



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

June 10, 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. Donnie Barrett, Solid Waste Collections Director  
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director  
Ms. Kathy Shealy, Transit Department Director

GUESTS: Minister Jerry Cooper, Chambers Street 4 Kids

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Canada called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

May Traffic Accident /DUI Report

The Accident/DUI report for May was distributed for review with the meeting agenda.

'Rolling Thunder' Enforcement Initiative

Mr. Rich reported about the official kick off for the 'Rolling Thunder' effort coordinated by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety. He noted that we will benefit from having the extra officers from around the state to assist us with increased enforcement.

## TRANSIT OPERATIONS

### Financial Report

Ms. Shore presented the April financial report. She noted that Mainline service is trending the same as last year. Bus pas cards and receipts are still down slightly. Tripper service is up slightly since the school board is paying a little more for extra services. Paratransit is up over last year. The DHR contract reimbursements have been caught up. Federal cash grants and reimbursements were down slightly but in line with where we were at this time last year. We have already submitted some reimbursements.

Expenses are pretty much in line. Labor is up about 15% mainly due to having a full staff along with routine pay raises and adjustments, but we are not above budget. Mr. Milam added there was also a pay plan modification for bus operators that was put into place last year.

Commissioner Wachsteter asked if the Tripper drivers were full-time regular drivers. Ms. Shealy replied they are full time employees. In addition to their assigned Tripper routes, they fill in for other drivers who are on vacation or sick. If there isn't driving available for them during the summer, they work in the garage and around the office complex.

Under Materials and Supplies Ms. Shore noted that fuel costs are still down. There will be some reallocation in the next couple of months. Expenses are up slightly but everything is in line. The cash balance year-to-date is \$820,440 which is where we wanted to be.

Ms. Shore also commented on the recent audit by the Georgia DOT. She reported that when DOT figures the 50% match on grants, they sometimes calculate the match differently than we would. She and Mr. Milam have had to review how we determine our 50% match with regards to our cash balance and our other commitments. She reported that on the recent DOT audit, our calculations were acceptable but very close to not making that percentage match. There were no financial issues cited, however they have requested more documentation on policies and procedures. Ms. Shealy added auditors were on site for two full days and in total the review went very well. A written audit report will be sent to us once they have completed their other audits around the state.

Mr. Milam added that we want to ensure that we get all the federal funding for which we are eligible and that he and Ms. Shealy work together to maximize our grant awards.

### Tripper Contract for FY 2016 to Add Two Buses

Mr. Milam stated that he was contacted by Lou Byars with Rome City Schools to discuss adding two more buses to ensure there is enough seating capacity for Rome High School students. The additional buses will also serve the Middle and elementary schools, and will add another \$76,000 per year to their contract cost. We will have to use some buses that are in reserve until we are able to buy the new buses. Commissioner Wachsteter

asked if there is a way we could use some smaller buses on certain routes. Ms. Shealy noted that it is a possibility, but most routes are filled to a capacity that really requires the larger bus. We also need to keep spare vehicles on hand in case they are needed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Request to a Close Portion of Chambers St. in North Rome, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 4-9 PM

Mr. Milam presented a request from Minister Jerry Cooper, representing Chambers Street 4 Kids, to close a portion of Chambers Street in North Rome from 4:00 PM until 9:00 PM for their annual block party. This event has been held for five years now and has been very successful.

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

Minister Cooper thanked the Committee adding that a water slide is set up each year for the event and is being moved to a private residence. He asked if the City would be able to adjust the water bill for that day to accommodate this event. Mr. Milam stated that he will speak with Water & Sewer Director, Leigh Ross to see if there is some adjustment that can be made.

### 'Garbage Man Day' Celebrated June 17th

Solid Waste Collections Director Donnie Barrett reported that 'Garbage Man Day' is celebrated on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Because it falls on a Wednesday this year when the department is closed, a lunch will be held around noon on Thursday the 18<sup>th</sup> to recognize the employees of the Solid Waste Collections Department. He added that Keep Rome/Floyd Beautiful Director Mary Hardin Thornton started this tradition about three years ago. From an historical perspective Mr. Barrett noted that the first garbage man was recognized around the year 1350 during the Black Plague, and were called 'Rakers' for the manner by which they collected garbage. Garbage men have been recognized throughout history for their hard work and we are happy to recognize our employees who work so hard for us.

Commissioner Wachsteter asked how the cart system has been working. Mr. Barrett replied that the cart system has been very successful. Most residents use them properly and remove them promptly, with some education required for new residents who move to the area. He added that the yard carts were first put into use in 2004. They average a 10-year life so we have recently received a large order of replacements carts.

## 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