



**Joint Service Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021  
Caucus Room, 12 East 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
8:30AM**

## **Minutes**

Commissions: Floyd County Board of Commission  
Rome City Commission

Members: Chair Wright Bagby, Floyd County  
Vice Chair Allison Watters, Floyd County  
Mayor Craig McDaniel, Rome City  
Mayor Pro Tem Sundai Stevenson, Rome City

Present: Bruce Ivey, Floyd County Special Projects Manager  
Joe Smith, Rome City Clerk  
Erin Elrod, Floyd County Clerk  
Doug Walker, Rome News-Tribune

I. Welcome—Floyd County Chair, Wright Bagby

Chair Bagby called the meeting to order.

II. Redmond Trail Update

Mr. McCord updated the Commissioners on the Redmond Trail. Stated a Notice to Proceed is expected any day. Mr. McCord also stated Lewellen Construction was the low bid. Mr. McCord and Sammy Rich worked out the additional funding. Mr. McCord also mentioned Lewellen Construction did the Kingfisher Bridge in the past and are a local company. Vice Chair Watters informed the Committee on TRED's Walk and Talk on the Trails which featured the confluence of the Redmond Trail. Stated they had a great attendance and Brice did a great job.

III. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge

Mr. Rich updated the Commission on the streetscape process for the River District, which includes the Fifth Avenue Bridge. Stated the original drawing included parallel parking on the bridge along with angled parking spaces and parallel spaces into 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Stated this concept brought the conversation to the bridge and possible questions such as do we want parking or greenspace on the bridge. Mr. Rich presented a concept from Commissioner Cochran with greenspace on the bridge instead of parking on the bridge. Stated this would give a dedicated right and left turn into the Courthouse, but it would require altering the bridge. Stated this would include rollover curve for emergency vehicles to get around traffic. Mr. Rich stated Aaron Carroll is working on the documents for phasing the project, but the bridge continues to be the question. Mayor McDaniel said that the City Commission has not voted on either proposal for the bridge. Stated the City Commission understands that the bridge belongs to the County and is responsible for it. Stated that neither the Fire Chief nor the Police Chief like the parallel parking proposal on the bridge. Mayor McDaniel stated the City Commission asked that the proposals be taken to the County for discussion. He explained that the bridge discussion started at Public Works and was moved to the Redevelopment Committee. Chair Bagby said there is great concern doing anything to any of our river crossings until the GDOT updates are completed on Second Avenue and Turner McCall bridges. Stated the County Commission is very supportive of the River District project; however, very hesitant of doing anything while we have these major projects that will greatly effect traffic on the horizon. Chair Bagby asked Mr. Rich if GDOT had been contacted to review either project. Mr. Rich said at this point GDOT has not been asked specifically about the bridge. Stated if we are going to do anything different, such as greenspace, it will take a pretty intense structural look. Mayor McDaniel said he had spoken to retired GDOT Director Dwayne Comer who stated that had GDOT wanted the bridge to be a two lane bridge, it would have been constructed as such. Mayor McDaniel stated his concern is these proposals do not take into account the full court system moving back to the Courthouse. Mayor McDaniel asked Mr. Rich for a timeline for the work that Aaron Carroll is engineering for the utilities in the river district. Mr. Rich stated that should be wrapped up in early fall. Chair Bagby stated this project is really hampered by the shortness of the blocks. Stated our position is that we're 100% behind the River District; however, he believes our Commission would say that we would have a hard time doing anything before those other two projects are completed. Vice Chair Watters stated she would like to hear from GDOT, our public safety leaders, and our judges before any decisions are made. Also stated we need to keep in mind that this bridge will need structural work in the future and this will impact any decisions made. Mayor McDaniel mentioned the timeline for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue project and that traffic would have to be rerouted. Mayor McDaniel also mentioned the Turner McCall project timeline. Mr. McCord stated the Turner McCall project is going to bring traffic issues no matter how many lanes they keep open. Mr. McCord stated the traffic counts are odd for this section. Also stated it would not be a bad idea to speak with someone like Dewayne from the engineering side to have an outside opinion on the bridge. Mayor McDaniel stated he believes the best thing for the City to do is wait until the County makes a decision on the extent of work needing to be done to the bridge. Mr. McCord asked if the key feature of the project is the bridge. Mr. Rich stated that there are a lot of pieces to this project, but if we're not moving forward with the bridge at this time, it just changes the phasing of the

project. Mr. Rich stated if there is a hold up on the bridge, they can do work to make it look better such as lighting and landscape at the entrances on either side. Vice Chair Watters asked about the timeframe for Bob Grigsby's project. Mr. Rich stated there is no hard timeframe at this time. Mayor McDaniel stated the Grigsby project is looking at adding 260 apartments, which will also add to the traffic congestion. Mr. McCord asked Bruce Ivey if we would be able to do trip gens for the Grigsby project, the Forum, the Courts, City Auditorium, and Friday night footballs games. Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson said that the public safety portion is the most important to this project and has to carry a lot of weight. Mr. McCord said he's willing to talk to Dwayne Comer to get a third party opinion on the project. Mr. Rich said he believes the City needs to move forward with the other phases of the project and be ready to transition with the decision on the bridge when it comes.

#### IV. AGL Issues

Mr. McCord stated that the County had worked with Atlanta Gaslight to make sure their vacuum waste is taken to an approved site. Also stated the asphalt, concrete, and inert waste is now going to an approved space. Mr. McCord explained that wasn't the case to begin with, but we have worked with them to get it corrected. Stated Brian Roberts has done a great job to help them through the regulations. Mr. Rich stated that there is a meeting tomorrow in Summerville Park for an AGL update. Stated it is an open meeting to hear the latest on the project as the neighborhood asked for an update. Mr. McCord stated AGL had hit some pockets of rock that had slowed them down. Chair Bagby stated he knows the steel plates have been an issue with the citizens. Mayor McDaniel stated the complaints he had heard are from Shorter Avenue and Summerville Park and specifically, Atlanta Gaslight working late and blocking people's driveways, which is why they are having the meeting tomorrow night in Summerville Park.

#### V. Animal Control Ordinances

Mr. McCord stated there are three ordinances ready for review for the City and County Commission. Mr. McCord explained the ordinances are related to tethering, adequate shelter, and restitution for the animals until the owners go to court. Mr. Rich stated that he had missed the last Public Safety meeting, but he believed everyone was in favor of the proposed ordinances updated. Vice Chair Watters updated the group on the Spay/Neuter ordinance option. Stated there is a law professor from the University of Georgia that has been really helpful with this. Vice Chair Watters explained the issue is that we don't currently have a low cost spay/neuter option in town. Stated we still have some issues with this one that we have to work out; however, we feel very strongly about the moving the other three through for adoption. Stated the tethering issue is predominantly in the City and we will give citizens until December 1<sup>st</sup> to make plans for this going into effect. Vice Chair Watters thinks these ordinances will be beneficial. Mayor McDaniel asked if there is any other way to specify rules for Pit Bulls. Vice Chair Watters said we define vicious animals as vicious animals. Stated the breed specific

ordinance was changed about five years ago. Vice Chair Watters stated by specifying a certain breed, we're discriminating against certain breeds and where does it stop. Vice Chair Watters appreciates what Animal Control has said: let's determine if a dog is vicious and not get caught up in the breed. Stated it would be nice for the Cities of Rome and Cave Spring and Floyd County to make these changes together. Mr. McCord stated that we are planning on having these on the agenda for the first reading at our first June meeting and the City of Rome is as well. Mr. McCord stated the City of Cave Spring will be behind due to Rob Ware being out of town.

#### VI. Relocation of the Myra H.

Mr. Rich reminded the Committee on the relocation and renovation of the Myra H. which started roughly 2.5 years ago. Stated the boat is approximately ninety years old and has been stored at GE while it was being renovated. Chair Bagby stated this has been one of the best citizen driven projects and they have done a magnificent job. Mr. Rich stated a proposed sketch has been given to relocate the finished project to Ridge Ferry Park near the treehouse. Mr. Rich explained that this would connect to the treehouse as well and would be covered by a pole barn to protect it from the elements. Stated it would be used in conjunction with the ECO center in their education program and he thinks it would behoove us to facilitate moving it into the park. Chair Bagby said they are very close to finishing the project and the proposed final home of the boat has been very carefully considered over the past few years. Chair Bagby believes more people will see it this way and be able to enjoy the history of the boat. Mr. Rich asked if the County had been involved in moving the boat to GE. Mr. Ivey stated that Miller Crane and Taylor Transport had been used to move the boat to GE and it had cost approximately \$10,000 to move and required two cranes. Mayor McDaniel asked if it would need to be put on a base. Mr. McCord stated that it would probably be best to discuss with Jim Dixon for the base and how it should be displayed. Mr. Rich presented a quote from Multi-Craft that included the base and pole barn for housing the Myra H. Vice Chair Watters asked how this would be paid for. Mr. Rich said that is the question with the total quote being \$150,000 plus the cost of moving it. Mayor McDaniel asked once the Myra H. is moved, who would be responsible for it. Mr. McCord stated he believed it would be a City asset to maintain, like the playground and treehouse. Mr. McCord stated he would be willing to work with the City on a budget. Chair Bagby agreed the County is supportive and as far as timeline, GE is needing their space back so hopefully it can be moved by the end of the summer. Vice Chair Watters asked that the project be discussed at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

#### VII. Other Business

Vice Chair Watters reminded everyone that today brings the changes to no more household garbage at Walker Mountain Landfill. Stated it was never meant to be a remote site, it just became one at some point. Stated we are asking citizens to use the other remote sites and the County will continue to explore if another remote site is

needed. Mayor McDaniel said his main concern is the person who is just going to dump on the side of the road instead of going to a remote site. Vice Chair Watters stated she is aware of this concern and hopes that this will not occur. Stated the traffic on Walker Mountain is dangerous. Mayor Pro Tem Stevenson stated it would be helpful to advertise where the other remote sites are for citizens as some are unaware. Mr. McCord stated you can still take trash, but you will have to pay.

Mr. McCord also mentioned there has been vandalism in the 4<sup>th</sup> Ave Parking Deck elevator.

Mayor McDaniel also said that he has been asked about flags being placed downtown in the future for Memorial Day.

#### VIII. Adjourn

Seeing no other business, Chair Bagby closed the meeting.