

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

**JUNE 9, 2021**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via a Zoom meeting with the following persons present: Council Member Patrick Kaag; Interim Borough Manager and Public Works Director Dean Murray; Officer-in-Charge Sergeant Ryan Phillips; Police Officer Nicholas Karetas; Mayor Andrew Kearney; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Chairman Christopher Lincoln was unable to attend.

**Visitors:** James Rogers, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers recommended implementing a twenty-minute parking space at the corner of Second Avenue and Franklin Street between the hours of noon to 8pm for the restaurant that is trying to survive during a pandemic in that vicinity. Mr. Rogers noted obtaining copies of the parking ordinances and the difficulty he had in deciphering the language and recommended instituting a site map for each parking reference within these ordinance sections. Committee members reported that a comprehensive review of parking ordinance regulations is currently being reviewed as a whole in order to remove conflicts and the desire to amend the ordinance and update signage systematically.

Officer Karetas requested consideration be given to implementing a midblock crosswalk within the 500 block of Penn Avenue due to the number of pedestrians that cross in this vicinity. The hope is that the crosswalk would encourage drivers to stop for pedestrians crossing midblock. Also, Officer Karetas requested boxing out and hashing the bus stops in the 400 and 500 block of Penn Avenue, similar to the bus stop located in the 300 block of Penn Avenue, to delineate the bus stop and prevent vehicles from parking in this area.

Mr. Murray indicated the midblock pedestrian crossing option had been discussed in the past and ultimately was not installed due to safety concerns. Any changes to Penn Avenue would require PennDOT approval. Mr. Murray stated that he would reach out to a representative of PennDOT to determine the feasibility of adding hash marks to the bus stop areas that are in question and discuss requirements to install a midblock pedestrian crosswalk.

Mr. Rogers noted a midblock crosswalk at Penn Avenue and Tulpehocken Avenue many years ago that was eliminated due to safety concerns.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of April 14, 2021 by Mr. Murray and seconded by Sergeant Phillips. **Motion carried.**

### **Old Business**

**Penn Avenue Infrastructure** – Mr. Murray indicated that he is waiting on pricing from Miller Supply for signage replacements along Penn Avenue. New signage would improve legibility.

**Time Limit Parking** – Mr. Kaag reported that the Solicitor does not have any issues consolidating Sections § 430-24 Time limit parking and § 430-25 Time limit parking certain days. This integration should eliminate discrepancies between ordinance sections and improve the ability to enforce these regulations.

**Court Street Parking** – Mr. Kaag noted further discussions that are needed to either restrict parking along Court Street and eliminate parallel parking space(s) on Sixth Avenue at the intersection of Court Street or to create a one-way traffic pattern to prevent delivery vehicles from damaging the building located at this intersection.

## **New Business**

**Handicapped Parking Space** – Sergeant Phillips noted receipt of an application for a handicapped parking space in the 100 block of Franklin Street that currently does not have any handicapped parking space designations. The applicant is requesting the lone space in front of 101 Franklin Street. He requested guidance on how to process this request, it was his understanding that these requests are processed during the months of April and October. Mrs. Madeira reported that this section of the ordinances has been restricted to amendments twice per year. However, if the request is urgent in nature the Mayor could approve the installation prior to an official amendment to the ordinance. Sergeant Phillips will visit the applicant to make a recommendation to the committee.

## **Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. by Mayor Kearney and seconded by Mr. Murray.

**Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary