr. Milam added the sidewalk along dean does have merit. There is only one crossing with a guard. Any crossing without a traffic signal or control will require a traffic engineering assessment and study. That coupled with the cost of

evaluation of the project may determine whether or not we would want to move ahead with other crossings. The DOT would supply construction materials and the City would provide labor. Ms. Hiller added there should not be any need for purchase of right of way for these projects.

Commissioner Slack moved to allow Ms. Hiller to move forward with this application. Commissioner Stevenson seconded. The motion carried.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Departmental Reports

The monthly reports were distributed for review.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary