



JOINT SERVICES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021
8:00AM VIA ZOOM

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Wright Bagby, Chair, Floyd County Commission
Allison Watters, Vice Chair, Floyd County Commission
Jamie McCord, County Manager
Craig McDaniel, Mayor, City of Rome
Sundai Stevenson, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Rome
Sammy Rich, City Manager
Bruce Ivey, County Special Projects Manager
Johnny Bunch, City of Rome IT
Erin Elrod, County Clerk
Amy Dawkins, Assistant County Clerk

WELCOME:

Chair Bagby called the meeting to order.

REDMOND TRAIL UPDATE:

Bruce Ivey stated the latest update is that the right of way has been certified, the bid documents, plans and environmental have been approved. He stated they received the easement documents from Norfolk Southern and forwarded them to County Attorney Virginia Harman. He stated he hopes to get on the agenda for the next Board meeting for approval. He stated they are getting the plans together to submit to EPD for erosion control review, and still on track for March. Mr. Ivey stated Bill in Purchasing will do the bid, but it will be a GDOT contract. He confirmed that both city and county would need to approve. Mr. Rich stated they would love to get going. Mr. McCord agreed. Mr. Rich stated it was correct that the city has funding to tie into Mt. Berry at the intersection for Redmond Trail going through Summerville Park. Mr. McCord stated this was for the bridge, and Mr. Rich and the City will do the tie-in from the bridge. He asked Mr. Ivey what the bridge was estimated at, and Mr. Ivey stated a little over half a million. Mr. McCord stated this would be the last of the TEA (Transportation Equity Act) funds, because that program is done. Chair Bagby stated he was confused, that he thought we were only doing under the railroad. Mr. McCord stated it is above flood elevation, and had to be designed where it would be a breakaway for maintenance. He stated this is the actual bridge project. Mr. Rich stated that if you are on the levee, and you take the trail that runs by O'Charleys it actually stops. He stated we are disconnected there. He stated this project will get us over and reconnected with the Mount Berry Trail. Until you get up to Big Dry Creek until it terminates, and they will need a bridge to get to the Armuchee Connector. He stated it will then be a big loop. Chair Bagby stated he was misconstrued on where the

immediate bridge is, as he was thinking it was on the other side of the railroad track. McCord showed a map on the screen. He showed the trestle underpass crossing underneath. Mr. Ivey stated the project will terminate on the road along the silk fence on the other side of the fence. Mr. McCord said basically this connects everything to downtown. Mr. Ivey stated the bridge design was part of the Redmond Trail project. Chair Bagby stated people would be excited about this. Mr. Rich stated he appreciated the hard work, and he thinks it is a good joint project. He stated it takes us to a whole new level with community projects. Mayor McDaniel asked about the timeline for completion. Mr. Ivey said 270-day project, or six months from the beginning of mid-April or early May construction. Mr. McCord stated the county is willing to work with the city on the connection point, as he knows it is a big project. Mr. Rich stated (*inaudible*). Chair Bagby stated people will be excited to hear about this project.

WEBSITE UPDATE:

Ms. Elrod stated they met the week after the last Joint Services Committee and come up with a recommendation, and had a really good conversation. She stated she sent the recommendation to Sammy and Jamie. She stated due to the size of information, our best option would be to separate the websites, but keep Romefloyd.com as a landing page as long as necessary. She stated we would eventually sundown that joint page, and operate pages independently. Elrod stated the County has been ready to go for going on 18 months. Bunch stated they will go with CivicPlus, and are already in the process of moving forward. Elrod and Bunch agreed that the City and County will keep each other well-informed, to keep release dates as close as possible. Mr. Rich stated before the joint website rome-floyd.com, they were a client of CivicPlus. He stated he believes it will be an easy transition. Bagby asked for a timeframe. Elrod stated the contract has been ready for 18 months, and ready for the commission to approve. She stated the timeline depends on getting in that cycle due to CARES funding. She stated once project is started, it looks like 3-6 months. Rich stated the same time frame for the City and CivicPlus. Bagby asked for them to keep us posted. Watters adds that we commit to working together, and don't compete with websites and not confuse the citizens of Rome and Floyd County. She asked that we make this the best thing for our citizens and our two governments. McCord said it has come down to the mass amounts of information now, and COVID has brought it to light. He states it has outgrown itself. He states we are committed and this is not a competition at all. Bagby thanked Bunch and Elrod for being prompt. He asks that as soon as a contract date is given, keep each other posted.

OTHER BUSINESS:

McDaniel stated the City will have a retreat on February 17-18. He stated they will have a mini housing retreat. He stated this meeting is open to the public, and located at the Fire Training Room on East 12th Street. He stated housing is one of the top issues they need to address. He stated they are trying to find models where other communities have incentivized residential development. He stated the City of Statesboro just received (... inaudible...) put together an ad-hoc housing committee coming from the summit in February. McDaniel stated they are down to 120 single-family houses in Floyd County. Watters added that her husband has had success in tiny houses. She asked that they include that conversation in the retreat. McDaniel stated he loves that idea. He stated that we have people who work in Rome and Floyd County, but live in Gordon and Bartow because we don't have housing. He stated South Rome group has approved another complex. He stated he thinks the census is going to show that we are not growing, because we do not have the housing. He stated we have improvement on industrial development, but we have to find places to house people when they do come here. Feb 19 housing day. Rich stated possibly 8AM-12PM. McCord asked McDaniel specifics about City of Statesboro. McDaniel stated they allocated 8K from their General Fund, up to 10K per unit, and another 4K if natural gas is added in. He stated they brought builders together, and the builders said their

biggest cost was water, sewer, and driveway at \$300 (?) (*inaudible*) per linear foot. McDaniel stated we incentivize industry to come here, but we do nothing for residential developers.

Bagby asked where we stand on sewer study. Rich stated he will have something to share in the coming days or week. Bagby asked at our next joint meeting if we could have a discussion.

McCord stated COVID testing is still going on for Wednesday. Gordon and Bartow are doing Tuesday and Thursday. He stated they are working at 100% effort toward a vaccine. He stated mass vaccination on February 8, but supply may be an issue. McCord stated we are doing better hospital-wise, and definitely headed in the right direction.

McDaniel participated in a recovery task force meeting. He stated Dr. Voccio stated they have grand plans to roll out the vaccine, but it is a statewide problem. Dr. Voccio stated they are not able to meet the demand of the volume.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.