



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

NOVEMBER, 2015 10:00 a.m.
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Kim Canada, Chairman
Commissioner Buzz Wachsteter
Commissioner Sue Lee
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Kirk Milam, P.E., Public Services Manager
Mr. Steven Foy, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director
Ms. Phyllis Lee, Transit Department Assistant Director
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Street Department Director
Sgt. Joe Costolnick, Rome Police Department

STAFF: Bryan King, Planning Department

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Canada called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

October Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Sgt. Costolnick presented the October Accident report. He noted that accidents were down from last year although injuries are up. DUI arrests and DUI related accidents were up. The two highest incident locations involved both ends of Riverside Pkwy. He noted there were several events during October that probably caused an increase in traffic. 'Following too Close' remains the most frequent citation. Turner McCall Blvd/Riverbend Drive/Hicks Drive is the third highest accident intersection. Mr. Milam asked about the recent pedestrian fatalities. Sgt. Costolnick said that alcohol was a factor in both cases.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report

Ms. Shore presented the September financial report. She noted that the report mirrors what we have been looking at for the last few months. Tripper service is up due to the added routes. Paratransit contract service is about a month behind. Advertising revenue has evened out and is less than what we originally budgeted the first and second year. We will probably budget about \$8000 next year. She also noted that *Federal Cash Grants and Reimbursements* are behind where we were at this time last year, so revenues are behind last year overall.

On the expense side, she noted that payroll and labor and fringes are up. Materials and supplies are up slightly due to repairs but we are still benefiting from reduced fuel costs.

Commissioner Wachsteter mentioned that he would like to see a pilot project considered for a ride-on-demand project, which would be a greater service to our community.

OLD BUSINESS

East Rome Baptist Church/Cedar Ave

Mr. Foy reported that since the pedestrian accident was discussed last month, we have been looking at measures we can take to heighten awareness of pedestrians on Cedar Avenue. He proposed a flashing caution light along with pedestrian crossing signs on either sides of the church. He noted that an additional street light has already been added.

Commissioner Lee moved to accept this recommendation. Commissioner Wachsteter seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Wachsteter asked if the caution light will be on a timer. Mr. Milam said that this particular light will be on at all times.

NEW BUSINESS

US411/SR27 South Exit Signage

Mr. Milam presented an email regarding the need for improved signage for truck traffic exiting SR27 South heading towards Lindale. He explained that because GPS devices as well as Google Maps picks up the non-existent Old Van Wert Road, Trucks have been getting lost on their way to Bekaert or Kellogg. At times they have even caused damage to private property trying to turn around on narrow residential streets. Staff has contacted Google as well as ESRI who handle the City's mapping to remove this road from the maps, but in the meantime, he proposed a guide sign highlighting Darlington Dr. Baekaertr Exit ½ mile and Southeastern Mills and Kellogg's signs as an additional measure to prevent this confusion in place of the current Maple Road exit sign. The Maple Road sign would then be moved further down past the bend in the road on US27

South. He asked for the committee's endorsement to forward this proposal to DOT for approval.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to approve the request. Commissioner Lee seconded. The motion carried.

Solid Waste Collection Fees for 2016

Mr. Milam presented a resolution to change the Solid Waste Collections fees for 2016. He noted that only the commercial side of our operation (commercial dumpsters and carts) will have an increase and not the residential fees.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the proposed increases in commercial Solid Waste Collection fees. Commissioner Wachsteter seconded. The motion carried.

Culvert Repairs Planned on Technology Parkway

Mr. Jenkins reported that culvert repairs are planned for Technology Pkwy after a letter was received from DOT inspectors saying they have determined the traffic tonnage load needed to be reduced to 5 tons due to the condition of the pipes. City staff responded immediately to these concerns by performing our own inspection along with a DOT engineer who was invited come along to explain what he reviewed. Mr. Jenkins presented photos showing that the oval shaped pipes gave the appearance of being stressed from too much weight because they were assumed to have once been round. In reality, these pipes were an oval shape when they were first installed. However, there is some natural wear on the pipes which will require the Street Department to perform some minor repairs and re-caulking. The DOT engineer accepted this and agreed not to make changes to the weight limit.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Departmental Reports

The monthly reports were distributed for review.

OTHER

Mr. Brian King with the Planning Department reported the second draft of the Transportation Analysis is complete and will be sent out this afternoon or tomorrow morning.

Mr. Steven Foy reported that the City Arborist, Terry Paige has been voted as a board member of the Georgia Urban Forest Council for the 2016 -2017 term. This is a high honor and we are very proud of Mr. Paige.

Commissioner Canada stated that this will be his last meeting if we don't meet in December so he wanted to take this opportunity to say how much he has enjoyed this

Committee over the years and how much he appreciates the staff. Mr. Milam spoke for the staff in thanking Commissioner Canada for his support of staff recommendations and his considered decisions over the years.

Commissioner Wachsteter reported that he attended the ribbon cutting for the west by-pass and noted that there at least 10 big log trucks already using the new road. Hopefully this will have a positive impact on our traffic. He also echoed Commissioner Canada's sentiments and added that he is proud of the staff and plans to continue working with the City as a volunteer once he leaves the Commission.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary