

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

**DECEMBER 11, 2024**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Council Member Patrick Kaag; Chief of Police Richard Tornielli; Mayor Samantha Kaag; Public Works Director Kerry Grassley; Borough Manager Randall Miller; and Borough Secretary Cynthia Madeira. Chairman Christopher Lincoln was unable to attend.

**Visitors:**

Karen Livingood, Resident

James Rogers, Resident

Michael & Helen Witmyer, Residents

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

**Public Comment**

Mrs. Witmyer described another incident she experienced crossing Delaney Circle where a motorist disregarded the stop sign thereby placing her life in jeopardy. It was noted that Reading Avenue and Delaney Circle are planned to be resurfaced in the spring of 2025 with restriping to minimize the lane width in an attempt to slow traffic. Chief Tornielli reported over 400 traffic citations issued this year between Delaney Circle and Buttonwood Street.

Mr. Rogers reported a vehicle parked in front of a fire hydrant at the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Cherry Street tonight. He provided a list of potential new parking spaces that will be reviewed for discussion next month.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of October 9, 2024. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Chief Tornielli. **Motion carried.**

**New Business**

**Franklin Street and Lakeview Drive Intersection** – Mr. Grassley and a representative of PennDOT visited this intersection to consider safety improvements. Based on the approaching slope of Lakeview Drive and the vast difference between volumes of traffic it was thought that this intersection should remain a two-way stop on Franklin Street. Chief Tornielli noted that the flow of traffic on Lakeview Drive is not controlled and the enticement to increase speed should the traffic signal at Penn Avenue be green. The PennDOT representative is reviewing crash history data and will provide his written recommendation within the month.

**Wayne Avenue and Lakeview Drive Intersection** – Mr. Grassley and a representative of PennDOT also visited this intersection to consider safety improvements. Line-of-sight may not be considered due to the minimal distance from Wayne Avenue to Spruce Street. Chief Tornielli noted reports of bus stop safety concerns within this intersection that have improved now that the bus stops in the intersection, thereby controlling traffic flows. The PennDOT representative will evaluate the intersection including crash data to provide a written recommendation next month.

Mayor Kaag noted the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Pine Street that may be missing a stop sign. Mr. Grassley will review the intersection on his way home this evening.

**Kline Street and Second Avenue** – Mr. Grassley and the PennDOT representative reviewed this intersection, the preliminary evaluation indicated that a stop sign would more than likely be warranted for this intersection.

**Accessible Parking Space Designation** – Chief Tornielli reviewed an application to designate an accessible space within the 200 Block of South Second Avenue and felt that a space could be designated based on no other designations within this block and a valid handicapped placard.

Motion to recommend the approval of an accessible parking space designation on South Second Avenue, east side, third space south of Chestnut Street. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Chief Tornielli. **Motion carried.**

A previously designated accessible parking space within the 300 Block of South Third Avenue is no longer needed by the applicant and no one has come forward requesting to retain the designated space.

Motion to recommend the removal of an accessible parking space designation on South Third Avenue, east side, 29 feet 3 inches south of Spruce Street to a point 49 feet 6 inches northwardly thereof. **Moved** by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mayor Kaag. **Motion carried.**

A revision to the Accessible Parking Space Policy was discussed in relation to increasing the maximum number of accessible parking spaces from 10% to 30% of available spaces within blocks that are primarily used for hospital or medical services. Chief Tornielli indicated that this reflects changes made to the 300 Block of South Seventh Avenue, near the Doctor's Office Building, where ten spaces were designated south of Spruce Street as accessible parking spaces as requested by the hospital. There have been no complaints received by the police department following the implementation of these additional accessible parking spaces.

Motion to recommend an amendment to the Accessible Parking Space Policy to increase the maximum number of available parking spaces to 30% within the 200 Block of South Sixth Avenue and 300 Block of South Seventh Avenue, which are located within hospital or medical locations. **Moved** by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

**Parking Stalls at 619 Franklin Street** – Chief Tornielli met with the property owner as requested to discuss the installation of two on-street parking stalls in front of his business due to parked vehicles encroaching the sidewalk. It was unclear if the apron is located within the right-of-way and if parking stalls were allocated that vehicles may park on the apron/sidewalk area. Mr. Grassley offered to install a curbline. Solicitor comments were needed before any changes can be recommended.

**No Parking Sign Regulations** – Chief Tornielli spoke of enforcement issues of temporary no parking signs for smaller projects or events that do not require road closures. He referred to Section 430-3 Temporary and emergency regulations for emergency public works or public events of limited scope or duration that may be handled by the Mayor for periods of no more than 72-hours. This would apply to events such as the Farmers' Market, FastBridge Fiber installations or UGI sidewalk repairs. An amendment to Section 430-3 A. (2) to include a description regarding short-term events was recommended.

Motion to recommend an amendment to add temporary no parking regulations to Section 430-3, Subsection A. (2) for enforcement purposes. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mayor Kaag. **Motion carried.**

The Temporary No Parking Application was reviewed and recommended adding the word “Placement Examples” above the diagram of possible methods of sign posting. Also, it was recommended to prohibit tape on light poles to avoid peeling of paint.

**Dusk Alley Parking Regulations** – Clarification was requested as to parking restrictions for this alley. The ordinance restricts parking from Monday through Friday 6:00 a.m. to noon and the signage restricts parking on trash and recycling collection days. It was decided to restrict parking on trash and recycling collection days.

Motion to recommend an amendment to Section 430-23 Parking Prohibited Certain Hours to prohibit parking on Dusk Alley from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Tuesdays, Wednesday’s and Fridays for trash and recycling collection. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Mayor Kaag. **Motion carried.**

**700 Block Penn Avenue 20-Minute Parking Space** – Consideration was requested to include a twenty-minute parking designation at the single parking space located near Commonwealth Auto Tags and Kings Auto. It was noted that earlier this year twenty-minute spaces had been recommended by Chief Tornielli and Mr. Grassley up to two per block, one per side based on the demographic of businesses. The 700 block of Penn Avenue had one space designated on the north side. This designation was thought to be beneficial to line-of-sight for vehicles exiting Kings Auto and bus stop access to the adjacent space. It was recommended to establish this twenty-minute parking space through experimental parking regulations to obtain feedback prior to making a permanent designation.

Motion to recommend establishing an experimental twenty-minute parking space designation Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the south side of Penn Avenue, at the first parking space west of South Eighth Avenue. **Moved** by Chief Tornielli and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried.**

## **Old Business**

**Additional Parking Space Opportunities** – Revisions to the east side of North Sixth Avenue were reviewed. Mr. Grassley indicated that three additional parking spaces could be created within the no parking here to corner area and the loading zone. Superior Oxygen reported only one midday delivery per week, though he hasn’t been able to connect with the owners of Legacy Cigar Lounge to determine their delivery/loading needs. Mr. Kaag inquired about trash collection since there are dumpsters located along that side of the building. Mr. Grassley will gather this information in hopes of being able to restrict parking for loading activity during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. while allowing evening and overnight parking opportunities. Parking changes would be established as experimental regulations for a period of ninety-days to identify unforeseen issues prior to making permanent changes. Modifications to this block were tabled at this time.

Revisions to the east side of North Fifth Avenue were reviewed. Mr. Grassley indicated that a parking space could be added north of Penn Avenue with three-hour parking regulations that align with Penn Avenue and recommended including the existing, first twenty-minute space, north of Penn Avenue as a three-hour parking opportunity. These changes were recommended to be established as experimental regulations at this time.

Revisions to the west side of South Fourth Avenue were reviewed for the possible addition of a parking space south of Penn Avenue. The width of South Fourth Avenue and South Sixth Avenue were measured and found to be the same. Mr. Grassley offered to mark the potential new space and provide feedback next month prior to implementing any changes. Modifications to this block were tabled at this time.

Revisions to the south side of the 500 Block of Chestnut Street near Sixth Avenue were discussed. It was thought that four parking spaces could be added. These changes were recommended to be established as experimental regulations at this time.

Revisions to the 500 Block of Franklin Street were reviewed. It was thought that restriping the parking stalls to a reduced length of twenty-feet, down from twenty-two feet, would provide one additional parking space. However, larger vehicles such as pickup trucks would have difficulty accessing or exiting the shortened parking spaces. Mr. Grassley shared plans to repave this roadway in 2026. It was thought best to delay any changes until that time. Modifications to this block were tabled at this time.

**Delaney Circle Update** – Mayor Kaag spoke of coordinating a new General Ledger code to deposit donated funds that are anticipated to be received in January of 2025. In lieu of moving memorial items to Borough Hall in the interim, it was decided to coordinate concrete improvements, movement of memorial items and landscaping in early spring, prior to opening of the pool next year. Chief Torielli shared the family’s request to be notified when the items are planned to be moved.

**Road Closure Policy Update** – Mr. Kaag stated that the road closure policy established by resolution has been sent to the solicitor’s office to convert to an ordinance for enforcement purposes. No further updates were available.

**Towing Contract** – Mayor Kaag indicated that she and Chief Torielli are reviewing available local towing services to provide the best and most reasonable services to the community. More information will be available next month.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Chief Torielli. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary