



Sammy Rich, *City Manager*
Patrick Eidson, *Assistant City Manager*
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES
W. Kirk Milam, P.E., *Manager*
Public Works Division
Steven Foy, P.E., *Asst. Public Works Director*
Water and Sewer Division
Leigh Ross, *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

August 10, 2016 10:00 a.m.
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Sundai Stevenson, Chairwoman
Commissioner Bill Irscher,
Commissioner Bill Collins
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Public Works Director
Mr. Steven Foy, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director
Ms. Kathy Sheely, Transit Department Director
Lt. Chris Dehart, Rome Police Department
Sgt. Danny Story, Rome Police Department

STAFF: Ms. Janice Gibson, Transit Department
Mr. Elander Graham, Transit Department
Ms. Sue Hiller, Planning Director

GUESTS: Mrs. Julia Russell

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Stevenson called the meeting to order. She thanked Commissioner Collins for standing in for Commissioner Lee who was unable to attend.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

July Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Lt. Dehart presented the July accident report. He noted there were 194 accidents in July with 82 of those occurring in private lots with 80 injuries. There were two fatalities that occurred in one accident at HWY 27S on Walker Mountain Road. There were 1,125 total traffic cases down from 1,393 last year, and total general cases were at 152, up from 146 last year. The highest accident intersection was Veterans Memorial Drive at Martha Berry with 8 accidents, and Turner McCall at Riverside Dr., and at Martha Berry Hwy each had 6 accidents. Following too closely remains the top contributing factor.

Commissioner Collins asked if the \$927,000 under Fines & Forfeitures comes back to the City in the General fund. Mr. Rich said it does show up as a revenue source. Ms. Shore added that the amount on this report represents fines issued during the month and does not reflect monies actually received. The actual receipts through the month of June were around \$600,000.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report for June 2016

Ms. Shore presented the June Financial statements. She noted under Main Line Service ridership was down slightly for the month but the numbers fluctuate from month to month. The DHR supplement is catching up but is still down for the year. Tripper Service will be up slightly added a route earlier this year and we are right at budget. Paratransit is down slightly for the month and year. *Federal Cash Grants and Reimbursements* are pretty close to last year. There hasn't been any large capital outlay this year. Total revenues were close to this time last year.

Under expenses she noted there wasn't anything very different from prior months. *Labor and Fringe Benefits* are still up about 13%. Commissioner Irmscher asked what is included in fringe benefits. Ms. Shore replied that fringe benefits normally include Medicare, social security, health insurance and retirement, but in Transit, sick and vacation pay is also included in that category.

She noted the State is now charging taxes on fuel, which is an additional expense. Mr. Rich noted that we need to remind our legislators that we need to get that

exemption back in Transportation Bill. Ms. Shealy added that the Georgia Transit Association is also working to get that exemption back.

Commissioner Stevenson asked if insurance covered the Paratransit bus that burned. Ms. Shealy replied that it was fully covered.

Rome City Schools First Day July 29th

Ms. Shealy reported the Rome City Schools started on Friday July 29th. During the first six days of operations we transported 5500 students per day. The six day total was 33,165 students. We are up over last year by 200 students per day on the first week of school.

Commissioner Stevenson asked if there are monitors on the buses. Ms. Shealy stated we do not use monitors but some schools have teachers ride the buses. Mr. Graham added that Anna K. Davie, West Central and Main Elementary schools all have teachers ride the buses, which is a big help to the drivers. Ms. Shealy said the County is using monitors successfully. Commissioner Stevenson asked if parent volunteers could serve as monitors. She said that she would have to check federal regulations on that. She added that the schools have been very helpful in assisting when there are behavior issues on buses.

Route Match Software

Ms. Gibson and Mr. Graham discussed the RoutMatch software. Ms. Gibson noted the software uses GPS tracking to help us locate buses, and provides monthly and quarterly ridership reports. The software provides visual headways, which Mr. Graham explained shows where the driver is at any given time along with an estimated time of arrival at the next Stop. Ms. Gibson noted the system collects all types of data which can be queried for reporting. History is available where a particular bus can be located on any particular day and time.

OLD BUSINESS

Request to Rename Gibbons St.

Mr. Jenkins presented a request to change the name of a portion of Gibbons St. from Spider Web Drive to its dead end at MLK Jr. Blvd, to Nim Russell Blvd. Mr. Commissioner Collins asked if another section could be included on the opposite side of MLK Jr. Blvd. Mr. Rich added that based on the feedback from residents,

it was determined that this section will be the least impactful. Commissioner Irscher stated that Larry Martin should be notified. Mr. Rich noted his property is addressed off of East 1st Street so the change would not affect his property. Commissioner Irscher noted his concerns about making a precedent that would encourage others to want to change street names. He noted this could pose issues with GPS systems that can be problematic for emergency vehicles. Ms. Russell stated that she respects everyone's concerns but noted this change will not affect any business or resident.

Commissioner Collins moved to recommend the name change to Nim Russell Drive as presented. Commissioner Irscher seconded. The motion carried.

Mr. Rich said it should be on the Monday, August 22nd agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Close a Portion of E. 3rd Ave. August 21st from 6 am to 4 pm

Mr. Jenkins presented a request to close the block of E 1st Presbyterian Church as requested closing the block between their buildings on East 3rd Ave for their annual church picnic. They have done this for three years with no problems reported. They own the property on both sides of the street.

Commissioner Collins moved to approve the request. Commissioner Irscher seconded. The motion carried.

DDA Street Closure Requests

Ms. Carter presented DDA's street closure requests for downtown. She noted the first request is for the *Fiddlin' Fest Between the Rivers*, which will take place on October 15th. She noted this event was approved previously for 3:30 pm – 10:30 pm, but today she is requesting the time change to 7:00 am – 9:00 pm.

The event will include a car cruise in on the 200 block, kids events on the 300 block and vendors on the 400 block. The event begins with a race starting at Bridgepoint Plaza that will finish at 3rd Ave.

Commissioner Collins moved to approve the time change for closing Broad Street for the *Fiddlin' Fest* to 7:00 am to 9:00 pm on October 15th as presented. Commissioner Irscher seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Carter presented a request to hold a two-day Antique event in the new river district on Fifth Avenue on October 15th and 16th. There will be antique vendors on the section leading up to the bridge, and then there will be food vendor trucks on the bridge. The vendors hope to keep their set up for two days. Sgt. Story noted that cutting off a major thoroughfare for two days could be problematic for traffic as well as emergency vehicles. Mr. Rich suggested this event be discussed further with the promotions committee. Commissioner Stevenson agreed.

Ms. Carter presented a request to close the same area on W. First Street as we do for the first Friday concerts on Saturday Sept. 10th for a movie screening event to promote the Rome International Film Festival. The closures will be from 5:30 pm until 11:00 pm.

Commissioner Irscher moved to approve the request. Commissioner Collins seconded. The motion carried.

Ms. Carter added there are also plans for a kid-friendly movie screening at the town green on the same day between 7:00 and 8:00 pm. This screening will not involve street closures.

Parking on W. 8th Ave.

Mr. Jenkins reported on a request from Bob Babcock to create business only parking in front of his business on West 8th Avenue where hotel employees have been parking during the business day. Since the request was made, however, Mr. Babcock has withdrawn the request. Commissioner Irscher reported he spoke with Mr. Babcock last night and was told the hotel has created employee parking in their parking lot.

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