



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

February 10, 2016 10:00 a.m.  
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Sundai Stevenson, Chairwoman  
Commissioner Sue Lee  
Commissioner Bill Irmscher  
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager  
Mr. Kirk Milam, P.E., Public Services Manager  
Mr. Steven Foy, P.E., Assistant Public Works Director  
Mr. Aaron Carroll, Engineering Service Director  
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director  
Ms. Kathy Shealy, Transit Department Assistant Director  
Lt. Chris Dehart, Rome Police Department

STAFF: Ms. Sue Hiller, Planning Director  
Ms. Amanda Carter, DDA Administrative Assistant

GUESTS: Ms. Julia Russell, Thankful Baptist Church  
Ms. Henrice Berrien, 37 Gibbons Street  
Ms. Iris Kinnebrew, 216 Kingston Avenue  
Minister James White, Thankful Baptist Church  
Mr. Rick Channan, 106 E. Forest St.  
Mr. Daniel Eason, 11 Robin Street

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Stevenson called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

## POLICE REPORTS

### January Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Lt. Dehart gave the police report. He noted accidents were down slightly and injuries were up slightly from last year. Private parking lot accidents were down slightly. He noted that Turner McCall and Hicks Drive is the highest accident intersection for the month for the first time in a while.

## TRANSIT OPERATIONS

### 2015 Ridership Report Preparation

Ms. Shealy reported she is working on a ridership report for 2015. This report will compare 2014 to 2015 comparing ridership.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Request to Rename Gibbons Street

Mr. Milam reported that Ms. Julia Russell requested changing the name of Gibbons Street at last month's meeting and has since collected petitions from the property owners and delivered them to his office. There was a counter-petition that followed Ms. Russell's which indicated a nearly equal number for each position while some property owners voted both ways. He explained the process of changing a street name noting the Engineering Services Department staff would notify the all the residents, the post office, 911 Center and other agencies we customarily deal with.

Commissioner Stevenson invited the property owners present to address the Committee: Ms. Iris Kinnebrew of 216 Kingston Avenue introduced herself and stated that she owns two properties on Gibbons Street. She noted that although she does not object to honoring Reverend Russell, she does object to the disruption the change would cause. She noted that many longtime residents fought to keep the street during the Urban Renewal project which bisected it with the MLK Jr. Drive.

Ms. Henrice Berrien of 37 Gibbons Street addressed the Committee. She noted that she also has no objection to honoring the Reverend, but noted that a name change would require getting new drivers licenses and one of her neighbors would have the added burden of changing ID's and paperwork for three elderly family members residing on the street.

Commissioner Bill Collins stated that Rev. Russell was an honorable man who did a lot for the community. He felt that this was a good opportunity to honor him.

Ms. Russell stated that when she distributed the petitions she assured the residents that she would personally assist them it making the change in their records.

Minister James Buddy White of Lovejoy Baptist Church reported that he was raised on Gibbons Street and his 95 year old mother, who still resides there, is in favor of the name change as well as his brother who owns rental property on the street. He felt that the difficulties associated with changing the street name shouldn't deter residents from honoring this man. Commissioner Irscher asked if there has been any consideration about other ways to honor Rev. Russell such as a statue. Ms. Russell replied that only a scholarship fund and memorial foundation have been established so far.

Ms. Kinnebrew suggested that the part of the street by the church be renamed instead of the entire street. Commissioner Lee asked if that is a possibility. Mr. Milam noted that the street is broken at MLK Jr. Blvd. and it is an option to name just a portion of the street by the church. He added that the renaming of a street requires a resolution to be adopted at the City Commission upon recommendation by a committee. Commissioner Collins noted the church has not been mentioned as a part of the process.

Commissioner Irscher moved to table this request for staff to look at other options for honoring Rev. Russell. Commissioner Lee seconded. The motion carried.

#### Personal Transportation Vehicle Ordinance

Mr. Milam noted a draft ordinance was presented at last month's meeting to allow personal transportation vehicles in Rome. Staff had expressed some concerns about the details so he discussed it further with Lt. Dehardt and the following changes to the ordinance were developed:

- Drivers must be 18 years or older
- 24 hour operation
- Drivers must carry insurance
- Headlights, tail lights, break lights and turn signals required
- There will be a designated route PTV's must use.

Mr. Milam noted that these revisions have been sent to the City Attorney for final review and recommendation so he recommended approving the ordinance subject to the attorney's review. Because these vehicles can only be operated on streets posted at 25 mph, Mr. Milam proposed some additional streets downtown be posted at 25mpg for connectivity to the forum and new hotels. He added that these speed changes can be established at the committee level.

Commissioner Lee move to approve the ordinance pursuant to the attorney's review and approval. Commissioner Irscher seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve posting 25 mph on the proposed streets as presented. Commissioner Irscher seconded. The motion carried.

### 3-Way STOP Request for Ross St./Reservoir St

Mr. Foy reported that he has studied the traffic history and counts near the intersection of Ross Street and Reservoir Street since the last meeting. He performed a traffic study that indicated there are approximately 2640 vehicles per day using this intersection, which is fairly high for a residential area. The accident review indicated the majority of the accidents in the area occurred at the curve on Reservoir Street while there was no accident history at the intersection. Mr. Foy observed the majority of vehicles are turning on to Ross Street from Reservoir Street. Although the accident history did not meet the criteria established guidelines for a 3-way STOP, he noted there are other criteria to be considered. Motorists stopping at Reservoir Street to turn left onto Ross Street have to look more than 90 degrees to their right in order to fully view on-coming traffic from that direction. The street is also very shady and is on an incline, which adds to the difficulty in seeing on-coming traffic these factors he recommended installation of a 3-way STOP.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the 3-Way STOP at Reservoir Street and Ross St as recommended. Commissioner Irmischer seconded. The motion carried.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Truck Traffic in Summerville Park

Mr. Milam reported that Summerville Park is a residential community west of Martha Berry Blvd. and south of Redmond Rod. Its northeast quadrant has commercial and healthcare businesses. Years ago we were asked to limit through truck traffic through Summerville Park. Signs were placed at that time. The complaint was registered with the Police Department that trucks are using Leland Avenue and going through Summerville Park to exit at Robin Street or Charlton Rd. Lt. Dehart reported that truck deliveries to Hi Tech Medical Supplies located at the corner of Redmond Rd and Leland Avenue are exiting through the neighborhood. Homeowners are coming out of their homes to flag them down and try to stop them. Mr. Milam added that the prohibition of truck traffic is established to prevent trucks from cutting through residential areas, but not to prevent them from making legitimate deliveries. The problem is that this business does not have delivery access from Redmond Rd and trucks must access the business from Leland Ave. Lt. Dehart added that there are four deliveries each week. He has had frequent discussions with both the delivery companies and the residents, and hasn't found a clear solution to the problem.

Commissioner Stevenson recognized Mr. Daniel Eason of 11 Robin Street. He expressed his gratitude for Lt. Dehart's prompt attention and continued efforts regarding this problem. He stated that one of his concerns is the wear and tear to the road. He added that there are also residents backing out of their driveways and pedestrians on the road. He suggested the problem might be improved through some changes in the parking design. He added that it would also help if delivery trucks could offload large trucks at their operations centers and make smaller truck deliveries from there.

Mr. Milam noted this is a classic issue of how planning and land use comes to bear on how we manage traffic. Staff will continue to study this issue and reach out to Hi Tech. Ms. Hiller noted the ULDC was changed in 2011 to allow this business to locate there. Now that it is there legally, we can't prevent access to the business. She noted that some communities have tried doing things in the neighborhood to make the street less attractive to trucks but she noted in this case these trucks have no alternative access.

Mr. Milam stated that he and Mr. Foy will continue to research the problem and work towards a solution.

#### Request to Rename E. Forest Street

Mr. Milam reported that Mr. Chanan approached staff some time ago to notify us that a street name was misspelled on the street signs. Mr. Chanan felt the spelling of Forest Street should contain two 'r's'. He forwarded the request to the Engineering Services Department to research the spelling. He invited Engineering Department Director, Aaron Carroll to report on his findings. Mr. Carroll reported it is standard procedure to follow original surveys and plats housed in the Engineering Services Department, which in this case, established the spelling should have one 'r'. He added that no other ordinance or plat was found disputing that spelling although there were some tax records that showed two 'r's' without any established reason. Based on the records we have reviewed, the City's position is that the correct spelling is Forest with one 'r'. Mr. Milam added with further investigations staff found that on the GIS maps prepared by the County Tax office there are some properties on the street are listed with the two 'r' spelling.

Commissioner Stevenson invited Mr. Rick Channan of 106 E Forest St to address the committee. Mr. Channan stated he has resided at this address since 1987. He was told when he moved in that the area was a major Civil War Site. He stated during the war there was a lookout tower located at the highest point which was renamed from *Camp Lookout* to *Camp Forrest* in honor of General Nathan Bedford Forrest. He presented several examples of inconsistent spellings. Based on this history, he proposed changing the spelling to *Forrest* or changing the name of the street to *General Nathan Bed Forrest Lookout*. He asked any change to be tabled until he can contact all the property owners to approve a proposed change. Mr. Milam stated that changing the spelling to *Forrest* would have to be done by Resolution. Otherwise, staff will inform the Tax office to inform them of error. He noted there are a host of deeds with both spellings but the official name goes back to the dedication of the road and the original plats.

Commissioner Lee moved to maintain the street name with one 'r'. Commissioner Imscher seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Stevenson asked staff to work on resolving inconsistencies in the spelling.

#### DDA Street Closing Requests

Mr. Milam presented the DDA upcoming street closing requests for the year. He noted that most are routine and reoccurring annually with the exception of two new events,

RACA's *Fire Fly Fling Block Party* scheduled for Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> on 5th Avenue in front of the Law Enforcement Center from 4 to 10 PM, and the *Spring Fling Kid Block Party*, which will be held on the northbound side of the 500 block of Broad St. on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Lee moved to accept all the closings as presented. Commissioner Imscher 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