



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 14, 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. Steven Foy, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director  
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director  
Ms. Kathy Shealy, Transit Department Assistant Director  
Officer Kyle York, Rome Police Department

STAFF: Ms. Sue Hiller, Planning Department Director

GUESTS: Mr. and Mrs. James Heard, East Rome Baptist Church  
Mr. and Mrs. Glant C. Watson, East Rome Baptist Church  
Mr. Jerry Gossett, East Rome Baptist Church

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Canada 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

Officer Kyle York presented the September accident report. He noted that accidents were down from 192 last year to 184. There were 60 accidents with injuries down from 93 last year. DUI arrests were down by two from this period last year and total traffic cases were down from 1,011 last year to 948 this year.

The highest accident intersections were Martha Berry Hwy at N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Shorter Ave/Redmond Cir/Coosawattee Ave, and Turner McCall Blvd/Riverside Pkwy with five accidents at each. The majority of the citations were for Following Too Close.

## TRANSIT OPERATIONS

### Financial Report

Ms. Shore presented the August financial report. She noted that Main Line service was up slightly for the month but down for the year which is mostly due to reduced fare box receipts. Ms. Shealy added that it's likely that more people may be driving since fuel costs have been going down. Ms. Shore noted that Tripper service is in line with budget and reflects the increases in the additional routes. Under Paratransit, she noted the DHR supplement is up a little for the month but behind for the year which is due to the timing of their reimbursements. Under *Federal Cash Grants and Reimbursements*, Ms. Shore noted that there was more allocated to operating capital for the new buses purchased in 2014. Total revenues are down slightly from where we were at this time last year.

On the expense side, she reported there is nothing unusual to note but that Labor and Fringes across each service are up slightly due to being fully staffed and some pay increases. The net loss is mostly from depreciation.

### Transit Route Study Draft

Ms. Hiller presented a draft summary of the Transit Route Study performed by her staff. Staff members rode all the routes at different times of the day and days of the week to collect ridership data. She emphasized that transit planning is very complex and her staff was not performing an in-depth transit study, but were trying to gather basic data to assist in assessing the efficiency and effectiveness of our transit services. The route map was overlaid onto census data which indicated the service is covering the City limits very well. It was found that the buses are on time for the most part, with delays being relatively short when they did occur. She noted that transit services are provided to all citizens with assistance being given to special needs riders on the Main Line in addition to the Paratransit services, although there were not a significant number of special needs riders on the main routes. It was observed that there were several stops that are not being utilized very much which will be studied further to determine if the routes can be streamlined further. She added that outcomes for this study will be to determine whether or not a professional consultant is warranted to study routing further.

Commissioner Canada complimented Ms. Hiller and her staff on the professional quality of the study. Mr. Milam added that these findings reassure us that we don't have any glaring problems that need to be addressed. He noted there is more detail available from the study that will help staff in many ways including providing a better Ride Guide to the public.

### UPWP Funding Sources

Ms. Hiller presented the 2016 budget for the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Sue reported that a budget must be developed each year for the PL planning funding and additionally for the Section 5303 Transit planning funding. She presented a draft budget for 2016 with a request for Section 5303 funding in the amount of \$5,902 from both GDOT and the City, and \$47,217 from FTA for a total grant program of \$59,021. Ms. Hiller requested approval of this budget which will be presented at the Transportation Policy Committee next week before being sent to the City Commission as a Resolution.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to approve the budget as presented. Commissioner Lee seconded. The motion carried.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### Radar Permit Changes

Mr. Foy presented proposed changes to the radar permit. He noted there are several areas that have been annexed into the City that were not included on the radar permit, such as Braves Blvd, a section of South Broad Street, and a portion of the Armuchee Connector leading to the new Tennis Center, which is currently on the County's permit. A School Zone also needs to be created in the area of the new Anna K. Davie School. Mr. Milam added that we are asking for a recommendation from this Committee to the City Commission which will be then be submitted to the State in the form of a Resolution or Ordinance.

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

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Redmond Trail 'Letter of Acknowledgement'

Mr. Milam reported the County has a Transportation Enhancement Grant for the construction of a portion of the Redmond Trail stretching from the north end of the levee along the Oostanaula River underneath the railroad tracks and crossing Little Dry Creek with a bridge, and ending shortly thereafter behind the Post Office. The Letter of Acknowledgement is required because while it is the County's project to construct the bridge over Little Dry Creek it will be the City's responsibility to maintain it after construction. In his technical review of the bridge design, Brian Roberts noted that because the bridge is designed to be below the 100-year flood elevation it will require more maintenance after a flood event and that a letter from the owner acknowledging this fact is necessary. Mr. Milam presented the draft letter acknowledging that the City is aware that additional maintenance will be required during and after a flood event. He asked this Committee to recommend to the Commission that the Mayor be authorized to execute this letter of acknowledgement.

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

#### Truck Parking in Residential Areas

Mr. Foy reported that Ms. Ginger Alexander reported at the recent NEP kickoff meeting that there is a tractor trailer cab that parks at different times at his address on Glen Ridge Road in the North Hills Subdivision. Both the Police and Code Enforcement officer, Glen Rubin, have reviewed the complaint. The truck has not been found to be parking improperly or obstructing traffic in any way. Mr. Foy noted that language in the Municipal Code clearly prohibiting parking vehicles over 1.5 tons in residential areas was repealed several years ago to avoid duplication of language in the ULDC. However, the ULDC only prohibits parking commercial vehicles associated with home businesses.

Mr. Milam added that this issue has arisen in other neighborhoods where other types of commercial vehicles are parked at residents as well. Since the language was removed from the general Code, the original wording was not preserved in the ULDC which now limits our ability to restrict commercial vehicles on the street. He noted the language needs to be reconsidered in the ULDC. Mr. Rich added that it would be a good idea for this Committee to further research this issue and forward recommendations to Community Development. Commissioner Canada noted that there are many residential streets in Garden Lakes that have commercial vehicles on the street from residents who have home offices. Mr. Rich added this has been an issue in other communities regarding other types of vehicles such as RV's as well. Mr. Milam added that we can't address this issue unless there are changes to the ULDC. Mr. Rich stated that Public Works staff along with Community Development should be instructed to research what other communities are doing to develop a recommendation for changes to the ULDC.

#### East Rome Baptist Church/Cedar Ave.

Mr. Milam reported that at the first of this month there was a tragic accident where a parishioner at East Rome Baptist Church was struck by a car on Cedar Ave when leaving the church. She was taken to the hospital with serious injuries. He noted that the victims' sister as well as other attendees of the church was present today. The accident was worked by the Georgia State Patrol which delayed our receiving information about it. He presented photos of the church near the corner of East 20<sup>th</sup> Street and Cedar Avenue noting the speed limit is 35 mph. The church has a well-lit parking lot on the opposite side of Cedar Avenue as well as some parking directly behind the church. He noted that Cedar Avenue is a major connector for Darlington Drive and Hwy 411 South. The dead end at East 20<sup>th</sup> St. goes to Evans Construction property so there is a lot of activity of a light industrial nature. On the night of the accident, he noted that it was dark and raining.

Mr. Milam noted that in response to this tragedy, staff has added additional speed limit signs on the north end of Cedar Ave and have submitted a request to Georgia Power Co. to add another street light for the area to a pole on the south side of the church at their driveway. He noted there is already a working street light at the intersection of E. 20<sup>th</sup> St.

and Cedar Ave. and that the parking lot across from the church is very well lit. Another measure under consideration is adding a flashing signal around a pedestrian sign in advance of the church that operates on a time clock basis, which is a measure that has been implemented at other churches in the City limits. After further investigation, our final recommendation will be reported back to this Commission.

#### First Presbyterian Church

Mr. Foy reported that First Presbyterian Church has reported that on Wednesday evenings when their youth group convenes, their youth cross East 1<sup>st</sup> Street for programs that take place on opposite sides of the street. Parents who line up vehicles to pick up their children are parking on areas where there is yellow curb, which obstructs sight distance and creates a danger to pedestrians. To prevent these parking violations, the Traffic Department has installed several round raised pavement markers called 'turtle shells' and will also paint cross hatching to further ensure people don't park in prohibited areas.

#### Redmond Rd./John Maddox Intersection Safety

Mr. Foy reported that RPD has reported concerns over an increase in accidents observed at the intersection of Redmond Road and John Maddox Drive. After researching the accidents we found that there were six accidents in the last year on turns from Redmond Road onto John Maddox in both directions. He recommended a signal head change on both approaches from Redmond Rd with a protected left turn arrow. Mr. Milam noted that the only alternative would be to acquire property to create a dedicated turn lane, but with only six accidents in a year, he didn't feel that investment was warranted.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve Mr. Foy's recommendation. Commissioner Canada seconded. The motion carried.

### 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