

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

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic Committee met on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chair Christopher Lincoln, Public Works Team Leader Kerry Grassley, Police Chief Stephen Powell, and Borough Secretary Cathy Hoffman. Mayor Valentin Rodriguez was unable to attend.

Visitors:        Eve Kimball        All About Children  
                     Lisa Meinhart    Resident  
                     Kristin Kramer   Council Member

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

### **Public Comment**

**Dr. Eve Kimball**, All About Children (655 Walnut Street), was on hand to request one or two speed bumps on Walnut Street in front of her pediatric practice. She explained about the marked walkway along the building but noted that generally people do not adhere to that walking area which puts the children in danger with the speeding traffic that moves along Walnut Street from the rear of the Berkshire apartments.

Discussion ensued about where they are supposed to park, snow plowing in that area and the stop sign that is being ignored etc. This will be discussed further and Mrs. Hoffman will respond to their request.

**Lisa Meinhart** said that she walks to work at the Reading Hospital each day and crosses S. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Pine Street. She stated that she has almost been hit twice at that location and asked that something be done. She noted that a pedestrian was killed at that location as well. It was also noted that pedestrians are not using the traffic signal at the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Garage to cross 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Chief Powell stated that he understands the concern, particularly that vehicles gather speed as they come down the hill. Mr. Lincoln stated that there are several things that can be done including in the short term to add some signage and 'piano key' crosswalk markings to make the crosswalk easier to see. It was also suggested that the portable radar units that were recently purchased could be put to good use at that location. Mr. Lincoln suggested that the existing signage could also be upgraded and extra signage placed at that location reminding motorists that pedestrians in crosswalks have the right-of-way. It was also suggested that one of the crosswalks at that corner be eliminated. It was recommended that this should be discussed with the hospital as part of the PILOT discussions, along with the possibility of making improvements to the turning radius at the northwest corner of Parkside Drive North and Museum Road.

### **Old Business**

**Trucks on Residential Streets** – The only solution for this problem is to prohibit trucks on certain streets. The existing ordinance prohibits vehicles over 9,000 pounds on Fifth Avenue, Museum Road, portions of Olive Street, Parkside Drive North, Parkview Road, Reading Avenue, Seventh Avenue and Third Avenue. The proposed ordinance would permit truck traffic on S. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Museum Road but prohibit trucks as follows:

<u>STREET</u>	<u>BETWEEN</u>
(1) Olive Street	Buttonwood Street and Reading Avenue
(2) Parkside Drive North	Park Road and Museum Road
(3) Parkview Road	Sunset Road and the South Borough Line
(4) Reading Avenue	Traffic Circle and Third Avenue
(5) Seventh Avenue	Spruce Street and Parkside Drive North
(6) Third Avenue	Penn Avenue and Reading Avenue
(7) Sycamore Road	Museum Road and Linden Lane
(8) Sunset Road	Museum Road and Linden Lane
(9) Pine Street	S. Fourth Avenue and Sunset Road
(10) Third Avenue	Chestnut Street and Sunset Road

As well, the penalty would be increased from the current \$25 to the proposed amount of \$500.00. This ordinance, which will be presented to Council for action also included changes that were proposed by officers of the Police Department, which includes the following:

(c) 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).

(d) No person shall park any vehicle upon any street or highway or public right-of-way deemed mechanically inoperable.

(e) No vehicle shall stand on any street for the purpose of greasing or repair except in case of emergency repair.

**ARLE Grant** – This has been tabled.

**Permit Parking** – This was tabled for the June meeting however there was a brief discussion concerning the possibility of residents parking on permit streets when parking on their street has been temporarily prohibited by UGI while they are completing their work. Temporary parking passes were discussed with particular regard to when and how they are used. It was decided that the process that is currently in place is adequate to resolve this issue, which will be handled on a case by case basis.

**School Zone Signage – S. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue** – This was briefly discussed however it was decided to hold this discussion until Mr. Murray has returned.

**Parking Signage/Stall Lines – 700 Block of Penn Avenue** – The existing signage and size of the area without stall lines was discussed. Mr. Grassley was asked to determine which signs are currently posted at N. 7<sup>th</sup> and Penn Avenue. The stall line markings will be discussed at the June meeting.

**List of Alleys and Streets** – A list of all alleys and streets was reviewed. Some of the alleys are actually treated as streets therefore the status of those roadways was changed and it was decided that a resolution should be brought to Council to formalize this change. The Committee determined that where there are properties fronting a roadway, it must be considered a street, which would allow it to be salted in the winter months. (Traditionally, alleys are plowed but not salted.)

**Municipal Parking Lots** – This subject was again discussed with regard to lighting as well as other issues. The possibility of having Met-Ed add a light pole was recommended and other potential solutions will be discussed with the Borough Engineer. This will also be discussed further as part of the parking study review.

**Wrong Side Emergency Vehicle Pre-emption** – Mrs. Hoffman was unsure if this change had been made and it was suggested that Chief Burkholder may have had the same issues and might be able to assist. Mrs. Hoffman was asked to contact the Chief and request that he contact Telco for this change if it hasn't already been completed.

**Radar Speed Signs** – Chief Powell indicated that the signs have been ordered.

**Enhanced Parking Enforcement** – Mr. Lincoln asked that the Committee review the parking study in preparation for the June meeting, particularly with regard to the section on enhanced enforcement.

### **New Business**

A question had been asked concerning residents changing fluids on an apartment building parking lot and it was determined that because it is private property, the Borough would have no jurisdiction. However it is possible that the property management may have regulations concerning this. It was also noted that if the fluids were not being disposed of properly and allowed to run off of the paved area, it would become a bigger issue that DEP would become involved with.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cathy Hoffman, Borough Secretary