

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

JUNE 10, 2020

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via a Zoom Meeting, with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Main Street Manager Mark Ratcliffe; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors: Karen Livingood, Resident

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of March 11, 2020 and May 13, 2020 by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Parkview Road Pedestrian Bridge – UGI has requested an actual cost to the Borough to install a gas line across the proposed pedestrian bridge in order to determine their contribution. UGI has also requested to negotiate the right-of-way and lease agreements. The Borough Engineer is preparing a counter proposal for UGI, and it was noted that the cost to construct the bridge also needs to be factored into their contribution. The amount currently budgeted to construct the bridge is \$51,000, with a new estimated total project cost of \$150,000 to \$175,000. A commitment from UGI is needed to meet the fall 2020 construction goal.

Penn Avenue Parking – The parking kiosks have transitioned from the MobileNOW to Flowbird app. An additional 30 Flowbird signs are needed. A quote was received from a local sign company to create these signs in the amount of \$886. It was recommended to request additional signs from Flowbird while obtaining additional quotes.

Parklets – Mr. Ratcliffe intends to request Council's approval to allow restaurants to create additional outdoor seating within parking spaces in front of their Penn Avenue business. There were only five businesses that indicated an interest during a recent survey. Interest is hampered due to the expense and required movement during paving activity. Mr. Ratcliffe noted a number of requests to close Penn Avenue for an extended length of time to allow additional outdoor seating. The committee was not in favor of this option noting that the logistics are unrealistic.

Andrew Kearney joined the meeting at 6:13 p.m.

There are reports that the County may enter into the Green Phase of the pandemic at the end of the month, which would allow restaurants to utilize 50% of their indoor seating capacity. It was recommended that Mr. Ratcliffe include parklet examples for Council to consider next week.

Mr. Ratcliffe departed the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – ADA ramp repairs are scheduled to begin next week. Sand color selection delayed this project start date. The anticipated length of time for project completion is two weeks. Contact with Norfolk Southern Railroad is needed to request permission to paint the railroad bridge on Penn Avenue.

Parking in Alleys – Current ordinance regulation restrictions were forwarded to the committee for review. It was noted that a uniform time is needed on signage across the Borough for trash collection timeframes and sign installations are needed in alleys that are currently regulated in the ordinance. A review of alley width mapping is needed to potentially include additional alley restrictions within the ordinance amendment.

Police Chief Stephen Powell joined the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The Public Works Director and Borough Manager were requested to review the street cleaning schedule and trash collection conflicts that restrict parking within large areas to discuss during next months meeting.

Chief Powell indicated that due to limited parking issues along Penn Avenue and the stay-at-home order consistent parking enforcement is not being performed with regards to the paid parking lot, 2-hour parking limit and permit parking. Also, the recently resumed street sweeping program parking violations will receive warnings for a period of two-weeks.

New Business

Permit Parking Complaint – Mayor Kearney noted a resident complaint received from the South Fourth Avenue permit parking area where permit parking is not being enforced. The creation of this permit parking area was recently created due to school staffing use. Since school has not been in session since March and residents are beginning to return to work it was thought that this issue might resolve itself in the near future.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:42 p.m. by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Kaag.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary