



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 9, 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. 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. Esther Vaughn, 32 Gibbons St.
Ms. Julia Russell, Thankful Baptist Church
Ms. Iris Kinnebrew, 216 Kingston Avenue

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Stevenson called the meeting to order.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES

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

Commissioner Stevenson recognized Ms. Vaughn who wanted to address the Committee regarding the Gibbons Street name change request that was presented at last month's meeting. She shared some history of Gibbons Street. As a resident with a long family history as well as family businesses on the street, she supports the name change to honor Rev. Russell noting that it would have very little bearing on a street that was basically destroyed a long time ago by urban renewal. She asked the Commissioners to re-consider the request with this in mind.

Commissioner Stevenson stated that the Gibbons Street issue will be readdressed at the April meeting.

POLICE REPORTS

February Traffic Accident /DUI Report

Lt. Dehart gave the police report. He noted that for the month of February accidents were up while private lot accidents were down. DUI accidents and arrests were down. Total traffic cases and total injuries were both up, general cases were down, traffic cases were up, and fines and forfeitures were down.

He noted that this may be a trend for the remainder of the year due to personnel shortages. New officers will be available in December when their training is complete.

Commissioner Lee asked if we are having difficulties recruiting. Mr. Rich said that we have just had a lot of turnover so the situation should be improving over the year.

TRANSIT OPERATIONS

Financial Report for December 2015 and January 2016

Ms. Shore presented the unaudited December 2015 financial report. She noted that fare box receipts have continued a downward trend and is below budget for the year. Tripper Service is up by almost \$200,000 due to the additional routes that were added. Under *Federal Cash Grants and Reimbursements*, she noted all of the operating funding was received for 2015.

On the expense side, she noted that expenses are up primarily in labor. We have seen a decrease in fuel costs. Depreciation is down slightly. Under total expense and transfers out, she noted we are actually under budget but up over last year. Although there is a net loss for the year, she noted that it includes depreciation, and the cash balance has actually gone up.

On the January report, she noted that main line service was down overall. It will take another of couple of months to see if that is a trend or if it is due to bad weather. There were several days where mainline didn't run during weather events.

2015 Ridership Report

Ms. Shealy presented the 2015 ridership report. She noted that full fare was down 14% from the previous year—possibly due to the decrease in gas prices. The senior citizen fares were up 14%. Disabled fares were down by 23% and student fares were down by 19%. Under prepaid tickets she noted full fares were up 3%, disabled fares were up 12% and student fares were down by 29%. Non-paying (children 5 and under) was up by 2%. Overall ridership in this category was down about 6%.

In the next section, DHR was down 14% Paratransit fares had no change while prepaid Paratransit fares were up by 13%. Tripper contract ridership was up 5% and tripper fare box receipts were down 92%. Total ridership for all categories was up 4%.

Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) FY 2017 – 2020

Ms. Shealy presented the transportation improvement plan for 2017 – 2020. She noted the Planning Commission will be amending the 2014 – 2017 TIP by the end of March. This amendment will include a Transit portion, which must be in the TIP in order to be approved. She noted the fuel provision is kept in the plan in case the state should offer it again.

Section 5307 Grant Application

Ms. Shealy reported the 2017 Section 5307 grant application must be submitted by the end of March. She noted it includes tripper, main line and paratransit buses. Preventive Maintenance now covers all maintenance labor and salaries. She reviewed the line items that will be covered by this grant. The total amount requested is \$1.193 million with the federal cost at \$954,400 and the state and local match at \$119,300. On the operating side, Ms. Shealy noted that we are requesting a federal match of \$875,000 with the local cost at \$2,295,305 that includes fare box revenues

She noted the capital grant Section 5339 is included in the TIP as a place holder should we apply for it in the future. We are not applying for that grant in 2017.

Commissioner Lee moved to direct Ms. Shealy to proceed with the grant application as presented. Commissioner Irscher seconded. The motion carried.

Report on 2016 GTA Legislative Day

Ms. Shealy reported the GTA Legislative Day was Feb. 23rd. She and Phillis Lee attended, and hosted a legislative breakfast. She noted there wasn't much activity on our agenda. We did not get our fuel tax exemption again.

OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Foy reported the three – way STOP is installed along with the Stop bars at the intersection of Ross St. and Reservoir St. He presented photos of the intersection.

NEW BUSINESS

Request to Close Alley between Nixon/Hardy Avenues

Mr. Foy presented a request to close an unopened alley between Nixon and Hardy Avenues where the old Anna K. Davie School was located. The South Rome

Redevelopment Corporation owns all but one property whose owner that has not been located as yet. He asked for approval of the closure contingent upon obtaining that owner's approval.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the request contingent upon this property owner's approval. Commissioner Irscher seconded. The motion carried.

DDA Street Closing Requests

Mr. Foy presented requests from DDA for street closures to accommodate downtown events that were not included at last month's meeting. These included the addition of 6th Avenue to the closure that was approved for April 30th at the last meeting, changing the May 6th event date to May 21st, and a promotional event for the Rome International Film Festival to be held on Saturday, September 10th in Bridgepoint Plaza.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve all closures as presented. Commissioner Irscher seconded.

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