

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

**MAY 8, 2024**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Council Member Patrick Kaag; Interim Borough Manager Richard Sichler; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Chairman Christopher Lincoln and Mayor Samantha Kaag were unable to attend.

### **Visitors:**

Karen Livingood, Resident

James Rogers, Resident

Michael & Helen Witmyer, Residents

Blake Tobias, Resident (via Zoom)

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

### **Presentation**

Representatives of Keystone Metrofiber were not in attendance to provide a presentation.

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Witmyer shared her observance of three vehicles in succession that ran through the stop sign from Buttonwood Street approaching the traffic circle around 5:00 p.m. Chief Tornielli noted several tickets have been issued in the area and the intent to continue to monitor the traffic circle for violations.

As a public safety factor, Mr. Rogers shared his disagreement with state regulations that prohibit the installation of stop signs to slow traffic at the intersection of Sixth and Reading Avenues. Mr. Grassley reported that he met with a state representative to review this intersection and data is currently being collected as to volume and speed of traffic. The findings will be shared with the borough to determine appropriate safety improvements for this intersection.

Mr. Rogers shared a conversation he had with the Code Department regarding parking within the 500 block of Grape Street and noted a two foot right-of-way on both sides of the roadway. The cars that are parked in front of garages are parked within the right-of-way. Mr. Grassley indicated that the street and sidewalks have been measured and the area is currently under review.

Mr. Rogers recommended the consideration of limiting street sweeping activity to one side of the street at a time to limit the number of residents that need to find alternative parking at one time. Mr. Grassley indicated that clearing one side at a time merely moves debris from one side to the other. Mr. Rogers questioned why the streets are not swept during the months of January through March. Mr. Grassley indicated that leaves are the main source of debris.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of April 10, 2024. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Chief Tornielli. **Motion carried.**

### **New Business**

**Accessible Parking Application** – Mr. Kaag shared a request to establish an accessible parking space on the west side of North Sixth Avenue between Court Street and Reading Avenue. It was noted that there are currently no accessible spaces within this block that would support two accessible space designations per the adopted policy.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to support the designation of an accessible parking space on the east side of North Sixth Avenue, second space north of Court Street. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Chief Tornielli. **Motion carried.**

## Old Business

**20-Minute Parking Space Designations on Penn Avenue** – Chief Tornielli and Mr. Grassley reviewed the 400 through 700 blocks of Penn Avenue to determine the easiest accessible and most advantageous locations to designate as 20-minute parking spaces. The parameters of these designations were one space per block, per side available Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Chief Tornielli reviewed the following recommended space designations:

- A single space on the north side of the 700 block of Penn Avenue mid-block, across from Wendy's Restaurant.
- A space on the north and south sides of the 600 block of Penn Avenue, near 616 and 623 Penn Avenue which were chosen based on demographics and business composition.
- A single space on the south side of the 500 block of Penn Avenue near the pharmacy, the north side of this block is the shopping center with paid parking amenities.
- A single mid-block space on the south side of the 400 block of Penn Avenue. On the north side there are limited on-street parking spaces that are adjacent to businesses with off-street parking amenities.

Mr. Rogers recommended creating an additional 20-minute parking space on the southern side of Franklin Street near Fifth Avenue. It was recommended to keep the added turning radius at this busy intersection.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to approve the Penn Avenue 20-minute parking space designations as presented. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Chief Tornielli. **Motion carried.**

**300 Block South Seventh Avenue Parking** – Chief Tornielli reviewed the demographics and parking needs of the 300 block of South Seventh Avenue with the hospital's security director and determined a need for additional accessible parking space designations and rearrangement of 20-minute parking space designations. The following were proposed adjustments:

- Convert the available parking spaces on the west side of the block to 3-hour time limits on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This would deter employee parking and allow individuals that are visiting the Doctor's Office Building (DOB) ample time for a doctor's appointment. Likewise, the four spaces located on the east side closest to Parkside Drive North would be designated as 3-hour time limit parking spaces.
- The eleven parking spaces on the east side between the HealthPlex and DOB entrance were recommended to be designated as 20-minute parking spaces on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. except for retaining the space closest to the DOB entrance as an accessible parking space. This short-term parking would provide easy access to the pharmacy.
- The nine parking spaces north of the DOB entrance were recommended to be accessible parking spaces. This would provide parking at a closer proximity to the DOB than parking in the garage located across the street. A policy change would be needed to increase the allowed percentage of accessible parking spaces from 10% to 30% within this block.

Chief Tornielli noted that there are no residential uses within this block and enforcement of 20-minute parking regulations along the west side has become challenging. The proposed mapping of parking

regulations should be beneficial to Reading Hospital visitors and ease enforcement efforts. The initial rollout of changes would be temporarily signed using a pedestal for a period of six to twelve months prior to permanent installation of signage.

In the absence of Mr. Lincoln, it was decided to table this action item until next month.

Mr. Tobias joined the meeting via Zoom at 6:29 p.m.

**Delaney Circle Update** – Mr. Kaag shared the Environmental Advisory Council and Recreation Commission support for relocating Delaney’s memorial items from the traffic circle to the park area near the pool. Funding is being established and the family is looking forward to the new location and memorial garden. Chief Tornielli noted plans next year for the Fashionista 5K to run past the new memorial site.

**Trial Sidewalk Replacement Program Update** – Mr. Kaag shared an update provided by Mr. Moyer noting that six properties with tree root damaged sidewalks where the tree has been removed were identified resulting in plans to replace 24 sidewalk panels. Five of the six waiver agreements have been received. Once the final signed agreement is received work will be scheduled. The locations identified were 127 Kent Way, 200 Kent Way, 301 S. Fourth Avenue, 303 S. Fourth Avenue, 399 Oak Terrace, and 301 Reading Avenue.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers requested confirmation of parking prohibited regulations within the 400 block of Court Street and asked if additional signage could be installed. Mr. Grassley agreed to add signage.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary