

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

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2020**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via a Zoom Meeting, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

**Visitors:** Karen Livingood, Resident                      Maureen Hasty, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

## **Public Comment**

Mrs. Livingood requested macadam repairs to the north crosswalk area of the intersection at Fifth Avenue and Pine Street.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of August 12, 2020 by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

## **Old Business**

**Parkview Road Pedestrian Bridge** – The Borough Engineer has submitted a joint permit application to the Department of Environmental Protection. Prefabricated bridge estimates have been received from three manufacturers, one of which is COSTARS approved. The installation and concrete work aspects of this project would require bidding. An estimated project timeline is late 2020 or early 2021. Weather should not be a factor in delaying this installation since there is minimal concrete work. Mr. Imbesi stated that the Borough Solicitor has drafted a waiver for a conflict of interest to obtain authorization for Kozloff Stoudt to represent both the Borough and UGI in this matter. This information will be provided to Council during next week's meeting.

**Penn Avenue Parking** – Mr. Imbesi shared the recent news that both parking kiosks within the paid parking lot are not operational. One is not printing receipts and the other is not accepting coins. Mr. Lincoln shared parking sign regulation information that he gathered with regards to placement, and indicated that legibility and sign orientation were the only factors to adhere to. Therefore, if a sign can be seen from any parking space this should be sufficient. Committee members agreed that additional signs along Penn Avenue were not desirable.

**Penn Avenue Infrastructure** – Mr. Murray reported that the granite handicap ramp repairs have been completed. PennDOT has addressed the handicap ramp complaints from property owners at the intersections of Eighth and Penn Avenue and Third and Penn Avenue.

PennDOT's Penn Avenue paving project has been delayed one week to September 14<sup>th</sup>. The Police Department has notified businesses along Penn Avenue of the overnight parking restrictions that will be in place. Details of thermoplastic markings will be reviewed for the stop bars, parking stall lines and center line.

**Parking in Alleys** – Mr. Murray indicated that most alleys within the Borough have been named. Currently he is in the process of locating a map with this information and will provide Mr. Lincoln with the details to include on the base map.

Alley widths were requested to determine parking regulations. Driveways and garages within alleyways will also need to be mapped to prohibit parking across from these areas for ease of access purposes.

Mr. Lincoln indicated that the ultimate goal is to identify areas where conflicts occur when parking is restricted for both street sweeping and trash collection to ease parking burdens on residents.

A finished map of parking regulations, preferably in GIS format, would be beneficial for residents to refer to from the Borough website.

North Sixth Avenue permit parking designation was proposed to Council last month and it was decided to refrain from making any changes at this time. Funding of an overall parking study of the Borough is being reviewed to potentially make changes as a whole to the permit parking program.

**Curb Repair Policy** – Mr. Kaag is currently reviewing other municipal curb repair policies and has questions for the solicitor. It was noted that the city of Ithaca New York is a good example of a formula that is used to assess the shared expenses against different types of property occupancies. Further information will be brought to the committee next month.

### **New Business**

**Five-Year Strategic Plan** – Derck & Edson has provided an in-depth analysis of a five-year plan for Penn and Reading Avenues, Cherry and Court Streets and the area known as the chocolate Palmer area. This committee is being asked to discuss infrastructure implications of the plan. The first topic of discussion will be the traffic circle, Mr. Imbesi will share the plan with the committee for discussion next month.

**Revenue Enhancement** – Chief Powell shared the following revenue enhancement ideas for the Police Department:

- Increase the \$15 fine for paid parking violations.
- Increase the Penn Avenue free parking timeframe from two to three hours while increasing the fine from \$30 to \$50.
- Rent spaces within the municipal parking lot on Franklin Street.
- Create a residential permit parking area within the primarily residential area of the 300 block of Penn Avenue and the 100 block of South Fourth Avenue.
- Raise fines as a whole following a review of neighboring municipal parking fines.
- Paid permit parking along Penn Avenue.

Mr. Lincoln and Chief Powell will further review these options for discussion during the Police Department budget presentation later this month.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. by Chief Powell and seconded by Mr. Murray. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary