



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

October 12, 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. Patrick Eidson, Assistant City Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Public Works Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director
Lt. Richard Penson, Rome Police Department

GUESTS: Mr. Greg Davis, 6 Limon Place
Ms. Melissa Davis, 6 Limon Place
Mr. Donald Bing 5 Limon Place

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Stevenson called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

September Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Lt Dehart gave the accident report. He noted there were 201 accidents for them month up from 184 at this time last year. He added that 107 of those accidents

were in private lots and many of the injuries DUI arrests were down and arrests under 21 were up. There were 1273 total traffic cases up from 948 last year. *Following too close* made up 36% of all citations, other causes (driver inattention) 30%, *Failure to Yield* was 17 % and DUI was 10%. Friday's have routinely been a high accident day. The highest accident times are early morning, lunch and evening, and the high accident locations are Turner McCall Blvd/ Broad St and Martha Berry Blvd/N 2nd Ave with 7 accidents each. Veterans Memorial/Martha Berry Blvd and E 2nd Ave/E 4th had 4 accidents each.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report for August 2016

Ms. Shore presented the August financial reports. She noted Main Line revenues were down at \$56,067 versus \$62,457 at this time last year. Fare box revenues were down by 10%. Tripper Service is about the same as last year. Paratransit is up slightly but otherwise pretty much in line with last year. Federal cash grants and reimbursements are in line with last year with a little more in operating capital.

On the expense side she noted that *Labor and Fringe Benefits* were about 12% over this time last year. *Materials and Supplies* were down, which is largely due to decreases in fuel costs. *Other Services and Charges* include costs associated with the Route Match software. Total expenses and transfers out were up slightly over last year.

OLD BUSINESS

Timberlane Terrace Multi-way Stop Sign Request

Mr. Jenkins reported that several residents of Limon Place had signed a petition for a Stop sign that was reviewed and approved at the last meeting. Since that time, several emails were received from other residents in the neighborhood who were strongly opposed to a Stop sign, which precipitated a second review. He presented a map of the neighborhood indicating the 10 households in favor of a Stop sign and the 16 households that were opposed.

Mr. Jenkins noted the original sight distance study for that request was based on a computer model of the hill indicating a limited site distance of 120 ft. at the crest curve on Timberlane Terrace, whereas a subsequent study performed by

Mr. Milam reviewed the site distance from the crest of the hill to the intersection, which indicated the sight distance was much longer at 260 ft. Because the sight distance must be less than 200 ft. to warrant a Stop sign, Mr. Jenkins reported that Mr. Milam did not recommend one at this location.

Commissioner Stevenson invited Mr. Davis to address the Commission. Mr. Davis noted that he owns a home at 6 Limon Place. His concern was for the safety of children playing near and in the intersection since many motorists speed through the intersection. After meeting with Mr. Jenkins yesterday to discuss the opposition to the Stop sign, he called one of the residents who opposed to discuss his concerns. He added that his main concern is safety and he is not opposed to exploring other solutions such as rumble strips. Mr. Jenkins noted that we could explore other types of signage such as "Approaching Intersection", but he advised against rumble strips that are noisy problematic for the residents living near them.

Mr. Donald Bing of 5 Limon place addressed the Commission. He noted he has difficulty backing out of his driveway without being hit by speeders. He noted there is a Stop sign at Mountain Chase that motorists constantly run.

Commissioner Lee asked what the speed limit is in the neighborhood. Mr. Jenkins said it is posted at 30 mph. Mr. Davis noted his driveway is in the most dangerous spot. Dr. Melissa Davis added that she is also primarily concerned with the safety of children noting that she and her husband are not proponents of a Stop sign in particular. She suggested that those involved in making a decision on this should come and drive through the area to see what they are talking about. Lt. Dehart suggested a caution sign warning motorists they are approaching a blind hill. Commissioner Lee said she would like to drive the area herself before further action is taken.

Commissioner Stevenson asked Lt. DeHart if the traffic speed monitor could be placed in the neighborhood for a while to help motorists realize their speed. He responded that it is scheduled to be at another location for a few days but should be able to set it up on Timberlane next week. Mr. Jenkins noted that a Stop sign is not a good speed control measure, adding the sign has not been installed and will not take place until all other options have been explored.

Commissioner Stevenson thanked everyone for their input. Dr. and Mr. Davis both thanked the Commission for their consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

Handicap Ramp Construction on E 1st Street

Mr. Jenkins reported the Street Department has completed construction of a handicap ramp on E 1st Street at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He noted there had been a handicap parking space without access up to the sidewalk. The church asked the City to partner with them in creating a handicap access ramp. Street Department employees used some left over masonry along with handrail they fabricated in house to construct the ramp on the right of way for under \$6000 which was reimbursed by the church. He presented a photo of the completed ramp.

Trash Receptacle Corrals on W 1st Street

Mr. Jenkins reported complaints have been received from Hawthorne Suites as well as others about the unsightly appearance of the trash receptacles on West 1st street. In an effort to improve the appearance of this area, we are doing a pilot test with a two-yard cart to replace the row of carts to see if the level of service is adequate. He presented a photo of the cart which serves two businesses. A gated corral was constructed to contain the cart that is short enough to allow people to access the carts to dispose of trash without opening the gate to the sidewalk. Then the service trucks can open the gate at time of servicing. Eliminating the extra carts will make servicing quicker and simpler for the Solid Waste Collections as well. Mr. Rich noted this is a timely solution since more residential units are coming in downtown. Mr. Jenkins added we have received a favorable response from Ira Levy, who would like us to do it all the way down to 5th Avenue.

G.E. Bike Trail Project

Mr. Jenkins reported the Street Department is currently working to clear three miles of mountain bike trail and 1.3 miles of walking/hiking trails on the G.E. property that was given to the City. To-date we have cleared about ½ mile. He presented a map of the trail path and a photo of one of the five bridges constructed by Street Department crews. He noted it is going to be a very nice trail that the public should enjoy. Mr. Rich agreed.

Mr. Jenkins added a local lumbar company gave us a good price on the lumber for five bridges which totaled a little under \$900. There will be a grand opening

sometime in January. Some of the fencing will be removed from the G.E. Property which is now owned by the City of Rome for trail access. He noted that signage and naming the trails will need to be considered. Commissioner Lee asked if there is a lot of wildlife since the property has been untouched for such a long time. She hoped there might be future projects to engage the public such as birdhouses. Mr. Rich agreed noting since this is so close to West Central Elementary on the South end so it could also serve as an outdoor classroom.

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