



Chris Jenkins, *Director*
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

Cemetery Department

Vacant, *Superintendent*

Engineering Services

Aaron Carroll, *Director*

Public Works Vehicle Maintenance Department

Joe Krinke, *Superintendent*

Solid Waste Processing & Disposal Department

Tim Garrett, *Director*

Streets & Drainage Department

Chad Hampton, *Director*

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE, TRAFFIC COMMISSION, TRANSIT
AND TRAILS COMMITTEE

Sam King Room - 601 Broad Street

February 11, 2026 10:00 AM.

PRESENT: Commissioner Jill Fisher
Commissioner Bill Collins
Commissioner Harry Brock
Mr. Sammy Rich, City Manager
Mr. Chris Jenkins, Public Works Director
Mr. Aaron Carroll, Engineering Services Director
Mr. Felipe Arevalo, Design Engineer
Mr. Doug Walker, Rome Public Information Officer
Ms. Julie Smith, Transportation Planner
Sgt. Thacker, Rome Police Department
Ms. Kristy Sheppard

GUESTS: Ms. Cheryl Jenkins, One Community United
Mr. Larry G. Morrow, One Community United

CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Fisher called the meeting to order. The minutes of the December meeting were approved by common consent.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Service Pins Award

Mr. Rich and Ms. Sheppard presented the service pin awards to three employees of the Public Works Division:

5-Years: Felipe Arevalo, Engineering Services

10-Years: Larry Reynolds, Engineering Services

30-Years: Margaret Hollingsworth, Public Works Administration

DAR Permission Request for Wreathes Across America Day

Mr. Jenkins reported the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is requesting permission to lay wreathes on up to 900 veteran graves this December. This is a national program called Wreathes Across America. The DAR obtain sponsorships for the wreathes and will use ROTC, Boy Scouts, and other volunteer groups to help lay them and then will take responsibility for removing them at a specified day. Mr. Jenkins had no objections to this project and stated Cemetery staff will do all they can to help them. He spoke with Tourism Director, Lisa Smith, who also endorsed the project.

The request was approved by common consent.

Pennington Sidewalk Update

Mr. Jenkins reported the sidewalks behind Myrtle Hill Cemetery that were in state of disrepair were recently contracted out. The bid was awarded to a local construction company, Sap's Construction, for \$30,000, which was part of a SPLOST project. He presented before and after photos of the project. He noted the project extended from the community garden to South Broad Street and included driveway connections to the sidewalks and street. It turned out very well and is a significant improvement.

Commissioner Fisher asked if there were other sidewalk projects coming up. Mr. Jenkins replied or focus this year will be the North Rome area. He added there is \$100,000 in the capital budget that is used primarily for emergency repairs, but we also have SPLOT funds.

Tribune Street Closure Request

Mr. Jenkins reported the County is doing a SPLOST project on Tribune Street near the historic courthouse. They will have to close a portion of Tribune Street behind El Zarape to accommodate a crane. The coordination is still under discussion. The County will get a plan together for this and we will talk to the business owners and the DDA to discuss how this will affect them and get their input. He has spoken with the contractor to ensure they are aware of their responsibility for the traffic plan and that the liability for public safety will be theirs. We will work with them to ensure we have a good plan in place before the work goes forward.

One Community United

Ms. Cheryl Jenkins of One Community United requested use of the pedestrian bridge for their annual event. She noted this is the tenth anniversary of this event. Mr. Rich stated we have already spoken with the Forum to make sure there will be no conflicts with forum events and they have no concerns.

Commissioner Brock moved to approve the request. Commissioner Collins seconded. The motion carried.

OTHER

Commissioner Fisher followed up on several items from the previous meeting:

- **LMIG Grant:**
Mr. Jenkins confirmed the \$600,000 GDOT LMIG grant, funded by fuel excise tax, will be used to pave Technology Parkway from Mathis Drive to Huffaker Road.
- **Guard Rails:**
Mr. Jenkins confirmed that contractors have completed installations at Mt. Alto, Horseleg Creek Rd., Old Lindale Rd., and Shoreline Dr.
- **Underground Storage Tanks:**
Mr. Jenkins reported the specs are out for bid for the design of the above ground storage tanks which should take about 40 weeks. This is a \$1.5 million project that will replace six underground 10,000-gallon tanks with two above-ground 20,000-gallon tanks, eliminating EPD monitoring and more in keeping with our 3,000 gal./week usage.
- **Trail Extension & Bridge Fencing:**
Mr. Jenkins noted that trail plans are still in the design phase, including specifications for passing under the road to the labyrinth, with bidding anticipated by early spring. The Turner McCall Bridge fencing decision will be discussed at the next meeting so Commissioner Cochran can be present. GDOT requires fencing over the section that is over the railroad, and they plan to install standard chain-link fencing, or we may consider a higher cost ornamental fencing. We will have to decide whether to fence only railroad section or entire bridge.

TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Accident/DUI Report

Sgt. Thacker presented the January Accident/DUI report. He noted that Accidents were up slightly for the month 152 at this time last year to 157. Private lot accidents were up slightly from 51 to 53 for the month. Injuries were down slightly from 57 last year to 46. DUI arrests were the same and there were no fatalities last month. Total traffic cases were down from 653 to 606.

He noted the highest accident sector was Patrol Sector 5, which includes the area around Turner McCall/Hicks Drive, which had the highest number of accidents at 47. Sector 2 includes the area around Shorter Avenue at Division, had the second highest number at 45. The primary cause of accidents remains Following too Closely with 48, and Failure to Yield with 31. The highest accident times are commute times and lunch time and the highest accident days are Thursdays and Fridays.

Mr. Jenkins noted we are having a bid opening tomorrow for Riverside Pkwy at the loop. GDOT is contributing \$1.7 million to this project. There will be two through lanes from Riverside Pkwy crossing the Loop and from the Armuchee connector side, eliminating the concrete median.

He added that Atrium has offered to partner with us by paying half the cost of a traffic study on W. 3rd to review the placement of signals.

TRAIL UPDATES

Pump Track Update

Ms. Smith updated the Committee on the Pump Track project. She noted that groundbreaking will take place next Wednesday at 10 AM at Ridge Ferry park. We are expecting the total time will be about 4 weeks. There should be a ribbon cutting in March. This project is funded with SPLOST funds, TRED, and some trail title sponsor money from Advent.

MONTHLY REPORTS

The reports were distributed for review.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret W. Hollingsworth

Margaret W. Hollingsworth, *Recording Secretary*