



Minutes

Public Utilities and Transportation Committee

Caucus Suite 204

February 21, 2024

9:00 am

Staff Present: Wright Bagby, *Committee Chair, Board of Commissioners*
Larry Maxey, *Committee Co-Chair, Board of Commissioners*
Jamie McCord, *County Manager*
Bruce Ivey, *Committee Chief of Staff, Public Utilities Division Director, Special Projects Manager*
John Carroll, *Airport Manager*
Ryan Davis, *Facilities Manager*
Mark Welsh, *County Engineer*
Emma Wells, *Solid Waste Director*
Ben Brooks, *Assistant Public Works Director*
Steve Hulsey, *Utilities Administrator, Water*
Troy Atkins, *Assistant Utilities Administrator, Water*
Tim Shuler, *Assistant Utilities Administrator, Water*
Lauren Chumbler, *Committee Secretary, County Manager's Office*
Amy Dawkins, *Assistant County Clerk, County Manager's Office*

Others Present: Charlene Odom, *Citizen*
Max Coker, *Citizen*
Richard Coker, *Citizen*
Karen Coker, *Citizen*
Lisa Smith, *Tourism*
Jenni Ivers, *Film Location Scout*

I. Call to Order

Commissioner Bagby called the meeting to order.

II. Review Minutes from December 20, 2023 Meeting

The minutes were approved by common consent.

III. Public Participation

Charlene Odom spoke to the committee regarding getting a waterline on Ervin Coker Road and nearby roads. Stated there are families out there with wells, but they run dry, and some have multiple houses pulling from one well. Utilities Administrator Steve Hulsey explained the process for petition for water improvement and how it is calculated. The citizens asked questions and stated they would work on the petition.

Tourism Director Lisa Smith introduced Jenni Ivers, a location scout for an Amazon movie. Ms. Ivers explained they are shooting a movie and are asking for intermittent traffic control and road closures on certain dates in February and April. Ms. Ivers explained the difference between intermittent traffic control and a road closure. Ms. Ivers stated they are working with multiple entities to ensure safety and have a meeting scheduled tomorrow with public safety. Ms. Ivers also explained that the road closures on the Bypass would still allow the wood trucks to come through with a police escort and so they would not have to detour. She provided a detailed letter with the dates and locations of road closures and intermittent traffic control. Mr. McCord stated GDOT has approved the road closures on the state routes pending the County's approval. Commissioner Maxey made a motion to approve the intermittent traffic control and road closures for the dates and times submitted in conjunction with GDOT:

- Wednesday, February 28, 8:00 am – 7:00 pm at the Rome Bypass between Hwy 27 and Blacks Bluff Road SW for intermittent traffic control.
- Thursday and Friday, April 4 – 5, 8:00 am – 8:30 pm at Rome Bypass between Hwy 27 and Blacks Bluff Road SW for road closure
- Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday through Sunday, April 6 – 7 & April 10 – 14, 7:00 am – 7:30 pm at Rome Bypass between Hwy 27 and Blacks Bluff Road SW for road closure
- Wednesday, April 3, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm at Park Ave SE between S 1st Street and W 1st Avenue for intermittent traffic control
- Saturday and Sunday, April 13 – 14, at Hwy 27 at Rome Bypass and Blacks Bluff Road at Rome Bypass intersection

IV. Order of Business

1. Airport

a. Taxiway Light update

Airport Manager John Carroll gave an update on the taxiway lights that have been lights that have been out since May 2023 due to waiting on a part to repair the regulator. Stated Brad Cagle has gotten an old regulator working, but they do not know how long it will last. Stated they are looking at purchasing a new regulator in the upcoming lighting project.

b. Runway Extension Contract

Mr. Carroll stated Bartow Paving was the low bid, but is still over budget. Mr. McCord stated the Engineer's estimate was approximately \$6.2 million and the low bid was \$6.9 million. Stated he believes there are some things that can be done in house to save money, but recommends going ahead and awarding

at the next Board of Commissioners meeting. Mr. McCord stated there is \$4.9 million in 2013 SPLOST and he recommends using excess 2017 SPLOST to cover the remaining. Commissioner Maxey and Commissioner Bagby agreed to move forward with the award.

c. SpaceWorks

Mr. Carroll stated there is a company requesting to use space at the Airport temporarily to test engines. Stated this company works with entities such as DOJ and DOD and currently test in Florida, but are looking for a location closer to their offices in Atlanta. Mr. Carroll stated he's received a Letter of Intent as well as Environmental Policy, Environmental Mitigation and Hazard Plan. Stated attorney Trey Newton has been working on a draft license for them. Mr. McCord asked about the payment set up and Mr. Carroll stated that has not been decided yet. Commissioner Bagby and Commissioner Maxey asked Mr. Carroll to get more information and try to speak with anyone that is near where they are currently testing.

d. Hangar Update

i. Rome Aviation Hangar

Mr. Carroll stated they received their certificate of occupancy and are operational. Stated they have the option to add a fuel pump, but they have not as of now.

ii. Kinetic Aviation Maintenance

Mr. Carroll stated this contract is complete and they're currently sharing space with Tiger Flight until their space is ready.

iii. T Hangar update

Mr. Carroll stated they are in design and finalizing what the hangars are going to look like. Commissioner Bagby asked if they could have hangar layouts by the next Airport Commission meeting in March.

Mr. Carroll stated GDOT completed their T Hangar study and presented it to the House. Stated he is hoping it results in more additional funding as GDOT found the need for 1,400 more T Hangars in Georgia.

iv. Floyd Corporate Hangar

Mr. Carroll stated they have the location and are waiting to send it out for bid. Stated they are waiting on the final design. Commissioner Bagby asked if they could have the final design by the next Airport Commission meeting so they could move forward.

2. Water

a. Franchise Fees / Utility Placement Details

Assistant Utilities Director Tim Shuler stated there needs to be a standard utility placement guideline as it is causing issues, especially with new developments. Commissioner Bagby stated the County needs to set the rules and asked if he could have a proposal by the next meeting. Mr. Shuler also stated there is a need to charge franchise fees for use of County right of way.

b. Hwy 53 Update

Mr. Shuler stated they are approximately two weeks from having everything tied in for this year.

c. Hwy 100 Crossing Update

Mr. Shuler stated the contractor is still gathering materials for the bridge. Stated they are about to start running the line from connector to the bridge. Mr. Shuler stated they met with GDOT about working on the bridge and requirements.

Mr. Hulsey stated they were approved for an upgrade to the filter system at the water treatment plant. Stated there have been issues found in one of the tanks and an engineer is going to be here today to inspect and see what needs to be done to repair. Mr. McCord stated they may need a called meeting to see what direction they need to take.

3. Engineering

a. Fox Environmental Contract

County Engineer Mark Welsh stated they received the proposal for the 2024 task order, and it is the same price as last year. Mr. Ivey stated they will bring that to the Commission for approval.

b. NPDES Annual Report

Mr. Welsh stated it has been submitted and he is waiting for comments.

4. Facilities

a. Glenwood School Update

Facilities Manager Ryan Davis stated the design is almost finished and should be out for bid by next week. Stated they will put in an add alternate list to try and keep it as cost effective as possible. Stated they will try to do as many

items in-house as possible. Mr. McCord stated Metro Task Force will go to Glenwood.

b. Law Enforcement Center Update

Mr. Davis stated they did a walk through with the architect and they are hoping to have a rough sketch by next week. Mr. McCord stated the City Police should be in their building by April. The group discussed various space needs between the buildings being remodeled.

c. Baseball Stadium Renovations Update

Mr. Davis stated the Commission recently approved the \$3.9 million proposal, but there is one other large piece. Stated he is working on a spreadsheet to show what is required and what has been done so far.

d. Admin HVAC Update

Mr. Davis stated the trench has been dug and they are getting the infrastructure ready for the equipment to arrive.

5. Public Works

a. Paving/LMIG Update

Assistant Public Works Director Ben Brooks stated they will begin paving in the next month or so. Stated they will start patching on Lyons Bridge Road. Mr. Brooks stated there are four roads on the south end of County that are closer to CW Matthews than Blount and he thinks it would be more cost effective to buy from there. Stated they have about 30 miles scheduled for this year along with six to eight miles for the City.

b. Additional LMIG for Safety

Mr. Brooks stated they are waiting on the weather to start this project. Stated this will be thermoplastic and rumble strips, should take approximately two weeks.

c. Additional LMIG 2024

Mr. Brooks stated they've been notified there are supplemental funds available, and they should be awarded additional funds with no match. Stated they will begin working on a project list in anticipation of the funds.

d. Battle Farm Subdivision Roads Update

Mr. Brooks stated they have fixed the area of the sunken sewer main and are monitoring, but there are other streets that need work. Mr. Ivey asked if they did any work to the manhole around Central Grove. Mr. Brooks stated he was not sure, but would find out.

Mr. Brooks stated they received another petition for road improvements for the Forest Glen subdivision. Stated they are evaluating, but it is not on this year's paving list and not all of the roads qualify for paving. Mr. Brooks stated they will draft a letter to send back to the petitioner.

Commissioner Bagby asked about staffing. Mr. Brooks stated they currently have six openings.

Commissioner Bagby asked if there was an update on the Public Works relocation. Mr. McCord stated they are waiting to do a site plan.

6. Recycling/Solid Waste

a. Events Update

Solid Waste Director Emma Wells stated they've already had a Household Hazardous Waste event in January and a Field trip for Rome Middle to landfill with Keep Rome Floyd Beautiful. Ms. Wells stated she is Speaking at Berry on Feb 27th and is also working with Rome City Schools on STEM nights. She stated they will have a weeding event at the Berryhill remote site.

b. Grants Update

Ms. Wells stated they were awarded an ACCG grant for an intern. Stated the County will be reimbursed for the intern. Ms. Wells stated she would like the intern's project to be a reuse store at the Recycling Center. She stated this would hopefully help teachers and nonprofits get office supplies or office furniture and keep them out of the landfill. Ms. Wells stated she received feedback from EPD about the grant for the shredder and we should hear if we are awarded by March or April. Ms. Wells stated the Prison will be working on a new building at the Hatfield remote site this year and it will have a basement.

Commissioner Bagby asked if there was an update on community service. Ms. Wells stated she signed a contract with the Department of Community Supervision and will be going to Judge Niedrach, but she has not heard an update.

7. County Manager's Report

8. Chief of Staff's Report

Mr. Ivey stated the Water Department received a proposal from Peoples and Quigley for the design of Bidby well project. Stated they will bring that to the Board of Commissioners once they receive the permit from EPD. Mr. Ivey explained it will be a modified permit including Bidby instead of a new permit.

9. Chairman's Report

V. Other Business

VI. Adjourn

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned.

***Next Meeting, Wednesday, April 17, 2024*