



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

September 14, 2016 10:00 a.m.
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Sundai Stevenson, Chairwoman
Commissioner Bill Irscher
Commissioner Sue Lee
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Kirk Milam, Public Services Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Public Works Director
Mr. Steven Foy, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director
Ms. Kathy Shealy, Transit Department Director
Sgt. Danny Story, Rome Police Department

GUESTS: Mr. Bob Babcock, 107 E 8th Ave
Greg Davis, 6 Limon Place

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Stevenson called the meeting to order. Commissioner Irscher reported that he heard on the radio

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

August Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Sgt. Story presented the August accident report. He noted the total number of accidents was down for the month. The main cause cited continues to be *Following too Close*. High incident locations were Veterans/Riverside/Chatillion with 10 accidents, and Veterans Memorial Hwy at Martha Berry had 9, which is up from last month. He noted increased enforcement efforts are being put into place with the *Click it or Ticket* campaign from November 14th through the 27th, and *Zero Tolerance* will begin after that and extend through January.

He reported DUI arrests under 21 are down by 1. Year-to-date there were 9 fatalities down from 13 at this time last year. There have been no fatalities during the month of August. Commissioner Irmischer asked why fines and forfeitures were down. Sgt. Story replied that fines are recorded when the citation is written but the revenues often aren't collected until after the court dates have taken place.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report for July 2016

Ms. Shore reported fare box receipts are down for the month and year. Tripper service is on budget. Paratransit is up over last year again which is largely due to the timing of DHR contract payments. Under *Federal Cash Grants and Reimbursements* she noted we are about where we were at this time last year. Revenues are close to last year.

On the expense side she reported the major expenses are personnel services plus fringes which are about 12% above last year. She noted Materials and Supplies includes fuel and fuel taxes so it is up. Depreciation is down overall. Total expenses are about \$20,000 over this time last year but our cash position has increased.

OLD BUSINESS

Parking on W. 8th Ave

Mr. Jenkins reported that since the last meeting the parking issues reported resolved by Mr. Bob Babcock have resumed. Mr. Babcock would like to address the Committee. An aerial photo of the parking layout was displayed for the Commission. Mr. Babcock has reported the limited on street parking at his business at 107 W. 8th is being used by management staff of the new Hampton Inn all day. In addition to Mr. Babcock's office there is also a law firm and a boarding house along the street.

Mr. Babcock read a letter he composed summarizing his issues. He noted that the Board of Adjustors agreed to require the Hampton Inn to construct an 8 ft. fence with a service gate at the rear of their property to prevent through access to the on street parking behind it. The building inspector has allowed a three foot fence which was all that was required by the building codes. Multiple requests to Hampton management to prevent employees parking in these spaces during business hours have been unsuccessful. Their position is that since it is public parking they are within their rights to use it. Mr. Babcock there for requested these spaces to be designated for business use only during office hours. He noted there is also a regular guest of the hotel with an ice cream truck that he has been parking on the street as well. Mr. Babcock added that he was required by the ULDC to create 12 off street parking spaces for his business of two employees before he could receive a certificate of occupancy. He feels that something must be done to help the business owners. Commissioner Lee asked if the hotel has ample parking for their employees. Mr. Babcock said they do have ample parking.

Mr. Jenkins asked if 2-hour parking would be helpful. Mr. Babcock replied that he has requested that before and was told it would not be possible in that zone. Mr. Milam noted there is a history of parking issues at this location. When there is a built up of use without adequate off street parking, the public parking becomes the issue. The Downtown Development officer would not monitor that location so the question of whether or not a 2-hour limit could be enforced is an issue. We would need to review some of our new parking zones in the area to see if they are currently enforceable and enforced. He added that the parking can't be designated for a particular business but must be either public or restricted with enforcement.

Commissioner Stevenson asked if staff could send a letter to Mr. Patel to see if he could be a good neighbor and designate the needed spaces for his employees to park in his lot. Mr. Milam added this would be an appropriate letter for all the businesses in the area to determine if they have alternate parking for employees.

He noted if there are reports of vehicles of any kind blocking the intersection and parking in prohibited zones we need to address that as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Close a Portion of 7th Ave

Mr. Jenkins presented a request to close a portion of 7th Avenue from Metropolitan United Methodist Church between 4:30 and 7:30 on September 17th. Church members collected signed letters from the adjoining businesses stating no objections to the closure. He recommended approving the request.

Commissioner Irmscher moved to approve the closure. Commissioner Lee seconded. The motion carried.

Timberlane Terrace Multi-way Stop Sign Request

Mr. Foy reported that Mr. Davis of 6 Limon Place spoke with him several times regarding installing multi-way stops on Timberlane terrace. A traffic count was performed and the traffic counter was placed at the intersection for a week. He noted the speeds weren't particularly high. There were no accidents but he noted there is a hill approaching from Burnett Ferry Rd which limits sight distance which is a criterion for a STOP sign and STOP Ahead sign. Mr. Davis added that he has talked to several of the neighbors who also wanted the Stop sign. He recommended a 4-way STOP at the intersection of Timberlane Terrace and Limon Place. Mr. Milam added that although we can justify the need for a STOP sign due to the sight distance problem, we cannot ever justify a STOP sign for speed control. Parents should not assume that a STOP sign assures the safety of children playing in the street.

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

Request to Close a Portion of Jackson Street

Mr. Jenkins reported on a request to close a portion of Jackson Street. He said this request came in late and still need more information on it. The request is to close off the street on September 30th at a residence there. He noted that there isn't a lot of traffic there. Typically we approve closings for events that are open to the whole street or block. Commissioner Lee asked if we have ever approved a

closing like this before. Mr. Jenkins said we have not. Sgt. Story added that this would set a bad precedent to close streets for private parties. Mr. Milam agreed. Mr. Jenkins did not recommend approving the request. The Commissioners agreed.

Request to Close a Section of Avenue B

Mr. Jenkins presented a request by the property owners of Sherold Salmon and Trinity Methodist Church to permanently close the portion of Avenue B that stretches from Turner McCall Blvd to 5th Avenue. There is a lot of walking traffic between the Sherold Salmon parking lots and both property owners would like to have this section closed and quit claimed to them. Commissioner Stevenson asked if this is a one way street. Mr. Jenkins replies it is. He recommended approving the request to forward to the City Commission in the form of a resolution. Mr. Milam added he has no objection to the closure.

Commissioner Lee move to approve the request. Commissioner Irmscher seconded. The motion carried.

Widening of Second Avenue Update

Mr. Milam reported that GDOT has had a project to widen 2nd Ave from the bridge at W. 3rd St. all the way to Turner McCall Blvd. for many years. They have acquired the needed right-of-way before realizing part of the project encroached on the levy which required Corps approval. Because it wasn't a Corps initiated project, they charged a fee to review the plans which was not in GDOT's project budget. This stalled the project in 2012. Mr. Milam met with GDOT and the Corps in Mobile at that time to come up with a memorandum of agreement between all parties to do the studies to be submitted to the Corps with GDOT bearing the cost.

He met with GDOT and their consultant about two weeks ago. They have submitted their review plan to the Mobile district and have established a schedule for the preparation of additional drawings for final review and the plan will be submitted back to the Corps in January 2017. There will be another meeting with the Corps in February and hopefully by this time in 2017 the project will be progressing.

SPLOST Improvements to Burnett Ferry Rd.

Mr. Milam reported our 2013 SPLOST included a very important project for improving Burnett Ferry Rd, with curb and gutter and sidewalk. It is budgeted at \$2.7 million and will extend from Abigail Lane all the way to Alto Park Elementary. The road will also be resurfaced. Bids for this project will be received October 25th. This will be a twelve-month project.

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