

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

**November 10, 2020**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via a Zoom meeting with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Public Works Director Dean Murray; Police Chief Stephen Powell; Borough Manager Nicholas Imbesi; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

<b>Visitors:</b>	Karen Livingood, Resident	Maureen Hasty, Resident
	Calvin Zimmerman, Resident	Kristin Hawley, Resident
	Michael & Helen Witmyer, Residents	Derrick Feters, Resident (arrived at 6:19 p.m.)

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

## **Public Comment**

Mrs. Hawley noted her attendance to this meeting to support her neighbors regarding the recent issues surrounding parking in the alley. Mr. Lincoln reported that this item is on the agenda and welcomed resident feedback throughout the meeting.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of October 14, 2020 by Mr. Murray and seconded by Chief Powell. **Motion carried.**

## **Old Business**

**Parkview Road Pedestrian Bridge** – Mr. Imbesi reported that the solicitor is nearing completion of an agreement for UGI to install a gas main to the proposed pedestrian bridge and the difficulty experienced in proving ownership of the bridge that has been removed. It is known that the County granted the Borough ownership of the bridge in 1961. However, no formal documents have been located. The solicitor will be reviewing alternate options to prove ownership for this agreement.

**Penn Avenue Infrastructure** – Mr. Murray reported that the PennDOT subcontractor has begun leveling the Verizon manhole covers at the intersections of Second and Penn Avenue and Fourth and Penn Avenue. These modifications are being done during the overnight hours and should be completed this week.

**Parking in Alleys** – Mr. Lincoln reported that alley widths are being obtained Borough wide to determine parking adjustments that are needed for the safety and convenience of residents.

Resolution 2020-23 is being proposed to Borough Council next week to temporarily prohibit parking in the alley between Tulpehocken Avenue and Olive Street within the 200 block. The Mayor has made an emergency declaration to temporarily restrict parking due to an ongoing specific issue. Borough Council's adoption of this resolution would render this restriction permanent.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that he has lived on Olive Street for a number of years and has never had any troubles with parking in the alley. It is unfortunate that one neighbor is causing an issue and hopes that everyone can get along in the future.

**Stop Sign Ordinance Updates** – Chief Powell reported that studies of intersections potentially in need of stop signs would begin next week.

**Curb and Sidewalk Repair Policy** – Mr. Imbesi shared comments from the solicitor that indicated an ability of the Borough to generate financial assistance for curbing repairs through public funds as part of road improvement projects. Mr. Lincoln noted Borough Council's interest in sharing responsibility of these

improvements and stated that a decision would be needed in the near future for the 2021 Pine Street paving project.

The solicitor also reported that sidewalk repairs would be a charge against the property owner with an exception that would allow the Borough to pay costs associated to grading and curbing of sidewalks.

**Handicap Parking Spaces** – Mrs. Madeira noted a number of cleanup revisions that are needed to the proposed amendment of the handicap parking space ordinance. The additional revisions have been reviewed by the Police and Public Works Departments and will be shared with Borough Council to request permission to advertise.

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Witmyer shared concerns regarding pedestrian navigation of the traffic circle. Replacement pedestrian crossing signs have been requested from PennDOT. Chief Powell indicated that speed enforcement in this vicinity is difficult due to the inability of the department to use radar and that an increased police presence would be provided in this area to urge vehicular compliance.

### **Adjournment**

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 p.m. by Mr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Imbesi. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary