Minutes

Public Utilities and Transportation Committee

Caucus Suite 204

August 19, 2026 8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Scotty Hancock, Committee Chair, Board of Commissioners
Jamie McCord, County Manager
Bruce Ivey, Public Utilities & Transportation Division Director, Special Projects Manager
John Carroll, Airport Manager
Tim Shuler, Assistant Utilities Administrator, Water
Michael Skeen, Public Works Director
Ben Brooks, Assistant Public Works Director
Mark Welsh, County Engineer
Charles Hankins, Manager, Rome-Floyd Recycling Center
Amy Dawkins, Communications Manager
John Bailey, Assistant Clerk
Baylen Parker, Rome News-Tribune

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m.

II. Review Minutes from June 17, 2026 Meeting.

The minutes were approved by common consent.

III. Public Participation

IV. Order of Business

1. **Engineering**
   a. Unopened Alley closure off Sunset Dr. SE
   b. Closure of a portion of unopened alley off Lindsey Rd. NW

Mr. Welsh discussed both items with the committee and stated the Sunset Drive proposal will be brought back before the committee in the form of a resolution proposal for the Board of Commissioners.

2. **Public Works**
   a. Foster's Bend Road FDR & Geotech
   b. Lindale SPLOST – Jamestown Sidewalks
   c. Paving/LMIG & SPLOST/2026 LRA Funding
   d. Dead Ash and Pine trees within R/W
   e. Paving Roller

f. Staffing

Mr. Skeen reviewed the items and stated he expects the Foster's Bend Road project would begin in 2027. Mr. Skeen also said the Jamestown SPLOST project is out for bid and he expects the project will remove and replace sidewalks in 75% of that community, except for areas with very large trees near the sidewalk. Mr. Skeen said Public Works has paved 28 miles in the county and 34 miles total so far in 2026. He also reviewed an issue of dead Ash and Pine trees in the right of way near county roads. In one instance, Mr. Skeen presented photographs of trees that have grown around communications lines. He told the committee that he would reach out to AT&T regarding that issue. Mr. Skeen told the committee Public Works is currently utilizing a rent to own process for a paving roller and said he would like to put the $158,000 paving price before the Board of Commissioners to purchase the equipment. Mr. Skeen also addressed the committee regarding multiple unfilled positions in Public Works which had been frozen by a Board of Commissioners action the day before. He raised the concern that certain services would have to be discontinued because of staffing levels.

3. **Recycle/Solid Waste**
    a. Events Updates
    b. Solid Waste Director

Mr. Hankins reported that a recent electronics/hazardous waste recycling event filled up quickly and was very well attended. After discussion, Mr. McCord stated the Solid Waste Director position will need to be an exception to the hiring freeze.

4. **Water**
    a. Water Rates
    b. Water System Cyber Security
    c. Private Meter Reading

Mr. Ivey recommended an increase in water rates by 5% for residents and 20% for commercial customers. Commissioner Hancock recommended that commercial rates need to be increased to equal the residential rates. Mr. Shuler addressed recent news regarding the computer hacking of water department facilities. Mr. Shuler stated the Floyd County system is secure and reassured the committee that if it was hacked the largest damage which could be done would be only an inconvenience. Any significant changes would have to be made on site. Mr. Shuler also stated that private water meters at a few facilities were an issue for the Water Department.

5. **Airport**
    a. Corporate Hangar Update
    b. 7/25 On Airport Obstructions
    c. Taxiway Bravo West
    d. Localizer Repair Update
    e. Runway 1/19 Overlay

f. Aircraft Accident Liability Waiver
g. Call-Out Fee Discussion

Mr. Carroll stated that the contractor for the Corporate Hangar project has been given a punch list of final items for the project. He also stated that the clearing for the 7/25 runway project is moving forward. Mr. Ivey updated the committee on the localizer repair. Mr. Carroll stated the runway 1/19 project will begin soon and he expects it to take 6 to 8 weeks to complete. Mr. Carroll proposed that a liability waiver needs to be signed by aircraft owners before they enter the airport to protect the airport from liability. He also suggested that the airport needs to increase call-out fees as well as other fees for airport services. Mr. Carroll will take waiver and fee proposals to the Airport Commission for a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

6. County Manager's Report

Mr. McCord discussed a sweeping contract for Ga. 20 and stated that, at this time, it does not appear to be feasible.

7. Chief of Staff's Report

a. National Guard Property R/W, Easement
b. Atlanta Gas Light Easement in Shannon
c. Access License for Alley

Mr. Ivey stated the State Properties Commission has asked for a resolution from the Board of Commissioners regarding the National Guard Property easement request. Mr. Ivey also stated that Atlanta Gas Light is seeking a permanent easement for an existing line in Shannon.

8. Chairman's Report

V. Other Business

VI. Adjourn

With no other business the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

******Next Meeting**, October 21, 2026*