

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

**NOVEMBER 9, 2022**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Police Chief Wayne Holben; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Mayor Samantha Kaag was unable to attend.

**Visitors:** Karen Livingood, Resident (via Zoom) Eric and Michele Esterbrook, Business Owners

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

**Public Comment**

Mr. and Mrs. Esterbrook requested consideration to install a 20-minute parking space within the south side of the 500 block of Penn Avenue to accommodate the anticipated increased flow of roughly 1,000 older customers per month to the West Reading Drug Store. It was noted that the Reading Hospital requested Esterbrook Pharmacy to vacate Suite 145 of the Doctor's Office Building within 90-days. Mr. Lincoln indicated the request is understandable, however a policy is not in place as to what parameters would allow approval of these types of requests to avoid an influx of requests for 20-minute parking. Enforcement of the 20-minute intervals would be difficult and would probably be enforced on a complaint basis. The rear of the property has a garage that abuts the alley that may be an option for curb side pickup. Mr. Lincoln will present this request to Borough Council next week and keep Mr. and Mrs. Esterbrook posted of the outcome.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of October 12, 2022. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

**Agenda Amendment**

Motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion on pedestrian crossing safety in the 400 block of Chestnut Street. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

**Old Business**

**Council Chamber Audio/Video Upgrades** – A revised proposal was provided to include an additional fixed static camera that would face the audience at a reasonable cost of \$499. The total cost, including two smart televisions was \$13,206.14. It was noted that \$25,000 had been budgeted for upgrades in 2022, and that Haverford Systems, Inc. could complete the upgrade prior to the end of the year. Chief Holben inquired as to the ability for visitors to give a presentation. It was thought that the mini computer and smart televisions should support most types of formatting of presentations.

Motion to recommend to Borough Council the approval of the proposal from Haverford Systems, Inc., dated 10/21/2022 for audio/video upgrades to Council Chambers. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

**Delaney Circle Improvements** – An updated plan that incorporates comments from LTAP shrinks the cartway of the circle and modifies all approaches, except Fifth Avenue, to stop intersections in an effort to slow traffic and bring more awareness to pedestrians. Elimination of the crosswalk to the center of the circle, including the concrete sidewalk that crosses the circle was discussed to deter the unsafe pedestrian crossing. Chief Holben inquired as to the legality of not providing a crosswalk and handicapped ramp to the circle area where a statue is positioned. The solicitor will be requested to provide guidance prior to making a recommendation to Borough Council.

**Sidewalk Repairs** – A moratorium had been established a number of years ago by a previous Mayor that instructed the Code Department to refrain from requiring property owners to repair public sidewalks damaged by Borough tree roots. It was thought that sidewalk repair requirements should resume. A discussion ensued on the options to best pursue compliance as efficiently as possible. A 50/50 sidewalk repair program with a maximum Borough contribution, similar to a program that is offered by the Borough of Wyomissing, seemed to be the most desirable method to urge compliance. Due to budgeting constraints, it was unknown if a program could be funded in 2023. The Code Department will be requested to join the December meeting to discuss the best method of implementing an enforcement program.

## **New Business**

**Prohibited Parking Ordinance Revisions** – Two ordinance sections were requested to be updated by the Police Department for enforcement purposes:

- Section 430-23 Parking prohibited certain hours. The Spruce Street designation for street sweeping activity should be updated to the first and third Thursday to match existing conditions.
- Section 430-28 Bus stops; parking prohibited. The south side of Penn Avenue should be updated to match the existing conditions of: west of Second Avenue, east of Fourth Avenue, east of Sixth Avenue, east of Eighth Avenue.

Motion to recommend the approval of noted prohibited parking revisions to Section 430-23 and 430-28.

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

**Sewer Jet Fee** – Mr. Murray noted a conversation with the solicitor as to offering sewer lateral jetting services for a fee on an as needed basis and the solicitor's recommendation to refrain from charging a fee for service. Mr. Grassley recommended incorporating a \$5 fee per quarter, per account within the sewer maintenance fee charges. This readily available service would benefit residents in sewer backup situations.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to establish a flat \$5 fee within the residential sewer maintenance fees to enable the Public Works Department to use the sewer jet on the property owner's side of the trap. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Murray. **Motion carried.**

**Deer Alley Maintenance** – Research of deeds along the 300 block of Chestnut Street and 300 block of Kline Street notate a ten-foot wide alley to the rear of these parcels. Therefore, it was determined that maintenance of this roadway would be the responsibility of the Borough. The level of maintenance, based on limited vehicle access, would be minimal. Committee members plan to walk the alley to review individual property accesses to this alley.

**20-Minute Parking Space Policy** – The difficulty in establishing a non-discriminating policy that would allow minimal 20-minute parking space designations and the creation of a paid parking program for Penn Avenue were discussed. The installation of parking kiosks was thought to be a remedy to a number of parking issues along Penn Avenue.

**Children at Play Signage** – Mr. Lincoln noted a resident request to install children at play signage within the alley between Fifth Avenue and Ann Street. There were discussions surrounding the lack of a policy on placement of these types of signs, though it was thought to be beneficial to have signs installed within all alleys in an effort to calm traffic. Dusk Alley will be reviewed for optimal placement opportunities to calm traffic and avoid the interference with trash, delivery, and snow plow type vehicles that access this roadway.

**400 Block of Chestnut Street Pedestrian Crossing Safety** – Chief Holben reported that two pedestrian accidents occurred recently involving children that were crossing the road between vehicles as opposed to within a crosswalk area. A representative of the Wyomissing Area School District contacted Chief Holben to

request guidance on how to prevent these types of accidents in the future. It was noted that the school district is planning to educate children within all of their facilities. Safety measures such as the word “school” painted on the roadway, and school pedestrian crossing signage posted in the area of the playground are currently in place. An additional school pedestrian crossing sign could be installed in the vicinity of the Fourth Avenue approach. Chief Holben offered to deliver educational type literature to the homes located within this block. Options such as the addition of a double yellow line that spans the entire length of the block, traffic cone placement on the center line and at the curb between parking spaces were discussed. These measures should slow traffic and deter children from entering the roadway between vehicles. It was thought that the best prevention would be education by the school and parents as driver behavior is more difficult to modify. Committee members will review other options that may be available to improve pedestrian safety in the area of the school.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary