

BOROUGH OF WEST READING TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016

The Borough of West Reading Traffic Committee met on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chair Christopher Lincoln, Borough Manager Richard Sichler, Public Works Director Dean Murray, and Police Chief Stephen Powell. Mayor Valentin Rodriguez was unable to attend.

Visitors: Byron Scott Fiegel Resident

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

Public Comment

Byron Scott Fiegel, resident of Sunset Road, spoke of the amount of tractor trailer traffic using the residential neighborhoods to make deliveries to the business at 401 Old Wyomissing Road, which isn't even in the Borough. He had an extensive list of times and locations when he has witnessed these trucks in the Borough, some of which have 'gotten stuck' not being able to make the necessary turns. He also provided some pictures and specifically named the transportation companies as well as their destination.

Chief Powell said that he has spoken with Mr. Fiegel concerning this issue however the fine at \$25 is ineffective in preventing trucks from entering residential streets. He recommended that the fine be changed to \$1000 which would be effective. It was noted that the trucks are also crossing the Parkview Road Bridge which has a weight restriction of 6 tons, however some signage for the bridge is missing. Mr. Fiegel also noted that school busses use the bridge and they certainly exceed the weight restriction. Mr. Sichler will send a letter to Berks Catholic and Russell Plywood concerning these issues. A recommendation will be made to Council at the next meeting concerning the fine increase.

Old Business

Cherry Street Traffic Calming – Mr. Lincoln referred to the research that was completed concerning crosswalks and commented that it would seem that crosswalks can actually cause more problems if pedestrians become overly secure about their safety. It was decided that PennDOT guidelines would need to be followed and with the Cherry Street request, they do not meet the criteria. Mr. Sichler will inform Edwards Business System of the decision.

ARLE Grant – This has been tabled.

Permit Parking – The information previously gathered will be sent out to Committee members for review at the next meeting.

School Zone Signage – S. 4th Avenue – This was discussed again and it was decided that the existing pavement markings will be refreshed and an additional plaque stating "School" will be added to the existing signage. It was also recommended that no change be made to the speed limit.

Parking Signage/Stall Lines – 700 Block of Penn Avenue – Tabled.

Penn Avenue Loading Zones – The three existing loading zones were discussed and it was suggested that they be checked to see if they are actually still there. After some discussion it was decided that loading zones should not be permitted on Penn Avenue. A recommendation will be made to amend the ordinance to reflect this.

List of Alleys and Streets – Mr. Murray brought maps along which state the various alley names, some of which have not been used in decades. It was suggested that this information be added to the topographical maps. Mr. Sichler will speak to Mr. Unger about adding this information. It was also recommended that the status of some streets be noted as alleys instead.

Municipal Parking Lots – It was suggested that a four hour time limit be established for municipal lots, except for nights and weekends. Further discussion indicated that these spaces are used by Penn Avenue businesses for their staff, by Sacred Heart teaching staff, by Saint James Church, etc. This will be discussed further as part of a broader discussion concerning the parking study that was recently completed. Extended hours of enforcement will also be reviewed.

Vehicles with Expired Inspections – After some discussion it was decided to add these items to the list of ordinance amendments:

- No vehicle shall be parked upon any street or highway unless it displays a currently valid registration plate and certificate of inspection (unless it is in close proximity to an official inspection station).
- No person shall park any vehicle deemed mechanically inoperable.
- No vehicle shall stand on any street for the purpose of greasing or repair except in case of emergency repair.
- Any vehicle in violation of the parking ordinance shall be subject to immediate towing and storage. (ie. Parked in a prohibited area; vehicle stored on a street; illegally registered, uninspected, or inoperable vehicle)
- Fine for tractor trailer on residential streets increased to \$1000.

Wrong-side Emergency Vehicle Pre-Emption Activations – Mr. Lincoln had observed an issue with pre-emption activation on Penn Avenue, where the signal was bounced in the opposite direction. Mr. Sichler will request Telco to focus the receiver so that it doesn't bounce.

New Business

Enhanced Parking Enforcement – Parking enforcement, as detailed in the parking study, will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Evaluation of left-turn advance phase for southbound 5th Avenue traffic at Penn Avenue – Mr. Lincoln spoke with County transportation officials concerning the possibility of adding a left turn advance phase at 5th and Penn, as suggested by Ms. Shenk at the last Council meeting. It was stated that the request from the Borough would have to be taken to PennDOT directly and would not be considered as part of the detour changes. As a result, no changes will be requested.

Solar Signs – Chief Powell provided a brochure regarding portable solar signs that display a vehicles speed and indicated that it may be a valuable device on residential streets. He will introduce the idea at the next Council meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hoffman, Borough Secretary