



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 8, 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. Patrick Eidson, Assistant City Manager  
Mr. Kirk Milam, P.E., Public Services Manager  
Mr. Donnie Barrett, Solid Waste Collections Director  
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director  
Ms. Phyllis Lee, Transit Department Assistant Director  
Sgt. Joe Costolnick, Rome Police Department

GUESTS: Mr. Randy McClure, 18 Crescent Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Canada 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

Sgt. Costolnick reported there were 165 accidents in June up from 159 last year. There were 77 private lot accidents, down from 86 accidents last year. DUI arrests were up as were total traffic cases. He reported that the department has received many positive comments on the Rolling Thunder operation.

## TRANSIT OPERATIONS

### Financial Report

Ms. Shore presented the May financial report. She noted that the DHR supplement has continued to be behind. Fare box receipts are still behind last year. Tripper service is up which is partly due to the increased payments from the school board for the added routes. Commissioner Wachsteter asked if there is a reduction of the number of riders. Ms. Lee said the Main Line service is down due to a decrease in ridership, however, some riders have qualified for the DHR supplement and are be counted under DHR rather than fare box receipts. She added that Paratransit ridership continues to grow. Ms. Shore noted that under Grant Revenue operating funds and operating capital have been received.

On the Expense side she noted our increase in labor has caused an increase in payroll and fringes by about 9% totaling approximately \$70,000. She added that these line items are still within budget. Gasoline prices are still low keeping *Materials and Supplies* down. She noted the net loss includes depreciation and does not represent cash. The cash balance is edging up which shows an increase in revenues.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Request to a Close Portion of E. Third Ave. by First Presbyterian Church, August 16<sup>th</sup> 6am-4pm

Mr. Milam presented a request by First Presbyterian Church to close a portion of East Third Avenue for their annual church picnic on August 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 am until 4pm. He added that they have done before without any problems so he recommended the request be approved.

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

Commissioner Canada asked if staff approval could be established for routine requests such as this, only bring unusual requests to this committee. Mr. Milam stated we could do that going forward with the Committee's approval.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to allow routine closure requests to be approved by staff rather than being brought to this committee for approval. Commissioner Lee seconded. The motion carried.

### Request to Close Portion of E. Sixth Ave. by Seven Hills Fellowship, October 18th

Mr. Milam presented a request Kirk from Seven Hills Fellowship Church that meets in the Desoto Theater to close a portion of E. Sixth Ave. between Broad and East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue for their annual block party. This request is a little different because the church doesn't meet on the actual street. We do not know if they have contacted the affected businesses and what preparations have been made. He stated he would like to hold approval until he

has had some time to discuss these details with them. Since the event isn't until October there is plenty of time to do that.

Commissioner Canada agreed to table this item until next month.

#### Request for Guardrail Along Horseleg Creek Road

Mr. Milam presented a request for guardrail along Horseleg Creek Road where a vehicle left the road back in June, went down the embankment and rested on private property. Ms. Ansley Seville requested the guardrail be replaced in that area to prevent more accidents of this nature. He noted that the road is narrow with a narrow shoulder and this accident occurred where there is an embankment on the outside of a curve. A section of fence is missing from an earlier accident at this location. The primary concern is for motorist safety. He noted this is a 35 mph street and the driver was going too fast for the curve and was using a cell phone. Mr. Foy reported that the speed study he performed showed the 85% of the traffic traveling at 50 mph which is too fast for the narrowness of the road and the curve. Mr. Milam added he would like further study before making a recommendation since no accident frequency could be found.

Commissioner Canada tabled this item until Mr. Milam has a recommendation.

#### Proposed Leases with Norfolk Southern Railroad for Trails

Mr. Rich reported that after a great deal of research, Norfolk Southern Railroad discovered that when the levy was originally constructed, they gave the City an easement to access the levy, while they retained ownership. Over the years, the City has maintained the levy as if it were City Property. Since ownership has been determined, the City has proposed the railroad donate the property to the City, but in the meantime, they have requested a lease put in place to protect them from any liability related to the levy trails as well as parts of the Kingfisher and Silver Creek trails. Mr. Rich asked the Committee to recommend these leases to the full Commission subject to attorney review.

Commissioner Wachsteter asked if the levy ownership affects the project to widen 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Mr. Milam replied that ownership isn't the primary issue to the Corps of Engineers, but rather the condition of the levy and its impact on the project. They hold the City accountable for the maintenance of the levy as does our easement agreement with Norfolk Southern. In every practical sense, the City is the responsible party. We have executed a memorandum of agreement that the Corps is in the process of executing with their Commander.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to recommend approving the leases to the City Commission pending attorney approval.

## GDOT Announces FY2016 LMIG of \$319,080

Mr. Milam announced that we have received a letter from the DOT announcing our eligibility for \$319,000 for next year's LMIG. We will be putting together a list of roads that we want to improve. We are obligated to contribute 30% towards the cost of that work, which we usually exceed through in-kind work such as milling and preparation. We will also contribute some SPLOST money. He added that as the time approaches to submit the application we will report the streets we select for paving back to this Committee.

## Speeding Concerns on Crescent Avenue

Mr. Foy reported that after Mr. McClure called to report his speeding concerns on Crescent Avenue, he performed a speed study for one week. Traffic counters indicated the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 25 mph and 168 vehicle entering and exiting the neighborhood on a daily basis. He discovered there have never been speed limit signs posted in the neighborhood, so as an initial measure, he recommended decreasing the speed limit from 30 mph to 25 mph, and installing 25 mph speed limit signs. He added there was a maximum of five vehicles traveling in the 30 to 35 mph. No other extraordinary speeding issues were observed. He invited Mr. McClure to address the Commission with his concerns.

Mr. Randy McClure introduced himself stating he resides at 18 Crescent Avenue. He discussed several issues and presented photographs for the Commission to review. He noted there are typically a lot of cars parked on both sides of the road on Hopewell St. adding that motorists tend to speed up once they get past them. The driveways at house numbers 10, 12, 14, 16, 18 and 22 have poor visibility exiting as does the traffic approaching them. There has been one accident where a parked car on Campbell St. was struck and totaled. He added there are several children that play on the street and several dogs have been struck because vehicles couldn't stop. These issues along with speeding on Crescent Avenue prompted him to request the City consider He thanked the Commission for their time and consideration.

Commissioner Canada asked Mr. Foy if he recommended continued monitoring along with posting 25 mph speed limit signs. Mr. Roy replied that is his recommendation. He added that the Police could also increase a presence in the neighborhood and place the speed monitoring sign as well. Mr. Milam added that he did not feel comfortable with prohibiting on-street parking in an enclosed neighborhood such as this. Commissioner Canada thanked Mr. McClure.

## Landscaping Completed at Barron Stadium

Mr. Milam reported that the landscaping at Barron Stadium is completed. He presented photos for the Committee to review showing the pre-improvement condition as well as the completed project. He noted the parking lot was back filled to the curb with over thirty loads of recycled soil recovered from the Water Treatment Plant's lagoon. A new

sidewalk was laid and grass has been planted that the City will continue to water until it is well established.

## OTHER

Commissioner Canada reported that residents are placing personal 'Children at Play' signs on City right-of-way in the Garden Lakes subdivision. They have put them on poles that look similar to those the City installs. Mr. Milam added the 'Children at Play' signs are no longer professionally recognized and have been removed from the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Mr. Rich added that while the signs are placed with good intentions, they are illegal and are ineffective at reducing speeders or protecting children playing in the Street. Commissioner Wachsteter added that they also can give a false sense of security to resident. Commissioner Canada added that parents do have a legitimate concern about speeders but he is concerned about the City's liability for signs placed in the right-of-way.

Commissioner Canada asked if the City is doing much of asphalt patching this summer. He has noticed a lot of areas that need patching. Mr. Milam replied there is one crew that does everything from patching pot holes, utilities to preparing streets for paving. At present this is only a two-man crew instead of the usual four to five men since we have lost some employees. They are stretched very thin, and they do repair pot-holes and process work orders as quickly as they can, but the majority of their time is spent trying to keep up with utility cut-in's. The Water Department is replacing water lines in several locations so it is a battle trying to keep up with them. Hopefully we can add another crew as the budget allows. He has been talking with Street Department Director, Chris Jenkins about taking measures to preserve the streets and try to prevent pot holes from forming or worsening.

Commissioner Wachsteter asked about garbage collection on W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Mr. Rich stated we have continued to explore all options but need to discuss some ideas with Mr. Levy prior to presenting a recommendation.

## 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