



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

February 11, 2015 10:00 a.m.
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

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

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Canada called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He noted that Commissioner Wachsteter has been appointed to this Committee and welcomed him.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

Sgt. Joe Costolnick presented the January Accident report. He noted that accidents were up by 10 at 189 from this time last year. DUI arrests are up and DUI related accidents are also up. Commissioner Canada asked if the department was at full staff. Sgt. Costolnick stated that his unit is at full staff but he couldn't speak for the whole department. Commissioner Canada asked if there have been many issues relating to the new One-Way designation at West 1st Street. He responded that he was not aware of any but would check it out.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report

Ms. Shore reported that the year-end report is not available as yet. It will be presented next month.

OLD BUSINESS

Crescent Ave. Bridge Construction Update

Mr. Carroll reported that since December a lot of progress has been made on the Crescent Ave. Bridge project. He presented photos of the slab being constructed. The backfill has been completed on each end of the bridge. The approach slab on the Crescent Ave. side is complete as of last week. The GAB is being placed now to do the approach slab on the other end. Because concrete has to maintain a 32 degree internal temperature for 24 hours the recent cold weather has had an adverse impact on the work cycle. Hopefully the project can be completed by the end of March. He noted that he is currently working on matching the guard rails to the bridge. Because the Federal Highway Administration does not favor weathered steel over galvanized steel in guardrail materials that finish which was specified may be difficult to acquire.

NEW BUSINESS

Certificate of Public Works Management Awarded to Chris Jenkins

Mr. Milam reported that last month Street Department Director Chris Jenkins was awarded an Advance Certificate of Public Works Management by the American Public Works Association. This program of education and specialization is performed through the Carl Vincent Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. The 90-hour course encompasses finance, personnel management and legal issues and is an excellent program that was instituted about ten years ago for preparing our Public Works leaders. The Committee congratulated Chris for this accomplishment. Commissioner Canada noted he would like to also recognize this achievement at the next City Commission meeting.

Proposed MOA with GDOT and Corps of Engineers on SR101

Mr. Milam presented a draft Memorandum of Agreement that the Corps of Engineers out of Mobile, AL sent to the City of Rome and the GDOT to outline how we will work together to secure a permit for the DOT's widening project on 2nd Avenue from West 3rd Street up through the Turner McCall intersection. This is necessary because there is an encroachment of the project into the levee for the wall system. That encroachment triggers federal law that obligates the Corps to review the plans and permit the project. The Corps doesn't get federal funding to perform that review so federal law has allowed the Corps to establish a fee for processing the permit applications. There are lengthy guidelines for doing that review and the price for processing it has been estimated and put

into this Agreement at \$50,000, which will be paid by the GDOT. The City of Rome is considered the sponsor of the project in the Agreement because we “own” the levee. In fact, Norfolk Southern actually owns levee so we are trying to rectify the issue of ownership and clarify maintenance responsibility. As it stands now, this Memorandum of Agreement is between the GDOT, the City and the Corps. It is being modified and reviewed by the Corp’s counsel and we will have it reviewed by the City Attorney. This is necessary to move the project forward and is a good mechanism to ensure the GDOT covers the expenses to do it.

Aaron Carroll has been our lead man on investigating the ownership issues and Mr. Rich and Mr. Milam have been working with the Railroad. There is no action needed at this time but this Committee will be asked to recommend it to the full Commission at the appropriate time. This MOA will be reviewed by the City Attorney and then forwarded to the full Commission.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the Agreement subject to review by the City attorneys. Commissioner Wachsteter seconded. The motion carried.

2014 Mausoleum Sales Report

Mr. Foy reported on the Myrtle Hill Mausoleum sales. He presented the following:

<u>Units Sold</u>	<u>Units Available</u>
Sales Financed – 4	Niche Units - 483
Niche Units – 113	Single Crypt Units - 289
Crypt Units – 67	Tandem Crypt Units – 112

The original pre-opening sales goal was over \$1 million, while actual pre-opening sales totaled about \$350,000. Through the end of 2014 our cumulative sales were within \$100,000 of our originally projected sales goal of \$1.1 million. Sales are projected to reach \$1.5 million by 2020. Ms. Shore noted that at least 8 to 10 purchases were financed for 12 months at no interest. There are only about four financed purchases currently on the books.

Mr. Foy noted that Mr. Bill Kerestes is an independent sales contractor who is working along with Mr. Rogers on sales. He added that Mr. Kerestes is only paid for those sales that he originates. Plans to boost sales include a variety of advertising resources. Mr. Rogers added the Mausoleum is being advertising on the marquee of the Dempsey Lord building this month and a billboard next month. A Facebook page has already been created to utilize social media as well. Commissioner Wachsteter added that internet news sites have been adding online obituaries and suggested we look into utilizing that kind of service.

Mr. Rogers noted there have been three funerals since the Mausoleum has been built. Since some of the gravesites are in areas that are difficult for the handicapped to access, the Mausoleum chapel is being utilized for the services rather than at graveside. This has

proved very helpful and very much appreciated by those that have attended the services at that location.

2015 LMIG Project List Approved by GDOT

Chris Jenkins presented the LMIG project list that was approved by GDOT for 2015. He noted that an evaluation system is used to rate the roads in order to select those most in need of paving for the paving list. The road rating system works on a percentage basis with 100% being the highest rating. The majority of the roads on this list rate from 50% to 60%. The State just issued the City a check for \$316,000 towards the total project cost of \$537,000. The difference will be made up locally through the use of Street Department labor and equipment so no additional cash outlay will be required. The Street Department will begin working on these roads in the spring.

Commissioner Wachsteter reported that at the last Transportation Policy Committee the issue of potholes on Turner McCall Blvd was discussed. He asked if the City and County have had any discussions with GDOT about this issue. Mr. Milam stated there will have to be more conversations with GDOT on that and other maintenance issues as well, particularly with the interpretation GDOT is applying to the maintenance contract between the City and GDOT. The contract has historically been interpreted as encompassing only off-pavement right-of-way maintenance and street sweeping. Potholes are an issue that we will have to discuss further with GDOT.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Departmental Reports

The Departmental reports were distributed for review.

OTHER

Mr. Foy reported that an Arbor Day ceremony is coming up on Friday, February 20th at North Pointe Subdivision on Hwy. 53, at 11:00 AM where Chinese Pistache trees have been planted to replace those that were killed by an Ambrosia Beetle infestation. Chieftains Museum will have another Arbor Day celebration at 2:00 PM on the same day. He added the Rome Federated Garden Clubs will be replacing a Trident Maple tree on Thursday Feb 26th at 11:00 AM.

Commissioner Wachsteter mentioned there is a terrible traffic problem on Dean Ave. by East Central Elementary.

Stan Rogers presented an award from Trip Advisor for the reviews that it has received on Myrtle Hill as a destination.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary