

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

**APRIL 12, 2023**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Police Chief Wayne Holben; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Fire Chief and Code Enforcement Officer Chad Moyer; Borough Manager Dean Murray; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

**Visitors:** Karen Livingood, Resident James Rogers, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers noted the recent removal of the former bank drive-thru in the shopping center near North Sixth Avenue and the one-way directional signage. The area will be reviewed for possible full access to this parking lot from Sixth Avenue.

Mr. Rogers inquired as to the status of line painting and stop intersection conversions within the traffic circle. Mr. Lincoln indicated that this project is awaiting a resolution to the possible relocation of the memorial. If the memorial is moved, the sidewalks and crosswalks to the center of the circle would be removed. It was decided that the yield signs could be updated to stop signs following an amendment to the ordinance. Borough Council will be requested to authorize the advertisement of an amendment to Section 430-16 Stop Intersections.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of March 8, 2023. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

### **Old Business**

**Sidewalk Repairs** – Mr. Moyer reviewed the various images provided of sidewalk damage in instances of locations where trees have been removed and instances where trees are still present. Aspects that would need to be taken into consideration in the creation of a sidewalk repair program were:

- Instances where tree root damage falls on the property line.
- Instances where multiple trees are located on the same property.
- The extent of repairs that would fall within the program, such as grinding to remove vertical lifts, ramping in accordance with ADA specifications, arching around trees, and full sidewalk replacement.
- Coordination of funding repairs when trees are showing signs of decline. Trees identified in the Shade Tree Commission watch list could be included in a five-year plan.

A framework is needed to identify program priorities. It was thought that this committee could review applications to participate in a 50/50 sidewalk repair program. Voluntary applications to utilize the program versus notice of violation instances would be reviewed on a first come, first served basis. The solicitor and engineer will be requested to assist in the quantification of prioritizing program awards.

Mayor Kaag noted her plans to attend an upcoming PSAB webinar on Sidewalk Safety on May 10<sup>th</sup> and will share this insight next month.

**Alley Parking – Twilight and Wedge Alley** – Posting of no parking signs on the side of the garage structure and yellow hash lines on the macadam are planned to be installed this month. It was noted that Twilight Alley is currently regulated as no parking under Section 430-21 Parking prohibited at all times. Mayor Kaag shared a complaint she received regarding parking near Willow Creek that is beyond the three-hour time limit. Additional staff are needed to enforce parking, it was noted that interviews are taking place next week to hire an additional Parking Enforcement Officer.

**Bulk Trash Collection** – In an effort to better control bulk trash collection to keep resident costs down a bulk tag system was discussed further. The tag system would provide a convenience to residents to place up to two items per week out on any regular trash collection day. Examples of bulk items were discussed and recommended to include a weight and length limit. Various quotes for unique Borough labels were reviewed and decided to forgo the expense of a waterproof label by providing a sandwich bag. To avoid abuse of a free bulk collection day it was decided to eliminate this feature from the proposed policy. The fee per tag was discussed to ensure expenses are covered, it was thought that \$15 per tag should be sufficient and could be reviewed following the first year of the revised program.

Motion to recommend Council to adopt Resolution 2023-6 Bulk Refuse Collection Policy. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Grassley recommended that a system be created, similar to the City of Reading, to register trash hauler information for non-municipal trash collection properties.

**Pedestrian Safety Improvements** – Mr. Murray met with a PennDOT representative to review pedestrian safety within the Fourth and Reading Avenues intersection. It was recommended to create an all-way stop. Or in lieu of an all-way stop, it was recommended to create higher visibility crosswalks and install high visibility pedestrian signage on the north and south bound approaches to this intersection as well as remove five parking spaces to improve line-of-sight. It was thought that the removal of parking spaces would allow vehicles to navigate this intersection at a higher rate of speed. Mr. Grassley was requested to add pavement markings and install two pedestrian crossing signs as well as perform a multi-way stop study.

## **New Business**

**School Bus Zone Safety** – Mr. Lincoln noted receipt of a complaint regarding school buses blocking the roadway near Sacred Heart School. It was noted that a bus zone is established on the Franklin Street approach to the school to the corner of Seventh Avenue to allow students to exit the bus onto the sidewalk as opposed to onto the roadway. It was thought that an additional school zone could be established on Seventh Avenue to alleviate roadway congestion during school drop off and pick up times. Also, the no parking areas in front of the stairways on Franklin Street and Seventh Avenue could be eliminated, thereby creating two additional parking spaces for this area outside of school zone timeframes. School representatives will be requested to provide feedback on potential improvements.

## **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Chief Holben. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary