

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

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Main Street Manager Mark Ratcliffe; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors: Dale Miller, Resident
Douglas Zeeger, Resident
Cindy Levengood, Resident
Karen Livingood, Resident
Mildred Luciano, Vision Golgota Pentecostal Church

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

Public Comment

Karen Livingood inquired as to tree trimming plans along Sycamore Road. Mr. Murray stated that a bid has been awarded to a tree trimming company with plans to begin work in early October. Mrs. Livingood also asked if Penn Avenue businesses could provide paid parking validations to their customers for the new paid parking lot. Mr. Ratcliffe stated that it is possible through the Mobile Now App, however not through the kiosks. Information will be provided to Penn Avenue business owners who can purchase parking for their customers.

Cindy Levengood noted difficulty experienced while exiting the alley behind her home on Sycamore Road during pool season due to an increased volume of traffic and parked cars near this intersection and requested placement of mirrors. Feedback will be requested from the Police Chief prior to making changes to this intersection.

Mildred Luciano requested a parking space to be reserved in front of the church on Franklin Street during services that are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and the two services on Sunday to allow elderly visitors easier access to the church. Review of parking space designation policies is needed; the Police Chief will be asked to contact Ms. Luciano to review options.

Dale Miller noted a lack of parking enforcement during street cleaning hours. Mr. Imbesi reported that this is due to a temporary personnel issue where a parking enforcement officer is unavailable during the hours of 8am to 12pm.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of Wednesday, July 10, 2019 by Mayor Kearney and seconded by Mr. Murray. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Penn Avenue Parking – Mr. Ratcliffe reported that paid parking has been available on the shopping center parking lot for two weeks, which seems to be running smoothly. Mayor Kearney noted his efforts to educate the public on the paid parking program and the primarily positive responses received. Mr. Imbesi relayed the Treasurer's request for assistance on cash flow reporting. Mr. Ratcliffe stated that a webinar is available next week to cover these items, which includes an alert message that will be sent when the machine is full. The Assistant Treasurer will be responsible for emptying the machines with the assistance of a police officer.

Mr. Ratcliffe departed the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – Mr. Murray stated that PennDOT plans to pave Penn Avenue next year, which may include improvements to handicapped ramps. Bid information will be sought to obtain further details regarding this project.

In-Street Pedestrian Crossing Signs – Mr. Lincoln noted that the Police Chief has been in contact with PennDOT to request free signage and that PennDOT has requested mapping of the areas of placement.

Stop Sign Ordinance Update – Due to the unavailability of a parking enforcement officer, progress has stalled on obtaining information to compare the ordinance to what is actually in the field. Staff members have attended a stop sign and traffic control course to perform studies of unsignalized intersections and it was suggested to begin studies of Yarnell Street, Ann Street and Sunset Road.

Handicap Parking Space Policy – Per block parking space information has been gathered indicating that a minimum required number of accessible parking spaces needed throughout the Borough would be approximately 70 spaces. Further clarification is needed from the solicitor as to per block calculations and requirement to install spaces. Also, it was requested to gather information on the current number and placement of handicapped spaces throughout the Borough.

Parking in Alleys – Review of the map and driveway entrances is needed regarding alley widths and conditions to identify where parking should be restricted. The West Reading Community Revitalization Foundation has requested review of Cherry and Court Streets parking prohibitions within the vicinity of the murals.

Parkview Road Pedestrian Bridge – Mr. Imbesi noted his recent contact with a representative of UGI to discuss their plans to install a gas line over the Wyomissing Creek. Their anticipated project start date is October of 2020 and they are open to contributing funds to construct a bridge. A meeting is needed between the engineer and UGI to determine load-bearing requirements and modifications to the existing plans. Also, Mr. Imbesi noted his written request to the Volunteer Firemen's Beneficial Association to request donations towards pedestrian bridge construction.

New Business

20-Minute Parking Spaces – Mr. Lincoln noted a request that was received from a Reading Avenue business to install a 20-minute parking space for their businesses use near Seventh Avenue. Current 20-minute signage along North Fifth Avenue was discussed as well as a policy to avoid multiple business requests for 20-minute parking spaces.

Mayor Kearney expressed his concern regarding safe driving throughout the Borough and his recent article in the Borough's Newsletter in an attempt to amplify his request to obey stop signs. Mrs. Livingood suggested an increased police presence at problem intersections.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mayor Kearney.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary