

**BOROUGH OF WEST READING  
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic Committee met on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Council Member Chris Lincoln, Mayor Valentin Rodriguez, Police Chief Stephen Powell, Borough Manager Rich Sichler, and Public Works Director Dean Murray.

Visitors: James T. Rogers

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

James T. Rogers requested that the three parking spaces on the 400 block of Grape Street that are currently restricted on school days in the morning and afternoon, have those restrictions removed so that residents may park there throughout the day. He noted that those restrictions were initially placed to accommodate the school buses that used the alley which they no longer use. It was also noted that parents still line up in the alley to drop off and pick up their children. After some discussion it was suggested that the signs could be removed but the ordinance not changed as a trial to see how the change impacts traffic in the alley.

**Moved** by Mr. Sichler and seconded by Chief Powell to recommend to Council that the school signs be removed in the 400 block of Grape Street on a trial basis. **Motion carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Turn Signs at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Penn – The signage has been replaced however motorists still continue to turn left at the intersection.

Buttonwood Street Bridge Closure – The following was discussed with regard to the project:

- Signs warning of the impending closure have been placed already, in preparation of the July 20<sup>th</sup> closure.
- Truck traffic will need to use Franklin to access the businesses at the eastern end of the Borough. It was suggested that R. M. Palmer should try using the route to see what problems they might encounter.
- The stop bars on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue will need to be moved back to accommodate truck traffic as well as the westbound stop bar on Franklin.
- Weekly meetings concerning the project have been scheduled and Mr. Sichler and Chief Powell will be attending.
- Contacts need to be determined from PennDOT and the contractor.
- It is currently not determined how many officers will be required for traffic duty nor the times they will be required.
- Office space in the Borough has been acquired for use by the contractor and PennDOT.

Curb Painting – Mr. Murray said curbs have been completed on the north side and the painters will soon begin in the area by Sacred Heart.

Museum Road Bridge – Mr. Sichler had nothing to update.

Bike Race “The Reading 120” – Chief Powell indicated he had attended a meeting today concerning the race and provided the following information:

- The Sheriff's Department will be taking care of the rolling traffic stops instead of the State Police as was stated at the last Council meeting.
- Penn Avenue is scheduled to be closed between 1316 and 1330 on September 12th from Reading Boulevard in Wyomissing to the Penn Street Bridge.
- The Borough will be included in the certificate of insurance once the permit is issued from PennDOT.
- John Eustice, the race organizer will assess Penn Avenue to determine if both sides of the street will need to be cleared of parked vehicles.
- The Borough will need to provide the organizers with the anticipated costs for traffic enforcement, sign placement etc. in order to be reimbursed.
- It is anticipated that 10 to 12 officers will be needed to assist with traffic and spectators however it may be necessary to use other agencies to fill this need.

Signal Head Repair – Mr. Lincoln asked if the black plates around the signal heads on Penn Avenue would be covered under the hail damage however Mr. Sichler felt that they were not damaged from the hail. It was noted that it is possible that they could be painted or replaced under the service maintenance contract with Telco. Mr. Sichler will check on this.

Permit Parking – Mayor Rodriguez spoke about the possibility of expanding the permit parking area to include Tulpehocken Avenue. He noted that the employees of Manor Care park on the street and prevent the resident on Tulpehocken from finding adequate parking. He noted that he has received multiple complaints from residents concerning this.

After some discussion it was decided that a policy should be put in place for permit parking throughout the Borough in situations where a large employer is using neighborhood streets. Mr. Sichler will draft some language for the Committee's review at the September meeting.

ARLE Grant – Mr. Sichler said that he had spoken with PennDOT and the Borough should receive something within the next two weeks. Some discussion ensued regarding the "in kind" line painting that would need to be completed and it was suggested that perhaps PennDOT could do it as part of the bridge closure.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Parking Study – It was noted that one aspect of the parking study was the recommendation to update parking enforcement which uses the manual chalking of tires and instead use a digital system which is faster and easier to use, will notify personnel that a vehicle has timed out, and will export data to a spreadsheet. The new system has been offered for a trial period and it was suggested that this should be done. The cost for two units and software was estimated at \$10,000 which Chief Powell will budget for the coming year however in the meantime, he will move forward with the trial.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman  
Administrative Assistant