

BOROUGH OF WEST READING TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2019

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Nicholas Imbesi, Nicholas Gardecki; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Borough Manager Cathy Hoffman and Assistant to the Manager Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors: Kelly Thompson, Edwards Business Systems

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 Wednesday, March 13, 2019 by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Mr. Murray. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Cherry Street Pedestrians – Kelly Thompson of Edwards Business Systems requested data information collected from the speed-monitoring device placed near the rear entrance of their business. Chief Powell reported the device does not collect information for speeds below 16 miles per hour and indicated a few speeds that were monitored between 16 and 25 miles per hour, which 25 miles per hour is the speed limit for this roadway. Suggestions were made to protect the safety of staff exiting the building onto the alley such as mirrors or a camera system with a monitor to allow staff to view traffic in the area prior to exiting the building, or adding a strobe type lighting device to alert drivers to the door opening in an effort to slow traffic.

Penn Avenue Parking – Mark Ratcliffe was unable to attend the meeting, however he provided an update as to the status of implementing paid parking in the Shopping Center parking lot: Signage and cement bases have been ordered, the Flowbird App has been integrated with the handheld enforcement system and the kiosk is scheduled to be installed on April 30th. Public education avenues were discussed, such as press releases and notes placed on vehicles parked within the Shopping Center parking lot to alert drivers to the upcoming implementation of paid parking. A meeting was scheduled to further discuss the logistics of launching the paid parking program.

Green Light-Go Grant – Telco continues improving the Penn Avenue traffic signals. Recently signal heads have been replaced and the foundations are being poured for the cabinets. Chief Powell noted a quote that was received to move wiring into a conduit system below Fifth Avenue, since Telco does not intend to open the roadway. It was decided to table movement of the wiring due to the added expense.

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – Pole painting along the 200 block of Penn Avenue is planned this summer. Also, refurbishing of the trashcans along Penn Avenue has been slowly progressing. Mr. Murray stated the crosswalks on Penn Avenue would be painted this summer since PennDOT delayed their Penn Avenue repaving project. Committee members requested the sweeper to be run in the vicinity of the interchange and debris removed from the sidewalks.

2nd & Penn Avenue Pedestrian Crossing – A letter to PennDOT is needed along with an aerial plan denoting the proposed signage types and locations.

Handicap Parking Space Policy – Committee members reviewed revisions to the proposed policy and application form and discussed the allocation of spaces. It was decided to suggest Council to consider allowing placement of spaces where the applicant requests, if feasible, as opposed to the ends of the block due to the number of requests that were withdrawn due to placement issues. The Committee will review these further revisions to the application and policy next month.

Cherry Street Loading Zone – Committee members made a recommendation to request Council's approval to add a temporary loading zone at the rear entrance to St. James Church, on Cherry Street during the timeframe of 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday evenings to load and unload items for their food ministry. Moved by Mr. Imbesi and seconded by Mayor Kearney. **Motion carried.**

7th Avenue Parking - Mr. Murray obtained measurements to determine if additional parking spaces could be added to the blocks north and south of the 7th and Penn Avenue intersection. It was decided to add two spaces to the 000 blocks of north and south 7th Avenue.

Committee members discussed the loading zone on north 6th Avenue and the confusion caused by the blue curbing, which was used to denote handicapped parking as well as loading zones in the past. Mr. Murray will obtain measurements of this area to determine if a handicapped space could be added to the northern corner of 6th and Penn Avenue.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. by Mayor Kearney and seconded by Mr. Imbesi. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Assistant to the Borough Manager