



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

July 12, 2016 10:00 a.m.
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Sundai Stevenson, Chairwoman
Commissioner Bill Irscher
Mr. Patrick Eidson, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Kirk Milam, P.E., Public Services Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Public Works Director
Mr. Steven Foy, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director
Ms. Phyllis Lee, Transit Department Assistant Director
Lt. Chris Dehart, Rome Police Department
Sgt. Danny Story, Rome Police Department

GUESTS: Mr. James McCombs, 605 W 11th St
Mr. Ronnie Gilreath, 1101 Ave A
Mr. Bobby McBurnett, 1019 Ave A
Mr. John White, 1010 Avenue A NE
Ms. Nena Dake, 731 Avenue A

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Stevenson called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

June Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Lt. Dehart presented the June accident report. He noted that private lot accidents were up slightly from last year, while injuries and DUI arrests were down slightly. There were no significant differences during lunch and evening hours which are the highest traffic times during the day. The highest accident intersections for the month of June were Martha Berry Hwy at GA Loop 1, Turner McCall Blvd at Hicks Drive, and Shorter Ave. at Redmond Circle. Major high crash corridors stayed pretty much the same. He noted that over 50% of all accidents are speed related.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report for May 2016

Ms. Shore reported both the Main Line and Tripper services were up over last year. She added the Tripper service is on budget. Paratransit service is up for the month and year-to-date. There wasn't any activity under *Federal Cash Grants and Reimbursements* in May.

Under expenses, she noted we are about 12% over last year in labor and fringes. There was an increase in health insurance costs and some increases in staff. She added that *Material and Supplies* was down from last year due to reduced fuel costs. We are required to pay state fuel taxes as part of the new legislation.

OLD BUSINESS

Kingston Avenue Area Sidewalk Project Phase 1

Mr. Jenkins reported that Phase 1 of the Kingston Avenue Sidewalk project is complete. He noted that Community Development Director, Bekki Fox, has worked closely with Engineering Director, Aaron Carrol to obtain a HUD grant for this project. Once the funds were awarded, Public Works personnel oversaw the work performed by contractors that were engaged with the help of the Purchasing Department. He presented before and after photos showing the dramatic improvement the new sidewalk makes in the appearance of the street.

Street Paving Update

Mr. Jenkins presented the current paving list under the Local Maintenance Improvement Grant (LMIG) showing the 2015 streets that were not completed last year along with the streets scheduled for paving this year. He noted that last year, because the Water Department was replacing a main on King Bee Circle we postponed our paving until they have completed their work. He added that GDOT allows us up to three years to complete a project to compensate for situations like this. He reported that both Brown Fox Drive and Saddle Trail paving is complete while East 20th and Curtain Streets are being milled now in preparation for paving. We are using local funding and SPLOST funding to pave Woodbine in West Rome. The remaining streets should be complete by early fall.

Commissioner Lee asked Mr. Jenkins the cost of paving. He replied that paving costs the City approximately \$100,000 in asphalt material per mile. The County contributes the paving labor. We are paving about five miles per year. He added there is about 269,000 linear miles in the City limits. Mr. Milam added that to keep up with maintenance, we need to pave about 10% of our roads each year. We have not been able to do for many years. The cost of repairs increases as the deterioration increases. Commissioner Irmscher asked if GDOT takes care of any of the paving. Mr. Milam said they only take care of State Routes, which is only 34 miles of our total mileage. This is the kind of project that we try to promote for SPLOST projects. Kirk said we will see about additional information on the website to keep residents updated.

Commissioner Irmscher asked about the Chulio Hills project. Mr. Milam replied that our Engineering Dept. has been performing field survey work which is substantially complete, while outside engineers will be needed to consult with us on the specialized construction that will be needed to complete the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Multi-Way STOP at Avenue A and West 11th St.

Mr. Foy presented a request for a Multi-Way STOP at Avenue A and W. 11th St. A petition from a majority of the residents was presented to the Commission for review. He noted the Manual of Uniform Traffic and Control Devices (MUTCD) is the national guideline for traffic control devices. He performed a speed and accident study of the location along with average daily traffic counts in both

directions over a week. The MUTCD uses the 85th percentile, or the speed that 85% of vehicles do not exceed, to determine the speed limit for a street. In his study, Mr. Foy observed the 85th percentile speed in northbound traffic was 35 mph and southbound was 37. He noted that part of Avenue A is on the radar list.

Mr. Milam pointed out that the 85th percentile helps traffic engineers determine what speed motorists feel comfortable maintaining. The DOT generally doesn't allow speeds to be established for radar very far below the 85th percentile speed. There was only one reported accident for the last three years which involved an oversized truck that pulled down some overhead wires. Based on the results of the study he did not recommend approval of the multi-way Stop.

Sgt. Story noted that in a historical district such as this, State Law allows ticketing at 5 miles over the speed limit, while other areas are ticketed at 10 miles over the limit. Commissioner Irmischer asked if there were already any Stop signs on Avenue A. Mr. Foy replied there is one at W. 10th St.

Commissioner Stevenson invited the residents to address the Commission. She recognized Mr. John White, who resides at 1010 Avenue A. He stated the Stop sign at W. 10th St. slows up traffic but once they pass the sign they speed up all the way to the corner. Oncoming traffic on Avenue A at this intersection is coming through a blind curve which is very dangerous for motorists entering Avenue A from W. 10th Street is dangerous because there is a blind curve. He added that pedestrians using the levy system have to dodge on-coming traffic to cross Avenue A to access the levy and trails.

Mr. Bob Burnett of 1019 W. 11th St. stated he hears tires screeching every night and sees pedestrians all during the day. His home is located on the corner of Avenue A and W. 11th St. He noted the curve at W. 11th is a blind curve where you can't see on-coming traffic as you turn onto Avenue A.

Mr. Ronnie Gilreath of 1101 Avenue A added there are people from the High Rise apartments riding in electric wheelchairs down the middle of the road to walk their dogs. He fears for their safety. He has witnessed an accident recently where the motorist hit a power pole and left scene without reporting it.

Ms. Nina Dake of 731 Avenue A stated that she hopes the Commission will be proactive in granting their request to improve safety even though statistics don't support a STOP sign.

Commissioner Irmscher moved to approve the request. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion carried.

Kingston Avenue Area Sidewalk Project Phase 2

Mr. Jenkins reported that the Kingston Avenue Sidewalk Phase 2 is a much larger area than Phase 1. Bekki Fox has obtained a HUD grant for this project totaling \$204,000. The work will be done in three small contracts that were put out for bid and received five proposals. Spriggs Paving was the low bidder. The first one will cover the area from Calhoun Avenue to Kingston Avenue via Perkins Street. This section will cost \$55,000 and should take about 30 days. The next contract will continue up Kinston Avenue to Church Street and will take 90 days. He noted the Perkins Street sidewalk has already been broken up as of Tuesday and should be poured today.

LMIG (Local Maintenance Improvement Grant)

Mr. Jenkins reported the LMIG grant application for 2017 has been received from GDOT. We are beginning to evaluate our roads to determine which are in greatest need of paving. Staff will prioritize roads taking under consideration their rating, traffic volumes and citizen requests for paving. He noted that some of the fuel tax money we are paying the State is coming back to us in the form of grant funding. In 2016 we received \$219,000 for paving and in 2017 we will receive \$417,000, which is about a 30% increase. The list of roads will be presented for approval at the first of the year.

West 1st Street/Bridgepoint Redevelopment

Mr. Milam reported on a redevelopment project on West 1st Street. He noted the Cotton Block has lagged behind the rest of the downtown area in redevelopment other than the use of its green space for concerts and office space in Bridgepoint Plaza. Several years ago we reviewed at how parking was managed and accommodated on West 1st Street which resulted in a plan to establish angled parking and a one way designation on West 1st from 2nd Avenue two years ago. There has been a new development planned for the vacant space in the Bridgepoint Plaza building which is now owned by Freight House Millennium. Freight House Partnership was the entity that gave us the green space and approached the Commission some time ago with the intention of creating a restaurant in that space. Freight House Millennium now owns the building and

wants to redevelop the building with a restaurant. They have proposed a staircase from the building on the W 1st Street with a handicap ramp on the green space side of the building. They will fund the entire cost of the work but ask the city to facilitate it through the engineering of it and working with the DOT to procure the needed permits for the sidewalk construction on the 2nd Avenue side. He presented a layout of the property indicating the proposed changes, noting that unless the Commission objects, we will continue to cooperate with this development and provide engineering services to them.

OTHER

Mr. Eidson noted that Mr. Rich had requested the Committee be updated on the renaming of Gibbons Street. Mr. Milam added that currently Mrs. Russell is considering renaming only that portion of Gibbons Street that is in front of the church and parking lot only. This will be discussed further at the August meeting.

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