



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

August 12, 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
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director
Ms. Kathy Shealy, Transit Department Assistant Director

STAFF: Ms. Lisa Smith, GRCVB Director

GUESTS: Ms. Ansley Seville, President Myrtle Hill –Oak Hill Association
Mr. John Shultz, Meditation Garden Plan Designer
Ms. Barbara Ivey, Thistle Garden Club
Mr. Larry Adams

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Canada called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

POLICE REPORTS

July Traffic Accident /DUI Report

The July traffic accident report was distributed for review.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report

Ms. Shore presented the June financial report. She noted that Main Line Services are about the same for the month as last year but down slightly year-to-date. The DHR supplement is behind last year at this time. Tripper service is in line with budget and is ahead of last year because of the new routes that were added. Under Paratransit, the DHR contract service has been caught up and is in line with last year. *Federal Cash Grants and Reimbursements* are well below this point last year, but she noted that several new buses were purchased by this time last year. There will be some new capital purchases made over the next 30 days that should bring those numbers up. Total revenues are also down from last year mainly because of the bus purchases under operating capital last year.

Under expenses, she noted that *Labor and Fringe Benefits* are up about 8 or 9 percent due to new hires and some pay increases that have been given. Material supplies about where they were last year. Expenses overall are up slightly, largely due to depreciation. The cash balance is \$927,000 which is up considerably over last year.

Tripper Service Fall Start-Up

Ms. Shealy reported that school started on July 31st this year. Two tripper routes were planned for Anna K. Davie School but we were unable to start the routes due to a shortage of drivers, but we have some new hires that are currently being trained. She added that it is difficult to find drivers who have the proper CDL license with a passenger endorsement. The training process is from four to six weeks. Rome City Schools will handle the routes until we have drivers available. Mr. Milam noted that we are always looking for new hires because the department must have properly licensed drivers on site ready to run scheduled routes. Routine employee absences as well as long term medical leave are particularly difficult in this department for this reason. We utilize other licensed employees from the garage and hire retired employees through temp agencies to cover shortages but permanent full time employees are always needed.

Triennial Audit Report

Ms. Shealy reported that there GDOT recently performed its triennial compliance review of the Transit Department. There were no compliance issues noted but their written response noted three areas of concern. They felt the department should have a consolidated written procurement and financial management policy for the office. They also would like to see periodic oil sampling and analysis as part of a preventive maintenance program in the garage. Ms. Shealy added that she has checked with several other transit systems and has not found any that do this on a continual basis. The third area of concern was Title VI compliance on complaint procedures. Ms. Shealy noted that the written procedures were not on hand at the time this was discussed but we have made them accessible since. Mr. Milam added that we do have all of our procedures written

and well documented so that should not be an issue at all. The report should be considered a good one overall.

OLD BUSINESS

Request to a Close Portion of E. Sixth Ave.

Mr. Milam reported that at the last meeting, a request from Seven Hills Fellowship Baptist Church to close a portion of E. Sixth Ave was presented and tabled until all the adjoining businesses had been contacted about the closure. – 7 hills fellowship requested this last month. Since then they have contacted all the adjoining businesses, so he recommended the closure be approved.

The request was approved by common consent.

Request for Guardrail on Horseleg Creek Road

Mr. Foy updated the Commission on Ms. Ansley Seville's request for guardrail on Horseleg Creek Road that was presented at the last meeting. An accident near her family property northwest of Greenview Road resulted in a vehicle leaving the roadway, breaking through a fence and descending down an embankment to rest on private property. A study was performed of the whole corridor for a five-year period which revealed 135 accidents, 106 of which occurred near its intersection with Shorter Avenue. The intersections of Greenview Rd, Creek Side Way and Featherston Rd had a total of 20 but these locations were the areas where accidents are more likely to result in vehicles leaving the roadway. Ms. Seville noted that there have been several incidents where vehicles have left the road that haven't been reported.

Mr. Foy concluded from this study that the best placement for guardrail would be approximately 270 ft. on the east side of Horseleg Creek Rd. just north of its intersection with Featherston Rd, although the cost would be prohibitive for the City's operating budget as well as for private contractor. He estimated a total cost for construction at \$86,000 without including the cost of right-of-way and easements that would have to be included. He recommended this as a future capital project. Ms. Seville asked if reflective poles could be installed at the curve to call attention to motorists in the meantime. Mr. Foy said they have been used in some places but they tend to be difficult to maintain and frequently are hit. He offered to look into other alternatives of this nature.

Solid Waste Collection on W. First Street

Mr. Milam reported that staff has explored different alternatives for solid waste collection on W. First Street and haven't identified a solution that is agreeable to all parties involved. We have considered a central for garbage collection as well as working with Mr. Levy for the use of a spot inside his property. For the time-being, Mr. Milam did not have a recommendation for an alternative method of collection but we will continue to monitor the area.

NEW BUSINESS

Broad St. Decorations Request for 4-H Week

Mr. Milam presented a request from Abby Selman with Floyd County 4-H regarding placing a banner in the median on Broad Street for '4-H Week'. They have requested two banners to be placed in the median just north of 2nd Avenue and at 6th Avenue. They also would like to place bows on the trees in the median which they will remove afterwards. He noted that he had no objection to this request.

Commissioner Wachsteter noted that he is concerned that we would be setting a precedent that could lead to other groups wanting to do place event banners in the median. Mr. Milam noted that other groups do use the banner poles to advertise. Mr. Rich agreed that the process for the banner poles is well established. Commissioner Canada asked if Mr. Commissioner Canada agreed.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to approve the placement of bows on the median trees during 4-H week but does not approve the banners. Commissioner Canada seconded. The motion carried.

Meditation Garden at Myrtle Hill Cemetery

Mr. Foy presented a proposed Meditation Garden at Myrtle Hill Cemetery between the niche walls and the Mausoleum. This is an area that is scenic and has a view of the confluence of the rivers. He noted that Mr. Shultz, who designed the layout of the garden, is present. He invited Ms. Smith address the Committee. Ms. Smith said that this is a joint project of the Rome Federated Garden Clubs, the Myrtle Hill-Oak Hill Memorial Association.

Ms. Smith noted that she is accompanied by Ms. Ansley Seville who is the co-president of the Myrtle Hill – Oak Hill Memorial Association and Barbara Ivey of the Thistle Garden Club. The design mimics the seven hills and three rivers in Rome. The design will utilize some 1800's area wrought iron fencing that was donated by Mike McDougal in the design. Jim Bridson also created some benches that will be sued. The garden is planned to be low maintenance. Ms. Ansley Seville said that every two years a garden club undertakes a Federation project. She noted the one thing they will need help with is a water source. Mr. Foy noted that will not be a problem because there is a water source already there for the Mausoleum. Paving stones with names on them will be sold to the public to offset the cost of the project. Mr. Milam added that this is not an area that we have any plans for developing and it is a good location for this project.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to approve the proposal with thanks. Commissioner Canada seconded, also thanking them for the project. The motion carried.

Request to Block Spaces on Broad St. for International Film Festival

Mr. Milam reported that a request was received from the International Film Festival to place tents in front of the Desoto Theater for opening night. This will not get out into the street but will take up three or four parking spaces.

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

Foss Mfg.. Request to Upgrade Kirton St.

Mr. Milam reported that Foss Mfg. on Huffaker Rd has recently bought some property on Kirton Street they plan to use as a product distribution center. Kirton Street is very narrow without curb and gutter and has some residences. Foss Mfg. has requested a no-specific upgrade to the street. The only upgrade would be to add curb and gutter and widen the street as much as right of way will allow. Mr. Rich added this company is in a high growth mode and it would be a good will gesture to look into what we could do to accommodate them. Mr. Milam added that this would be a good time to price out some options to consider. Commissioner Wachsteter asked Mr. Milam update the Committee with his suggestions.

Parking Privileges Requested by Coosa Country Club

Mr. Milam presented a request from James Lawrence on behalf of the Coosa Country Club, to the parking at the trail head of the Kingfisher trail as well as well as at the Mausoleum during Mother's Day weekend when they will hold a golf tournament. They plan to restrict some spaces for Mausoleum visitors and they would shuttle guests from each parking location to the Country Club. Commissioner Canada suggested they consider shuttling from the Heritage Park parking behind the levy. Mr. Milam added that with the understanding permission to use the Mausoleum lot would be rescinded if a service was scheduled, he had no objections.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to approve the request with the understanding that permission would be rescinded at the Mausoleum if a service is scheduled. Commissioner Canada seconded. The motion carried.

OTHER

Request for One-Way Designation on Oakland Ave

Commissioner Canada invited Mr. Larry Adams to address the Traffic Commission. Mr. Adams introduced himself stating that he lives at 8 McCrary Drive, which is in the County. He wanted to address the Traffic Commission with his concerns about Oakland Avenue between Hughes Street and Hanks Street. He noted that the street is too narrow for two-way traffic. He added that his daughter had a wreck trying to avoid another vehicle coming towards her on this street. Commissioner Canada stated that staff will review his request and perform a study to determine the impact a One-Way designation

Appreciation for City Crew Response

Commissioner Canada reported that he received a call from Catherine Fricks expressing her appreciation for the City's quick response in removing a dangerous tree on City Property that she had reported. Mr. Foy said City Arborist, Terry Paige and his crew responded to this requested and removed the tree. Commissioner Canada asked Mr. Foy to let Mr. Paige know that Ms. Fricks made a point of commending their good work and fast response.

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