



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

March 11, 2015 10:00 a.m.  
Sam King Room – 601 Broad Street

PRESENT: Commissioner Kim Canada, Chairman  
Commissioner Buzz Wachsteter  
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager  
Mr. Kirk Milam, Public Services Manager  
Mr. Aaron Carroll, Engineering Department Director  
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Street Department Director  
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director  
Lt. Chris Dehart, Rome Police Department  
Sgt. Joe Costolnik, Rome Police Department  
PFC Kyle York, Rome Police Department  
Officer

STAFF: Ms. Sue Hiller, Planning Director  
Ms. Ann Hortman, Greater Rome Convention and Visitors Bureau

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Canada called the meeting to order

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the previous of the minutes were approved by common consent.

POLICE REPORTS

Lt. Dehart presented the February report. He noted accidents are up at 169 from 150 at this time last year. Total traffic cases are down and total general cases are up. Parking violations are down which can be attributed to the lack of a major holiday shopping period during the month. The DUI task force is fully staffed so DUI arrests are up at 29 versus 14 for this period last year. There were 10 DUI related accidents; up from 4 last year.

## TRANSIT OPERATIONS

### Financial Report

Ms. Shore presented the December 2014 Unaudited Statement. She noted that on the revenue side, Main Line service is a little behind on fare box receipts. The DHR supplement has been behind for some time. Ms. Shealy added that she has learned from the services that use them that they are distributing the passes to their clients but for some unknown reason clients aren't using them. Under Tripper Service, she noted there was an increase in the Board of Education's contribution since adding two buses to their routes. Ms. Shore noted under grant reimbursements that the operating capital is large due to the purchase of the Route Match software at the beginning of the year.

Under expenses, she noted that *Labor and Fringe Benefits* and *Fuel* are a huge percentage of the overall expenses. Personnel costs are up by about \$180,000 due to raises and increase in staff. On the Main Line service there is \$46,000 this year under *Casualty and Liability Costs* vs. \$76,000 last year, which is due to a claim for an accident. She noted there was a favorable adjustment made in inventory that was separated out. Depreciation is down. Under *Materials and Supplies*, she noted there were some fuel costs in special projects but fuel prices were lower last year which helped in keeping expenses down. Overall, the total expenses are down from last year at \$292,775 versus \$375,210 in 2013. Ms. Shore noted the cash balance is up, but she corrected the total which should read \$901,936 instead of \$991,936.

### Service to Oak Ridge Apartments

Ms. Shealy presented a request from Oak Ridge Apartments on Chateau Drive for transit service. Mr. Milam responded with a letter proposing two possible options for service; Paratransit or a Main Line route deviation. She noted that route deviations can interfere with the route schedule along with the many wheelchair passengers that also delay buses due to the increased loading time. Commissioner Wachsteter asked why riders in wheelchairs would choose a Main Line route over Paratransit. Ms. Shealy responded that for many it is because Paratransit service is more expensive at \$2.25 per ride than Main Line, which is only \$0.60. The property manager has not responded to this communication.

Mr. Milam added that we will perform route studies and continue to explore ways to accommodate their request, but they will have some conditions to meet such as ensuring access to the property and having room to turn around. He added that he is also discussing this with the property owner, Charlie Williams.

### Long Range Transportation Plan

Ms. Shealy reported that an Open House is scheduled for the Long Range Transportation Plan for Rome and Floyd County on March 16th from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at the Civic

Center. This will be an opportunity for the public to review the current Long Range Transportation Plan and provide input. Staff will be on hand to answer questions.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Speeding Concerns on Sherwood Road

Mr. Milam updated the Committee on a resident's request received in December for speed humps or bumps on Sherwood Rd. He presented a study performed by Steven Foy that determined the number of vehicles per day and their average speed. A traffic counter was used to evaluate the number of cars and the speed and the hill was surveyed to determine the grade and sight distance from both approaches. The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) recommends a stopping sight distance of 155 feet for a speed limit of 25 mph, and 115 feet for a speed limit of 20 mph. The sight distance at this location is 117 ft., which is a little short for the 25 mph currently posted. Mr. Foy has recommended that a warning sign be placed on the southbound approach to the hill advising that the hill limits the view along with a 20 mph advisory speed limit. Mr. Foy has discussed this with Ms. Julie Smith who made the request, and she felt that this was a good first step to address the issue.

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

## NEW BUSINESS

### New Aerial Photography for 2015

Mr. Aaron Carroll reported that this year we will be re-shooting the aerial photography for Floyd County. He presented examples of aerial photography to demonstrate the evolution of the process over the years. He noted that originally the aerial shots were done primarily for agriculture. Examples spanning 1954 through 2012 showed the evolution from a black and white film process to precise digital photography. He noted that in 1996, the first color *ortho-rectified* imagery was utilized that allowed for very precise land measurements to be taken based on the photographs because distortions from the earth's curvature could be geometrically removed. In 2004, the entire county was completely re-shot by Sanborn and Company. In 2012, the photography was acquired via satellite rather than from a plane at a considerable cost savings from traditional photographic processes. This year, the county will be shot from an airplane mounted digital camera equipped with GPS. Engineering staff has provided survey points on the ground to serve as a guide for referencing the photography. We are anticipating the photography to be delivered sometime in July. He noted that the camera will record a fourth spectrum in the photography which will enable us to determine what percentage of a parcel of land is impervious.

### Film Production Road Closures Planned

Ms. Ann Hortman reported that the film production schedule has changed overnight from what we previously understood. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of March they would like intermittent traffic control from 9am to 3pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue Bridge in five minute intervals. City police will be assisting with this. They will alternate to the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge during this time period as well. They have put in a request to DOT for this. Filming will take place primarily around the rivers, the levee and the trail system.

On the evening on the 30<sup>th</sup> they want to block off parking on the 200 block of Broad Street from Komans to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. so they can begin filming the next morning. The Downtown Parking Department will put out event parking signs as well as go door-to-door in advance to notify the businesses that will be affected.

On March 31<sup>st</sup> they requested that we close one lane of traffic on from Broad St. to 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. and along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. to W. 1<sup>st</sup> St. to accommodate all kinds of trucks and trailers that will accompany the production company. She noted that they neglected to include that section of 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. in their request to DOT. Mr. Milam suggested that since their plans are so dynamic it might be best to continue to have conversations with them about staging alternatives and options rather than try to resolve details in this Committee. He noted that these kinds of opportunities don't necessarily require Commission approval as long as all pertinent staff is made aware of what is required and how Police and Public Works will need to be involved. He noted that we have in place a means to communicate issues through Ms. Hortman, and we need to be prepared to respond as we would with any event.

Commissioner Canada stated that the important thing is that all the Departments that are involved are communicating and the Commissioners are made aware of what is going on. Ms. Hortman added that the public will be made aware through Rome News-Tribune. She added that a special events committee with all interested parties met to thoroughly discuss this last week. She noted that this is a huge opportunity for our community. The film crew will be here for six weeks.

Commissioner Canada thanked Ms. Hortman for her report.

### 'Proudly We Hail Award' and 2015 Jackson Hill Flag Schedule

Mr. Milam reported that the Exchange Club of Rome has presented the 'Proudly We Hail Award' for the display of the American flag on Jackson Hill to the Public Works Division last year. The Exchange Club has submitted a request for a schedule for flying the Star Spangled Banner flag in 2015. He presented their suggested schedule that requested three different periods.

Large Star Spangled Banner Flag:

May 22 – July 6  
Sept. 4 – 28  
Nov. 2 – 30

Small American Flag:

July 6 – Sept. 4  
Sept. 28 – Nov 2  
Nov. 30 – Jan 2

There are basically three different one-month periods that they are requesting the large flag to be flown. The first period would celebrate Memorial Day, Day Flag Day, and Independence Day. The next would be Labor Day, Constitution Day and Gold Star Mother's Day. November would be Election Day, Veterans Day, One Nation Under God and Thanksgiving. It is hoped that this schedule will have a minimal impact on the flag's service life and also make it easier on the staff responsible for the raising and lowering.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to adopt the schedule as presented. Commissioner Canada seconded. The motion carried.

Commissioner Wachsteter noted that since the flag is so huge and difficult to manage, the Exchange Club could send some volunteers to assist staff in raising and lowering it.

Commissioner Canada asked Mr. Milam to provide him the schedule so he can announce it to the Commission.

#### Request to Close Perkins Street

Mr. Milam reported that the Rome Braves wanted to do something in the community as part of their "Love the Braves, Love the Earth Campaign". They have requested to close Perkins Street between Calhoun Avenue and Kingston Avenue from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on April 24<sup>th</sup>, reserving May 8<sup>th</sup> as a rain date. This will be a block party utilizing Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful and Clean Community. The City will provide the barricades.

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

## MONTHLY REPORTS

### Winter Weather After-Action Report

Mr. Milam reported that he wanted to commend the Public Works and Transit departments for their response during the recent weather event as well as to explain how the event was handled. He noted that we approach these events with forethought and also deal with them after-the-fact in evaluating how it went. He asked Mr. Jenkins to discuss the Street Department's response during the event.

Mr. Jenkins reported that the Street Department's priorities were around hospitals and major roads coming into Rome, which includes Turner McCall, Shorter Ave, and GA Loop 1. We begin with a mixture of salt and gravel over the bridges. If it is put out too soon traffic will push it to the side or early rain can wash it off. This last event started in the afternoon during the work day so we were able to prepare a little better. We operated two shifts around the clock which allowed us to work without incurring any overtime hours. We worked with the Public Works Garage so we had a mechanic on hand as needed. Two spreader trucks were used, one with a plow on front, in addition to a motor grader equipped with a rubber plow blade. The snow that came in was slushy and light so it could be pushed off to the side of the road. In that process, 132 bags of salt and 67 bags of calcium and 99 tons of No. 89 rock were used which cost \$3,399 and is a cost effective way to keep our citizens safe.

After the event, Mr. Jenkins discussed with Mr. Milam all aspects of the response to determine what went well and what improvements could be made for future events. He noted that Atlanta used a brine solution which is a salt water mixture as a road pre-treatment, which we will investigate further. Dalton Public Works has been using this as a pre-treatment and for de-icing for about five years. Mr. Jenkins noted that he, Mr. Milam and Mr. Shuler will all be visiting the Dalton operations to learn more about this option and what equipment modifications might be needed. Dalton invested from \$9,000 to \$10,000 to start this operation. While some have expressed concern about salt rusting the undercarriage of the cars, he noted that it is more a concern for northern states that would use it for much longer snow events than we would have.

Ms. Shealy reported that during this snow event there were some changes in Transit hours of operation. She worked closely with Rome City Schools on scheduling. Senior Transit staff got out at 3am to check the roads. Fixed route services to Highland Rivers and Dialysis patients required some shift changes to accommodate patients. She noted that she worked closely with Tim Harrington at Emergency Management to help coordination during the weather event.

#### Good Friday Holiday Schedule for Solid Waste Collections

Mr. Milam noted that due to the Good Friday holiday the Solid Waste Collections Department will pick up garbage and yard carts for both Thursday and Friday's routes on Thursday before the holiday.

Ms. Shealy reported that the Transit Department will be open on Good Friday and regular bus schedules will be observed.

Commissioner Canada asked Ms. Shealy about the DHR tickets. She replied that the tickets are issued to DHR in bulk and they in-turn give them out to their clients.

Departmental Reports

The Departmental reports were distributed for review.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Margaret Hollingsworth*

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, Secretary