

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

MARCH 9, 2022

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, March 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; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Public Works Crew Leader Kerry Grassley; Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors:	Karen Livingood, Resident	Michele Bare, Wyomissing Borough
	Nicholas Karetas, Police Officer (via Zoom)	Paige West, Visitor
	Ivelisse Guerra, Resident	Steve Paul, Solutions AVT

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

Public Comment

Mrs. Livingood conveyed her thoughts and that of a number of her neighbor's comments on the enjoyment of the newly installed pedestrian bridge. She inquired as to the type of material the bridge is constructed of that appears to have already rusted. Mr. Lincoln reported that it is constructed of self-weathering steel that is intended to form a patina that rusts to protect the steel.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of February 9, 2022 by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Ms. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Joint Safety Grant – Mrs. Bare spoke of a grant opportunity known as Building a Better America that is generally looked upon more favorably when multi-municipal cohesive projects are presented. It was thought that a joint safe streetscape plan for drivers and pedestrians could be applied for with design, engineering, and construction phases funded through alternate grant opportunities. More information pertaining to this grant opportunity will become available later this year.

Bike Share Program – Wyomissing Borough obtained a PennDOT grant to install three bike share stations, one of which was requested to be placed in the Borough of West Reading in an effort to connect the Wyomissing, Reading Hospital, and Alvernia stations. The six feet by eighteen-foot pad would support six bicycles that would be maintained by Tandem Movatics. The launch date is set for next month and Mrs. Bare requested a designated location. It was decided for visibility and access purposes to designate an area near the West Reading Pool. Vandalism was a concern. It was recommended to install additional lighting and/or cameras to the area and that the Tandam Movatics contract includes a 10% vandalism coverage. The PennDOT grant provides \$10,000 per station for a two-year period to maintain the equipment. A pay as you go program would be established to determine if it would be warranted to continue the program beyond two-years. A sign and marketing campaign is available from Tandam Movatics and was recommended to be added to the Borough's website once the station is operational.

Motion to recommend Council to approve the installation of a Bike Share Station near Sycamore and Museum Roads. Moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Mrs. Bare departed the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

Audio/Video Upgrade Presentation – Mr. Lincoln recapped discussions to upgrade the audio and video systems in Council Chambers for virtual meeting and presentation experiences. Mr. Paul provided an overview of the second budgetary restraint proposal that included a ceiling mounted laser projector. The two LG Pro 55" television screens that had been removed from this quote could be reimplemented at roughly \$900 each.

Placement of these mirrored screens would allow all persons in attendance to easily view a screen. It was noted that anyone with a Miracast device could wirelessly share multimedia images or presentations through a hardwired, Borough owned laptop. Based on the size of Council Chambers microphones are generally not necessary, however it would improve the sound for virtual viewers or recordings; the existing four ceiling tile speakers would be upgraded. The previous quote had included a pan, tilt zoom camera that would move the image and sound focus to the individual in the room that was speaking. An annual monitoring membership would provide self-healing/repair of certain issues and allow remote access to potentially bring the system back online in minutes. A 10" tabletop control touchscreen system would be included, and the footprint needed to house these devices would easily fit into the existing cabinet.

Documentation on the two proposals will be provided to committee members for further consideration of these budgeted improvements.

Mr. Paul departed the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – Mr. Murray noted that last evening the West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation unanimously voted to not replace the banner poles that support banners across Penn Avenue to avoid future wind hazards. Mr. Grassley reported that two additional trash cans have been placed on Penn Avenue. At the recommendation of the Assistant Treasurer Helen Moyer, a numbering system will be established for the street lights for ease of tracking and reporting damage.

Walnut Street Intersection Studies – Stop sign placement information provided by Mr. Unger was reviewed for the Walnut Street and Cashmere Way intersection. The PennDOT technical information sheet #211 indicated that a stop sign must be located on the right not more than 30 feet from the nearest edge of the stop line. Intersection delineation will be provided by gore striping, all way sign plaques added to the stop signs, and red-light flashing beacons to alert drivers of the new traffic regulations for a minimum of thirty-days.

Motion to recommend Council to approve the following stop configuration alterations:

- **Chiffon Way and Walnut Street** – Installation of a stop sign on Chiffon Way, a stop line to maximize sight distance, and request All About Children to monitor and maintain vegetation that encroaches this intersection.
- **Tulpehocken Avenue and Walnut Street** – Installation of stop signs on the eastbound and westbound approaches of Tulpehocken Avenue on Walnut Street to create an all-way stop.
- **Cashmere Way and Walnut Street** – Installation of a stop sign on the northbound approach on Cashmere Way to create an all-way stop.

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

Review of § 430-16 Stop Intersections – Two final items were discussed prior to recommending Council's approval:

- The driveway access from C&S Supply parking lot onto Second Avenue should be marked as one-way to avoid right turns while exiting the parking lot.
- The previously installed stop sign on Walnut Street westbound at Seventh Avenue was added.

Motion to recommend Council to approve an amendment to the stop intersection ordinance. Moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Alley Naming – The County Emergency Services Department provided recommendations to name our unnamed alleys. It was recommended to take full advantage of naming these roadways by installing street signs. It was also suggested to avoid the use of street names already in use within the county. A list of various names was provided to match those parameters for the twenty-two unnamed alleys. Based on the difficulty in

placing signs at every intersection in these narrow areas and the expense associated with this endeavor it was decided that signs were not necessary. Staff was asked to create names that would correlate with existing street names for the ease in determining their location.

New Business

Review of § 430-26 Special Purpose Parking Zones; Parking Otherwise Prohibited at All Times – The following aspects of this ordinance section were reviewed:

- The designation of a fire zone on Cherry Street behind Reading City Church was thought to be unnecessary since the alley is not wide enough to support parking. Cherry Street from Fourth Avenue to Eighth Avenue will be added to Section 430-21 Parking Prohibited at All Times.
- The loading zone designation for the 600 block of Cherry Street was thought to be unnecessary and it was noted that signage is not in place.
- The handicapped space designation on Franklin Street near Fifth Avenue would be removed now that the applicant has moved and no new applications in this area have been received.

Sergeant Phillips requested the review of two handicapped parking space applications. Ms. Guerra explained the difficulty she is experiencing in locating a parking space near her two-unit residence on Summit Street. There were no other handicapped spaces within this area and it was thought that the space located on North Third Avenue would be the most beneficial to Ms. Guerra.

Motion to recommend Council to approve the designation of a handicapped parking space within the northern most parking space on North Third Avenue. Moved by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Ms. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

A second handicapped parking space application was reviewed for the 400 block of Chestnut Street. The applicant resides mid-block and does not have off street parking available to her. There are currently two handicapped space designations within this block, one on the north side mid-block and one on the south side near Fifth Avenue. It was thought that this situation would warrant a deviation from the policy of placing spaces at the end of the block.

Motion to approve the designation of a handicapped parking space near 446 Chestnut Street. Moved by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Review of § 430-27 Special Purpose Parking Zones; Parking Otherwise Prohibited on Certain Days – This section will be combined with § 430-26 Special Purpose Parking Zones; Parking Otherwise Prohibited at All Times to avoid duplications in the future. The following items were discussed:

- The signs posted behind Reading City Church on Cherry Street referring to no parking Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. will be removed. The temporary loading zone behind the church on Saturday's from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will remain.
- The two handicapped space designations on Sycamore Road near Museum Road will remain with the removal of the Memorial Day through Labor Day designation.

Review of § 430-30 Parking, Stopping and Standing Prohibited at All Times – The designation of North Seventh Avenue, east and west side, between the intersection of Reading Avenue and Walnut Street will be added.

Motion to recommend Council to approve the identified changes to § 430-27 Special Purpose Parking Zones; Parking Otherwise Prohibited on Certain Days, and § 430-30 Parking, Stopping and Standing Prohibited at All Times. Moved by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Schuylkill River Greenways – Mr. Lincoln shared a request from Muhlenberg Township to provide a letter of support for a project that would build a section of the Schuylkill River Trail between Route 12 and Laurel Run Park.

Motion to recommend Council's authorization for the Borough Manager to sign letters of support for the Schuylkill River Greenways grant opportunity for Muhlenberg Township. Moved by Ms. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Ms. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary