



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

April 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, Asst. City Manager
Mr. Kirk Milam, Public Services Manager
Mr. Steven Foy, Assistant Public Works Director
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Street Department Director
Ms. Sheree Shore, Finance Director
Lt. Chris Dehart, Rome Police Department

STAFF: Ms. Bekki Fox, Community Development Director
Ms. Sue Hiller, Planning Department Director

GUESTS: Mr. Howard Cothran, Purple Heart Chapter 525
Mr. Butch Cohenour, Disabled Veteran's

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 March accident report. The total number of accidents was 211. He noted that although this seems like a significant increase over the 137 accidents in March of last year, 91 of these were in private lots, which are not under RPD's jurisdiction. The 120 actual roadway accidents are down from last year by 17. Injuries were up from 40 last year to 82. Many of these were complaints and not substantiated injuries. There were no fatalities during the

month of March or for the first quarter. DUI arrests and DUI related accidents are up. Total general cases were at 158, up from 140 at this time last year.

Commissioner Lee asked if there are any regulations for private lots. Mr. Milam interjected that the layout of parking spaces is addressed during the development phase of the property. The code has some minimum requirements that must be met and then the architect or design engineer has a lot of latitude as to where they place the parking spaces and driveways.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report

Ms. Shore presented the February financial report. She noted that fare box receipts have continued to be behind. Tripper service is up since adding a route. The Paratransit DHR supplement has been behind since about the first quarter of last year which is an issue of the timing of payments. There were no operating grants and reimbursements for the month. Commissioner Wachsteter asked how far behind the reimbursement requests are now. Ms. Shore noted that Ms. Shealy and Ms. Lee are catching up January and February payment requests now since working on the previous year's closing during those months. Ms. Shealy added that requests for funding are always sent out after the previous year's closing. We should be caught up after this month.

On the expenses side, Ms. Shore noted that the *Materials and Supplies* category shows a reduction in fuel costs. Labor costs are pretty much in line with last year. She added that the cash balance which is sufficient to carry us while waiting for reimbursements.

FY2016 Section 5307 Grant Application

Ms. Shealy reported she is in the process of applying for the 2016 Section 5307 capital grant in the amount of \$595,107 and \$875,000 for operating. She noted that preventive maintenance funding is not included in this request because the previous request for preventive maintenance covers a three year period. She added that she also did not apply for fuel provision or ADA, which are no longer available. In 2017 thru 2018 she has shown the amount needed for these categories in case the funding should become available in the future. Mr. Milam stated that we could list it as not available rather than put a zero so it is clear that the funds are not available instead of not needed.

Commissioner Wachsteter stated that there are concerns with other cities that Map 21 Federal funding is still in question. He asked what our 'plan B' if we lose that subsidy. Ms. Shore noted the big fund balance gives us time to deal with a situation like that. Ms. Shealy added that this kind of concern has been going on for years.

Commissioner Wachsteter asked about the 40 ft. bus purchase that is planned for \$330,000. Ms. Shealy noted that was an error and should be two 30 ft. buses instead of one. He asked if they are the most economical bus to transport students. The main line buses are about \$450,000.

Commissioner Wachsteter moved to approve the application with the appropriate corrections. Commissioner Lee seconded. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Purple Heart City Sign Unveiling

Mr. Foy introduced Mr. Howard Cothran, of the Purple Heart Chapter 525, and disabled veteran, Mr. Butch Cohenour. The City Commission issued a proclamation designating Rome as a 'Purple Heart City' in August. These gentlemen are here to request a Purple Heart City sign to be posted. Mr. Foy noted they will be installed at 8 locations coming into town. He displayed the sign noting that it is a standard sign that is being used in other cities. Mr. Eidson stated a ceremony will be held next Thursday on April 16th at 10:00 A.M. at the City limit sign in front of the Arby's on Hwy 27 S. The public is welcome to attend. Mr. Foy presented a map showing the other locations that will have these signs installed on major highway's coming into Rome. Mr. Cothran added that Georgia has been made a Purple Heart state. Mr. Cohenour added that he is proud of Rome. There are quite a few Purple Heart recipients living in Rome and Floyd County. Mr. Rich invited the gentlemen to attend the Commission meeting where the sign unveiling will be announced. They thanked the Committee.

Sidewalk Improvement Program

Mr. Milam briefed the committee on the sidewalk improvement plans for this year. He noted that Project 120 is the sidewalk improvement budget, which has remained fairly stable over the years, but we will have more money in that budget through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. We currently have \$105,000 budgeted in Project 120 to be used for repairs and new work as needed. There are a lot of old sidewalks throughout Rome that become buckled or cracked from tree roots or worn and broken from age. We have identified the sidewalk on West 1st Street bordering Hawthorne Suites as one in particular need with no handicapped ramp to 2nd Ave. This project has been accomplished this year. We also spent a little over \$10,000 in repairs to the existing sidewalks around Anna K. Davie School. 6th Avenue from Broad Street to East 1st was accomplished with CDBG funding. Part of the remaining Project 120 funding will be dedicated to the North Rome area and the rest will be focused on areas around town where the sidewalks have been rated poorly, with a particular focus on public areas such as around the hospitals where there is more motorized wheelchair traffic. In a sidewalk rating two years ago \$800,000 worth of needed infrastructure repairs were identified. As our budget allows, we will prioritize repairing the worst conditions first. Much of this will involve removal and replacement, and installing ADA ramps where they are needed.

Commissioner Canada asked how long a sidewalk lasts. Mr. Milam replied that sidewalks have about a 30-year life. The biggest damage they suffer is from tree roots or vehicles pulling up on them. He added that we have a focused plan on how we will proceed. He

noted that for the North Rome area, there is almost \$300,000 to spend in CBDG money. He showed a census tract map showing the eligible areas where we can spend the money.

Mr. Jenkins reported that he works closely with Community Development Director, Bekki Fox, who procures the CBDG funding. He noted that with \$140,000 left from 2014 funding along with another \$150,000 budgeted for 2015, he has identified areas in North Rome that are in greatest need of improvement. Much of the improvements will be made on HWY 53 leading in to North Broad. We decided to focus on areas that were not on State Routes other than that section. Handicapped ramps at the junction of Calhoun Avenue, Kingston Avenue and Reservation Street will be repaired with the \$150,000. Last year the sidewalk around the Community Kitchen at Calhoun Avenue and North Broad Street was upgraded, and this year we will work on the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street from there. We will work on West Callahan Street towards the church and on East Callahan leading to Stanley's Cafeteria. We will send this project out for bid. Ms. Fox added that any time federal funding is used we are required to perform an environmental study, which she will begin in the next two weeks.

Mr. Rich noted that investment in the infrastructure is makes a huge difference in the appearance of the community.

Commissioner Wachsteter added that he would like to see some improvement to the appearance of garbage containers on the rear of businesses. Mr. Milam noted that we do have a plan to place small rolling 2-yard dumpsters that can accommodate a whole block. We are working on how we can convert our commercial accounts to use that kind of system. Commissioner Wachsteter asked if these plans can be discussed further at the next meeting. He added that he would like to see staff develop partnerships with different communities to participate in upgrades to sidewalks or piping ditches. Mr. Milam noted that the City Commission can do an assessment on properties for these kinds of repairs. We used to get many petitions for curb and gutter where we would do the work with the residents paying for it through assessments over a period of time. There is no reason why we can't partner with communities who also want sidewalks or other improvements.

E. 1st Avenue Approach Lanes at Broad St.

Mr. Milam reported that when we were working on West 1st Street a month ago, a business owner asked if we would look at the signal operation at 1st Ave. and Broad Street and the way the lanes are arranged. Mr. Foy presented photos showing the approach from Glen Milner towards Broad Street on 2nd Avenue. He indicated where the inside lane is dedicated for left turns and the right lane is marked for straight movements and right turns. The right lane does not line up straight across as the inside lane does, so the request is for the inside lane to share left turn and straight with the outside lane a dedicated right-turn only. This change won't affect signal operation at all, but will support the majority of the traffic that turns right.

Ms. Sue Hiller added that there is a grant for improvements on the intersection for bike traffic. She suggested we wait to make any changes until we know what impact that might have. Mr. Milam noted that this change will not affect the study or plans for the

bike path. Lt. Dehart suggested we consider prohibiting right on red for safety reasons. Mr. Milam noted that he was not aware of any accident history there and there are right turns allowed on read now. This change will facilitate the predominant movement.

OTHER

Mr. Foy reported that Cemetery Director Stan Rogers is trying different ways of marketing the Myrtle Hill mausoleum to promote sales. For one month, there will be two billboards advertisements. Mr. Foy added that we will be analyzing the performance of the sign on the Dempsey -Lord building. He noted that Mr. Rogers and consultant Bill Kerestes will continue to monitor the results as they try different advertisements.

MONTHLY REPORTS

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