

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

**February 10, 2021**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via a Zoom meeting with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Public Works Director Dean Murray (arrived 6:23 p.m.); Sergeant Ryan Phillips; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; Police Officer Nicholas Karetas; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

<b>Visitors:</b>	Karen Livingood, Resident	Stephanie Rodriguez, Business Owner
	Michele Bare, Borough of Wyomissing	Philip Wert, Borough Council Vice President

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of December 9, 2020 by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Imbesi. **Motion carried.**

## **Old Business**

**Parkview Road Pedestrian Bridge** – Mr. Imbesi reported that the right-of-way agreement has been provided to UGI and is currently under review. It was recommended to refrain from awarding a contract to Contech Engineered Solutions for a self-weathering pedestrian bridge until the agreement has been executed by UGI. The engineer seems confident that the Department of Environmental Protection will approve the joint permit application.

**Penn Avenue Infrastructure** – In Mr. Murray's absence, committee members were unaware of any infrastructure improvements along Penn Avenue.

**Stop Sign Ordinance Updates** – Sergeant Phillips indicated that the four trained members, two parking enforcement officers and two public works crew members, would perform studies this month and provide recommended solutions for the following four intersections:

- Parkview & Sunset Roads
- Walnut Street & Tulpehocken Avenue
- Yarnell & Franklin Streets
- Ann Street and Sunset Road

**Borough-Wide Parking Study** – Mr. Imbesi reported that \$2,000 has been budgeted for Miscellaneous Administrative Costs for the year 2021, which would not support the funding of a parking study. Mr. Lincoln recommended obtaining a figure from a parking consultant to perform this study to determine if funds could be found within the budget to potentially expand the permit parking program.

## **New Business**

**Bike Share Station** – Mrs. Bare noted the Borough of Wyomissing's intent to install bike sharing stations in an effort to connect to the Reading Hospital and Alvernia stations. A request was made to install a station near the Chef Alan's parking lot along Reading Avenue either through an easement agreement with the property owner or within the right-of-way. Committee members preferred to install a station within the right-of-way, however, specifications are needed to determine the size of the required concrete footprint. Locations such as the traffic circle and parkland areas were discussed. It was recommended to look into the grassy area behind

Yorgey's Dry Cleaning, which is owned by the shopping center, to offer a bike sharing station along the designated bike trail through the circle. Also, there are Borough owned street lights along Fifth Avenue that could be tapped into for the required electric source. Mrs. Bare indicated that the PennDOT grant allows funds to maintain the stations for two-years in the amount of \$10,000 per year, per station. It was noted that donations were solicited from business owners within the Borough of Wyomissing to help offset these maintenance fees. An hourly or flat daily rate would need to be determined, which would help offset expenses and would be managed through the Movatic bikeshare software platform. Mrs. Bare will request a representative from Movatic to attend next month's Traffic and Infrastructure meeting to provide additional details.

Mrs. Bare departed the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

**Street Sweeping Program Expansion** – Mr. Murray recommended the following additions to this program:

- Barnhardt Way – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday
- Silk Drive – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday
- Elm Street – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday
- Penn Avenue – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 7 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Conflicts with parking restrictions and trash/recycling collection days would be minimal due to the availability of garages and driveways within the Villas at Narrow development. It was noted that Elm Street has not yet been ordained as a public street and should not be included in this program at this time. The revised Penn Avenue street sweeping timeframes were thought to better accommodate the business district. However, this timeframe may not be suitable for residents that reside above Penn Avenue businesses. The current street sweeping along Penn Avenue is performed around parked vehicles, or if needed, areas are posted no parking to allow access to clean the street curb to curb. Sergeant Phillips hesitated to add Penn Avenue to the program due to an added instance of ticketing/towing. Committee members discussed reducing street sweeping to once per month along Penn Avenue. However, it was thought that residents along streets that are swept twice per month may question the ability to reduce their inconvenience to once per month.

Motion to recommend an amendment to the street sweeping program to include Barnhardt Way and Silk Drive twice per month and Penn Avenue once per month. Moved by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Mr. Murray.  
**Motion carried.**

**Ordinance Amendments** – Mrs. Madeira reviewed the following potential ordinance amendments with committee members:

- **§ 430-33 Parking of certain vehicles in municipal authority parking lots prohibited** – Due to recent difficulty experienced in assessing and collecting a fine associated with prohibited parking within the municipal parking lot it was recommended to revise subsection B to remove the criminal penalty and insert provisions to assess a fine of \$25.

Motion to make a recommendation to Council to amend the municipal authority parking lot ordinance to carry a \$25 fine and remove the criminal penalty. Moved by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Mr. Kaag.  
**Motion carried.**

- **§ 430-8 School zones** – It was noted that the Reading Avenue and Buttonwood Street school zones are not listed under this section of the ordinances. Measurements have been provided by the Public Works Department and an ordinance amendment drafted for the committee's consideration. Committee members were unclear as to why these school zones were established since there are no schools in that vicinity. Mr. Lincoln will look into the PennDOT permit for the flashing lights and share the information with the committee next month.

- **§ 430-25 Time limit parking certain days** – The hours for the 3-hour limit parking along Penn Avenue would need to be revised from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Also, signs are not currently present on the east side of South Second Avenue near Cherry Street and on the east and west side of South Seventh Avenue near Penn Avenue. It was requested to research the purpose of these time limit designations prior to making a recommendation to Council.

**Pedestrian Safety Along Penn Avenue** – Sergeant Phillips reported that Officer Karetas, who is assigned to monitor Penn Avenue, has expressed concerns regarding pedestrian safety at crosswalks. Due to increased pedestrian activity in the business district, it was requested to perform a traffic study, if needed, to revise the pedestrian signals to cycle through automatically. A Pedestrian Scramble was recommended to stop traffic in all directions allowing pedestrians to cross in whatever pattern they desire. Mr. Lincoln noted that a pedestrian only phase would be a larger project due to signals that are coordinated through Wyomissing, which may present backup situations, a study would be required for this type of change. A study may not be required for the pedestrian signal to cycle through automatically, Mr. Lincoln will look into this aspect. Sergeant Phillips confirmed that it is considered jaywalking when crossing without the pedestrian signal.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m. by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Imbesi. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary