



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

May 10, 10:00 a.m.
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Sundai Stevenson, Chairwoman
Commissioner Sue Lee
Commissioner Milton Slack
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Patrick Eidson, Assistant 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
Mr. Joe Smith, City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Stevenson called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

April Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Sgt. Danny Story presented the April accident report. He noted that accidents were up slightly for the month and year. There were no fatalities. DUI arrests are

increasing since we placed two DUI officers are on the road. Total traffic cases are up slightly. He noted that speeding details and seat belt details are making an impact.

The highest accident intersection was the Veterans/Riverside/Chatillon intersection with eleven accidents. Motorcycle officers are monitoring the intersection but it has continued to be a problem during high traffic times.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Reports

Ms. Shore presented the March financial statements. She noted that fare box revenue was down. The DHR supplement, which is vouchers distributed to families in their system to redeem, has continued to be down. Tripper service is in line with last year. She noted under *Cash Grants and Reimbursements*, that the State operating grant had been held up through the first quarter in 2016 and 2017, but it has just been released so we should see some money coming in there by the May report.

On the expense side, she noted that fringe benefits looking a little differently because retirement costs are now transferred to the general fund. So Fringe benefits are a little less and transfers out are slightly increased. Everything else is pretty much in line. Total expenses are relatively close to last year. The cash balance will go down over the next month or two until we get our reimbursements in.

Passenger Appreciation Day

Ms. Shealy reported there will be a passenger appreciation day on May 31st at the transit station downtown. Refreshments will be provided from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM and free rides will be provided all day. She added that our transportation fair will also be held at the transit station that day from 5:00 PM until 6:30 PM. The fair will include all modes of transportation with booths set up. Hot dogs will be provided. She noted that ridership surveys will be taken during these events.

NEW BUSINESS

NEP – WIN

Mr. Jenkins reported NEP – WIN (Neighborhood Enhancement Project – Watch Invest Network) will be held on Monday, May 15th, from 4:30 to 6:30 at Tolbert Park in the Summerville Park neighborhood. Speakcheesey will provide gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches. He noted the NEP focus on the neighborhood will continue for 30 days, during which time Public Works will provide several services including mowing the right-of-way, litter pick-up, right-of-way tree services and a roll-off trailer for debris collection. The Commissioners are invited to attend.

Mausoleum Lawn Improvements

Mr. Jenkins reported that although an irrigation system was installed and Mausoleum lawn was seeded after construction, the drought last year caused some damage. After receiving three quotes, we have contracted to have Bermuda grass put in for approximately \$15,000. The work should begin next week.

Potential SPLOST Projects

Mr. Jenkins reported that we are working on a list of potential projects for the upcoming SPLOST. He noted his top priorities are a massive paving project and infrastructure upgrades such as sidewalks connecting Lavender Drive to the GE property to where the new trail is located. A 5th Ave art district project is also being considered.

Commissioner Lee asked for the scope of the paving project that is being considered. Mr. Jenkins replied that we are considering several miles of paving. Mr. Milam added we should be paving about 10% of our streets each year and we haven't been able to do that for several years. Mr. Jenkins noted there are 265 centerline miles in Rome with 34 of those are on state routes. The percentage we have been able to pave is very small. Mr. Milam said we have an agreement with the County to do all of our paving and we may be exceeding what they can do for us. We need to consider outside contractors to accelerate our paving program taking advantage of SPLOST funding.

Mr. Jenkins added that House Bill 489 entitles the City of Rome to services from the County in compensation for County taxes paid by City residents. An agreement was made several years ago between the City and County to pave 12 miles per year to satisfy this requirement; however, we have only been able to complete about 4 miles of paving per year since then. This has left us with a deficit in paving leaving many of our residential streets in disrepair. Mr. Milam added that the cost of repairing failed pavement is significantly higher than keeping up regular paving.

Dog Park

Mr. Milam noted that since there have been ongoing discussions for a dog park in Floyd County, he visited the Mobile, AL "Bark Park", recently and took several photos. He presented a slide show of these photos showing several views of both the large and small dog fenced areas that included shady shelters for dog owners, with functional watering/washing stations designed to accommodate each.

Town Green Dock Reinstallation

Mr. Milam presented plans for reinstalling the Roman Holiday dock to the Town Green. The dock disassembled and relocated to Ridgeferry Park after a flood in December 2013 brought a large quantity of debris that slammed into the dock and threatened to tear it apart. The layout of the dock has been reconfigured to sit higher in the water and there will be pylons in the river to help guide and support it to keep it from floating away. The dock will also be more easily detached in a flood than the original design, which didn't include any operating plans for different elevations in the river. We now have an operating plan in place and permission from the Corps of Engineers for placing the pylons. The next task is to install the piles and then a geotechnical company will come in the next week or two to do some test borings to determine how deep we need to drive the pylons. This work will take place this summer.

OTHER

Pfc. Richard Penson reported that the reduction that occurred about a year ago on the speed limit on Broad Street from 2nd Ave. to 6th Ave from 25 to 20 mph has presented a real problem for speed control. This road is permitted for radar at 25 mph, but speeding cannot be enforced but at 20 mph. Mr. Milam noted that DDA requested the reduction in speed to increase safety for pedestrians. The Traffic

Commission agreed to the change but they could reverse that decision. Mr. Milam said we will follow up with speed studies to bring back to this Commission for consideration. Mr. Eidson added that he will notify DDA that this question has arisen in this Committee.

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