

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

**FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, February 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Officer-in-Charge Sergeant Ryan Phillips (via Zoom); Mayor Samantha Kaag; Public Works Crew Leader Kerry Grassley; Engineer Tom Unger; Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

**Visitors:** Karen Livingood, Resident (via Zoom)  
Nicholas Karetas, Police Officer (via Zoom)

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

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of January 12, 2022 by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on audio/video improvements to Council Chambers.

**Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

**Old Business**

**Penn Avenue Infrastructure** – Mr. Grassley confirmed that the two pedestrian crossing signals to cross Penn Avenue at the Sixth and Penn Avenue intersection function independently of each other when the pedestrian pushes the button. Mr. Grassley will review the other crossing signals along Penn Avenue to determine if they operate in unison while Mr. Lincoln reviews the signal permits to determine the intended operation.

**Walnut Street Intersection Studies** – Mr. Unger noted his review of the Walnut Street and Cashmere Way intersection for suggestions to place a stop sign and stop bar based on line-of-sight issues caused by a brick structure. A mountable curb or cross-hatch road markings were recommended to visually delineate the intersection while allowing larger delivery, trash removal and plow vehicles to navigate the narrow intersection. Placement of a stop bar was recommended at the end of the building for visibility purposes. Options for placement of a stop sign were discussed at length such as mounting to the building on the left or setback on the right noting a stop ahead. Statutes would be reviewed for proper sign placement options.

Mr. Unger departed the meeting at 6:16 p.m.

**Review of § 430-23 Parking Prohibited at Certain Hours** – Mrs. Madeira requested feedback on the following items within the proposed amendment:

- Parking restrictions on the north side of the 400 block of Chestnut Street would be revised from weekdays to school days.
- The signs restricting parking on the south side of the 500 block of Chestnut Street between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. would be bagged for a time to determine if there is a purpose to retain these restrictions.
- Street sweeping parking restrictions on Elm Street would be extended to include the 500 block in anticipation of roadway dedication. Enforcement within this block would not begin until the roadway has been dedicated.

- The notation of Oak Terrace alleys between Pine and Spruce Streets that are not wide enough to allow parking would be removed from this section and added to Section 430-21 Parking prohibited at all times.

**Grape Street Alley Winter Maintenance** – In an effort to avoid removal of parking from this narrow alley to perform winter maintenance the solicitor indicated that an ordinance would need to be enacted. A sample ordinance will be drafted to include this alley and the section of alley between Grape and Franklin Street that has been closed with bollards.

**Review of § 430-23 Stop Signs** – A missed section of this ordinance was reviewed noting the following:

- Hamilton Street that intersects with Reading Avenue was found to be a small portion off of Highland Street that has a stop sign and should remain in the ordinance.
- The reference to Hospital property Lot E that intersects with Seventh Avenue was found to be an old intersection that was removed when the hospital tower was built a few years ago. This reference will be removed from the ordinance.
- Additions to this section based on the parking enforcement officer list of intersections were: eastbound on Kline Street at Third Avenue; southbound on Lakeview Drive at Spruce Street; north and southbound on Parkview Road at Playground Drive; north and southbound on Parkview Road at Sycamore Road; east and westbound on Reading Avenue at Third Avenue; southbound on Silk Drive at Barnhardt Way; northbound on Silk Drive at Elm Street; east and westbound on Spruce Street at Seventh Avenue; and east and westbound on Sycamore Road at Fifth Avenue.
- The intersection of Second Avenue at Franklin Street will be reviewed for stop sign placement. It was thought that this should be a one-way out of the parking lot.
- The reference to a stop sign at the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Parkside Drive North will be removed now that a traffic signal has been installed.
- The reference to a stop sign coming off of the hospital's private driveway, northbound at Sixth Avenue and Spruce Street, will be removed. Sergeant Phillips indicated that the sign can remain as a reminder to stop, and failure to stop would still be enforced.

**Audio/Video Improvements to Council Chambers** – Mr. Murray requested feedback as to items to address to improve virtual meetings in the Council Chamber room. In an effort to keep expenses down it was recommended to request a quote for:

- Installation of a ceiling mounted projector.
- Installation of two televisions on either side of the room for better visibility from anywhere in the room. These could be purchased and installed by the Public Works Department to save expenses.
- Upgrades to the microphone and speaker system.
- Upgrades to Wi-Fi access.

A revised proposal and possible presentation will be provided next month for further discussion. In-house improvements to the existing lighting control were also discussed.

## **New Business**

**Joint Safety Grant** – Mr. Murray noted a conversation with the Wyomissing Borough Manager to potentially secure a joint safety grant for improvements to street lighting, intersection visibility, curb and sidewalk improvements, and traffic circle improvements. Mrs. Bare will be requested to join next months meeting to express our interest in jointly applying for a safety grant and to determine a joint scope of work.

**Bike Share Program** – Mr. Lincoln noted discussions last year to install a bike share station through a grant in the vicinity of the shopping center along Reading Avenue. Installation of the bike station and the first two

years of expenses, estimated to be \$10,000 annually, would be funded through the grant. A location had not been determined last year and questions surrounding liability and terms of use were raised. It was noted that riding of bikes on the sidewalks in the Central Business District, or Penn Avenue area is prohibited and therefore should not be a location of a bike share station as Reading Avenue is currently delineated as a bike route. It was thought that the park area would be an optimal bike share location, however added recreational expenses are not desired.

**Alley Naming** – Mr. Murray requested consideration to name the alleys depicted in blue on a Borough map. It was thought that naming the alleys would primarily be for internal use and to keep the process of selecting names as simple as possible, such as a lettering system. Borough Council would ultimately be tasked with determining the complexity of naming alleys. Ms. Kaag recommended selecting generic names that would better identify the alley location, such as the alley behind Kent Way being named “Alley K”. Public Works and Police staff members preferred a name association for ease of reference, especially in emergency situations. Staff members will communicate with County Emergency Services for their feedback and provide a recommendation of naming alleys.

**Public Comment** – There were no public comments.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary