

# **BOROUGH OF WEST READING TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE**

**AUGUST 12, 2020**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via a Zoom Meeting, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Mayor Andrew Kearney (arrived at 6:25 p.m.); Police Chief Stephen Powell; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

**Visitors:** Karen Livingood, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of July 8, 2020 by Chief Powell and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

## **Old Business**

**Parkview Road Pedestrian Bridge** – UGI and the Borough have come to an agreement on funding of a pre-fabricated pedestrian bridge that would cross the Wyomissing Creek supporting a main gas line. The solicitor will be requested to draft an agreement between the Borough and UGI for this endeavor. Systems Design Engineering has been working through the permitting process and will be requested to provide a general timeline of the project during the Council meeting next week.

**Penn Avenue Parking** – Mr. Kaag has been in contact with PennDOT to discuss the feasibility of offering local restaurants a curbside seating area within the parking lane. PennDOT has indicated an allowance of temporary parklet use on a case-by-case basis, and Mr. Kaag is waiting for further information from PennDOT. Mr. Lincoln indicated that the state may be in the process of creating a statewide parklet policy.

Chief Powell reported that the two-hour Penn Avenue parking enforcement has resumed, which has upset a number of Penn Avenue residents. The new Parking Enforcement Officer has recommended that these residents attend this meeting to express their concerns or to request a hearing with the local District Justice. A recurring complaint received from residents is that each space is not posted. Mr. Lincoln noted that two-hour parking signs are similar to that of a speed limit sign that regulates an area. In lieu of additional signs along Penn Avenue Mr. Lincoln will research the existing signs and regulations to potentially reword the signs to stipulate the entire block.

Paid parking lot usage has improved during the past month. Additional Flowbird signs are still needed, a less expensive option of purchasing stickers for the outdated MobileNow signs is being researched.

**Penn Avenue Infrastructure** – The granite handicap ramp repairs have been progressing slowly, and there have been a few issues with the PennDOT handicap ramp replacements. Complaints have been received regarding notification to property owners, concrete splatters on brick surfaces, and detour plans for pedestrians.

**Parking in Alleys** – Staff members gathered information regarding existing alley signage and compared this information against current ordinance regulations. Mr. Lincoln provided an illustration of these findings in a layered overhead map.

Permit parking areas were added to the map, the north Sixth Avenue permit parking designation was discussed now that the clinic has moved away from this vicinity. Mr. Lincoln will request Council's feedback on a decision

to remove this designation next week. Residents in this area would need to be notified prior to revisions to the ordinance.

Main road street sweeping designations need to be added to the map to identify conflicts. In particular, the Sunset Road alley is signed no parking on trash days and additionally the ordinance prohibits parking at all times. Sycamore Road street sweeping is scheduled on Wednesday, Sunset Road street sweeping is scheduled on Tuesday, on these days illegal parking in this alley is a result of the street sweeping schedule. Also, Walnut Street is designated in the ordinance for street sweeping, however there are no signs posted. The Public Works Department will be asked how they address this street to determine potential changes.

Stop signs were also suggested be added to the map to identify intersections in need of traffic control. In-house studies can be performed and should begin with Yarnell and Obold Streets.

Staff has recommended naming the alleys at a minimum for internal identification purposes. This may also provide easier clarification within the ordinance. Guidance from the solicitor is needed prior to moving forward with naming the alleys.

Alley widths are needed to recognize and determine parking regulations. Also, driveways and garages within alleyways need to be considered to prohibit parking across from these areas for ease of access purposes.

A finished map, preferably in GIS format, would be beneficial for residents to refer to from the Borough website. A cost to add this information into the GIS format will be requested from the engineer.

**Fifth and Penn Avenue Left-Turn Restriction** – Mr. Lincoln researched alternate signage options for this intersection and found that a lighted sign may be helpful, however, it is not intended to be used at all times. It was suggested to add a no left turn sign to the back of the traffic signal arms to increase visibility while approaching the intersection. The committee decided that additional signs would not illicit better compliance on this traffic regulation.

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Chief Powell. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary