

BOROUGH OF WEST READING TRAFFIC & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 8, 2021

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; Council Member Patrick Kaag; Sergeant Ryan Phillips; Borough Manager Dean Murray; Mayor Andrew Kearney; Public Works Crew Leader Kerry Grassley; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira.

Visitors: Karen Livingood, Resident Vladamir Alexander, Business Owner
Samantha Kaag, Resident

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

Public Comment

Mr. Alexander inquired as to the recent change in parking regulations behind his wife's business at 602 Penn Avenue and requested the procedure that notifies businesses of these types of changes. It was explained that due to repetitive structure damage to 20 N. Sixth Avenue by delivery vehicles navigating entry onto this narrow alleyway the Mayor instituted temporary emergency regulations to restrict parking within the 600 block of Court Street. This committee is in the process of reviewing borough wide parking regulations and will review North Sixth Avenue parking regulations to communicate options with his wife in the near future.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of October 13, 2021 by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Murray. **Motion carried.**

Old Business

Penn Avenue Infrastructure – Mr. Grassley shared the new proposed locations for additional trash can placement on Penn Avenue that would be in the vicinity of 416 Penn Avenue once construction activity has moved away from the sidewalk area; and in the vicinity of 536 Penn Avenue.

Mr. Lincoln shared that a light post fixture was out as well as some of the Christmas Wreaths in the vicinity of the 300 block of Penn Avenue. Mr. Kaag noted a light pole base located approximately forty-feet from the pole that had been damaged during the month of September.

It was noted that the pedestrian crossing signal located at the Sixth and Penn Avenue intersection is still not operating properly. Another call will be placed to Telco to request repairs. Mr. Lincoln also noted that the pedestrian signal switch pole is loose in the vicinity of Sycamore and Museum Roads. Also, the signal located near 513 Sunset Road is not aligned properly within the crosswalk to the pool area.

New Business

Linden Lane Sewer Project – Mr. Grassley indicated that bypass pumping is planned within the next week near the Linden Lane and Sunset Road intersection and no parking signs have been posted. It was recommended that the Police Department monitor the area during the overnight hours for potential leaks.

Intersection Control Studies – Mr. Lincoln reported that three intersections have been studied along Walnut Street due to complaints of stop configurations. The following results were noted:

- **Chiffon Way & Walnut Street** – This intersection warrants items one and four to implement a stop condition on Chiffon Way. It was recommended to improve sight distance by trimming vegetation and removing a parking space at this intersection. It was understood that the removal of parking spaces is an unpopular option throughout the Borough. Measures that were planned to be implemented were to request All About Children to monitor and maintain vegetation that encroaches this intersection, a

stop sign will be installed on Chiffon Way, and a stop line will be added to maximize sight distance. A recommendation to Borough Council would be needed to amend regulations within this intersection.

- **Cashmere Way & Walnut Street** – It was suggested to implement an all-way stop on Cashmere Way due to the sight distance for eastbound traffic looking right that is limited by a building on the corner, and the sight distance is not correctable. It was recommended to extend the curb area to install a stop sign to avoid underground electric lines while maintaining a turning radius for plow and trash trucks. The engineer will be requested to review this intersection for layout design recommendations.
- **Tulpehocken Avenue & Walnut Street** – The first suggestion was to maintain the existing traffic control while relocating the parking restriction sign to its own post to ensure that all sign assemblies are a minimum of seven feet in height. It was also suggested to remove parking spaces that are within thirty-feet of the stop signs, which is an undesirable option. The second recommendation was to implement an all-way stop with engineering judgement to avoid the restriction of parking. Based on the number of children associated with the school bus stop in this vicinity, the installation of an all-way stop was the most desirable option.

Section 430-16 Stop Intersections will be provided to committee members for review and discussion next month.

Ordinance Review – Section 430-23 Parking Prohibited Certain Hours was reviewed noting the following:

- Signs will be added to both sides of the alley south of the 300 and 400 block of Sycamore Road indicating restrictions for trash and recycling collection between Fifth Avenue and Parkview Road.
- Signs will be added to the alley between Fifth Avenue and Ann Street to prohibit parking from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday conceivably to prevent hospital parking in a residential area.
- The ordinance will be modified for Cherry Street trash and recycling collection between Third and Fourth Avenue to indicate only the south side of the roadway.
- The designation of a parking restriction on the north side of Chestnut Street west of Fifth Avenue on weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will be researched as to a possible south side designation based on the measurements stated in the ordinance.
- The designation of no parking on weekdays between the hours of 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the south side of Chestnut Street will be researched with the school and hospital to determine if the removal of this designation would be a cause for concern.
- It was noted that signs prohibiting parking on both sides of Chestnut Street for street sweeping between First Avenue and Sixth Avenue were missing from the First to Second Avenue block. This area is in the vicinity of the Borough Garage and can be addressed easily on a daily basis. It was decided to revise the regulation to read Second Avenue to Sixth Avenue.
- Signs are needed to prohibit parking within the Fourth to Fifth Avenue section of Deer Alley on both sides to accommodate trash and recycling collection services.
- The ordinance designation of street sweeping along Eighth Avenue between Penn Avenue and Franklin Street needs to be revised from both sides to the east side.
- The designation of no parking during weekdays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Eighth Avenue between Court Street and fifty-seven feet northwardly thereof will be removed as this area is designated as no parking at all times.
- The designation that is currently not signed on Fourth Avenue to prohibit parking weekdays between the hours of 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the west side between Court Street and Reading Avenue will be removed.

- The designation of no parking on the east side of Fourth Avenue for trash and recycling collection services between Fourth Avenue and the alley north of Spruce Street for a span of twenty-five feet will be reviewed. This area is currently signed for street sweeping and designated as a permit parking area.
- An additional sign was recommended for the north side of Franklin Street on school days between Seventh Avenue and a point 110 feet westwardly thereof.
- The unsigned designation of no parking from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Sundays on the south side of Franklin Street east of Fourth Avenue will be removed from the ordinance.
- The two designations that prohibit parking within the four spaces on Kline Street on the south side for street sweeping and trash and recycling collection will be retained with additional signs added where space allows.
- The designation of parking restrictions on Oak Terrace for trash and recycling collection days will be reviewed for further discussion next month.
- The unsigned designation of parking restrictions on the south side of Parkside Drive North west of Museum Road weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. will be removed from the ordinance.
- The designation of parking restrictions on the east side of Second Avenue in front of R.M. Palmer Company will be removed. This is a duplication of regulations under Section 430-25 Time Limit Parking Certain Days that was recently amended.
- The designation of street sweeping on both sides of Tulpehocken Avenue will be modified to include the block adjacent to Penn Avenue that is currently signed.
- The ordinance will be amended to correct the designation of street sweeping days on Walnut Street from the second and fourth Tuesday to the first and third Tuesday of months April through December.
- The unsigned designation of weekday parking restrictions on the east side of Yarnell Street from Franklin Street to Grape Street between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will be removed from the ordinance.

It was decided to review the stop sign ordinance regulations next month and Section 430-21 Parking Prohibited at All Times during the February meeting.

Public Comment – There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Murray. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira
Borough Secretary