

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Nicholas Imbesi; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Main Street Manager Mark Ratcliffe; Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman and Assistant to the Manager Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors: Karen Livingood, Resident
Dale Miller, Resident
Michael Hart, Resident

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

Public Comment

Karen Livingood inquired as to the status of streetlight repairs that are needed along Parkside Drive North near the Museum. Staff members will obtain the pole numbers to report the outage to Met-Ed.

Also, Mrs. Livingood inquired as to the timing of paving repairs along Museum Road. The bid opening for this project is scheduled on Monday, February 18th and the intent is to have work performed during nighttime hours. Further details will be available during the February 19th Council meeting.

Michael Hart, Chair of the Western Berks Water Authority shared information regarding recent projects. The Authority is currently seeking access to piping within the Blue Marsh dam area and new DEP regulations are being worked on with Shillington, Wyomissing and West Reading Boroughs.

Dale Miller inquired about progress on the Berks Catholic buses being rerouted to 5th and Penn Avenue from the residential streets. Mrs. Hoffman stated she has reached out to the school district and is awaiting a response.

Old Business

Penn Avenue Parking – Mark Ratcliffe reported that the delivery date for the kiosk is still unknown, however paperwork has been submitted and revisions to the agreement will be presented to Council next week for approval. Chief Powell noted that United Public Safety has agreed to waive fees during the trial period.

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

Green Light-Go Grant – Improvements have begun and the project is on target to be completed by June per contract regulations.

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – The parking stall line spacing plan is nearing completion and will be forwarded to PennDOT prior to their plans to repave Penn Avenue. PennDOT however, has delayed this paving project until 2020.

Chief Powell noted a new Pan-Tilt-Zoom camera has been installed at the 6th and Penn Avenue intersection and the License Plate Recognition equipment has been ordered, which came in at a reduced cost from what was budgeted by \$4000.

Committee members briefly discussed options to install cameras within residential areas.

2nd & Penn Avenue Pedestrian Crossing – Committee members met with a PennDOT representative onsite to discuss options to slow traffic in this vicinity. A phased approach was suggested to begin with installation of additional signage. A letter to PennDOT is needed along with an aerial plan denoting the proposed signage types and locations. Flashing lights were discussed as a more costly second phase.

Playground Drive – Illegal Turns from Parkview Road – The installation of no right turn signage has decreased the number of illegal turns at this intersection.

New Business

Handicap Parking – Chief Powell noted a recent request for a second handicapped parking space within the 500 block of Chestnut Street due to a neighbor dispute. The committee discussed guidelines to approve handicap space requests in relation to off-street parking. Revisions to the current special purpose parking zones ordinance are underway and will be provided for discussion next month. Also, the number of handicapped spaces that are required to be available within the Penn Avenue parking lot need to be determined.

Deer Alley – Mrs. Hoffman brought to the Committee's attention the very narrow opening from Deer Alley onto Kline Street to discuss options to prohibit motorists from entering this area. There are neither parking spaces nor vehicle access points to the residences along this alley. Mr. Murray will be asked for his feedback.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Madeira
Assistant to the Borough Manager