

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

**FEBRUARY 12, 2025**

The Borough of West Reading Traffic & Infrastructure Committee met on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chairman Christopher Lincoln; 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 (via Zoom).

### **Visitors:**

Karen Livingood, Resident (via Zoom)

James Rogers, Resident

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

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers spoke of vehicles parked within the 500 and 600 blocks of Cherry Street and proposed that parking be restricted in this area. Mr. Grassley noted for plowing purposes vehicles should not be parked along Cherry Street. Mr. Lincoln shared plans to walk Cherry Street for a better understanding of the restrictions needed and pushback that was received from property and business owners that utilize this space for parking, loading and unloading. Review of the list of potential parking spaces submitted in December by Mr. Rogers has been hampered by winter weather but it is a topic on the agenda this evening.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve the Traffic and Infrastructure Committee minutes of December 11, 2024. **Moved** by Mr. Grassley and seconded by Chief Tornielli. **Motion carried 6-0.**

### **New Business**

**2025 Multi-Modal Transportation Fund Grant** – Mr. Lincoln noted an upcoming Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) grant opportunity with a due date in July and a request to determine an area in need of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon (RRFB) to improve pedestrian crosswalk safety. The application submitted last year for the Fifth Avenue and Pine Street intersection through a PennDOT Automated Red Light Enforcement Transportation Enhancements (ARLE) funding program was denied due to the lack of fatalities in the vicinity. The Third and Penn Avenue intersection was discussed that would promote traffic calming in the vicinity. The intersection would not meet the criteria to install a traffic signal due to the difference in volumes of traffic. Options for the Fifth Avenue and Pine Street intersection crosswalk that is often used by hospital staff residents were discussed. Mr. Lincoln will review and gather options to discuss further next month.

**Towing Contract** – Chief Tornielli indicated that information is still being gathered from local towing companies. The goal is to find a qualified service provider that is customer service friendly while being cognizant of costs to residents.

**Tulpehocken Avenue Parking** – Chief Tornielli shared issues with parking outside of stall spaces on Tulpehocken Avenue where driveway access entrances to 433 Penn Avenue have been blocked. It was thought it would be best not to make any ordinance changes to parking in this vicinity until Borough Council determines a plan for this public space.

**Special Purpose/Time Limit Parking & Yield/Stop Intersection Amendments** – Mr. Lincoln noted revisions that were made to certain approaches to the traffic circle from yield intersections to stop intersections and the need to amend Section 430-17 Yield Intersections. The approaches from

Buttonwood Street, Reading Avenue and Tulpehocken Avenue were recommended to be removed from this section. The addition of a stop intersection on Kline Street at Second Avenue was recommended per the intersection study. The time limit parking section would add a 20-minute parking space on the south side of Penn Avenue, first space east of Eighth Avenue. It was noted that no complaints have been received during the experimental period, and the owner of the property expressed their appreciation for accommodating their request. The special purpose parking changes would remove unused handicapped spaces per the annual renewal review and converts location descriptions from feet to parking stall. The hospital's recent request to modify parking designations on the 300 block of South Seventh Avenue has been withdrawn.

A business request for a handicapped parking space designation within the 700 block of Penn Avenue was discussed as to the best policy to address these types of requests. The residential policy requires proof of a placard or plate number which would not apply to business requests. Currently there is one residential handicap use designation within the 300 block of Penn Avenue, and one within the 600 block of Penn Avenue near Reading City Church. Though requests are minimal from businesses, it was thought that one space per block should be established as a maximum as opposed to the 10% ratio used within residential areas. Staff were requested to draft a business district policy with a reduced percentage of allowable designations per block while honoring the residential policy that allows 10% of available spaces for residential needs. It was noted that time limit enforcement would apply to handicapped space designations along Penn Avenue. A decision was not rendered on the request for a designation within the 700 block of Penn Avenue.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to approve ordinance updates to Special Purpose Parking Zones, Time Limit Parking, Yield Intersections and Stop Intersections as drafted. **Moved** by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Mr. Grassley. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Obold Street** – Chief Tornielli noted that UGI Utilities, Inc. did not repaint the parking stall lines on this street after their gas main repairs. Mr. Grassley spoke with a representative who indicated that they were waiting for warmer temperatures to paint lines.

**Pedestrian Crosswalk** – Mayor Kaag shared a pedestrian auto injury experienced by a resident of the borough at the Penn Avenue and Eighth Avenue intersection. Details of the accident were unclear at this time. It was noted that an all-way pedestrian crossing would temporarily stop all vehicular traffic and would cause delays along the business corridor.

## **Old Business**

**Experimental Parking Regulations Update** – Mr. Grassley requested consideration to reestablish experimental parking regulations for added parking on the 500 block of Chestnut Street and the conversion of a 20-minute parking space to a 3-hour parking space on North Fifth Avenue. Due to limited staff during the month of December and recent storms these changes have not yet been implemented. Revisions to North Sixth Avenue have not yet been determined since he has been unable to communicate with the owners of Legacy Cigar Lounge.

It was recommended to communicate with the solicitor to determine if the establishment of experimental parking regulations could be modified to not exceed 90 days from implementation as opposed to adoption.

Motion to recommend Borough Council to authorize an additional 90-day experimental parking regulation period to create parking spaces on the 500 block of Chestnut Street and convert a 20-minute

parking space into a 3-hour parking space on North Fifth Avenue. **Moved** by Mayor Kaag and seconded by Mr. Kaag. **Motion carried 6-0.**

**Franklin Street and Lakeview Drive Intersection** – Mr. Lincoln recapped the intersection study results, which indicate that the intersection does not meet requirements for an all-way stop based on volumes of traffic, crash rates, and line-of-sight distance. Recommendations included the removal of trees and additional one-way signage to delineate the direction of travel.

**Kline Street and Second Avenue** – Mr. Lincoln recapped the intersection study results, where Kline Street is considered an alley, and a stop sign would be warranted on Kline Street four-feet from the existing marked crosswalk. Placement of the sign would encroach both the neighboring home and lane of travel. Mr. Lincoln will review details regarding the recommended sign placement.

**Delaney Circle Update** – Mr. Grassley noted plans to install concrete at the new memorial site near the pool in early spring prior to moving the memorial items. Mayor Kaag indicated that the Wyomissing Area School District has approved funding of the landscaping. Chief Torielli thought it would be nice to have the memorial garden established in time for their annual 5K in May. Once the items are relocated the crosswalks and sidewalk throughout the traffic circle will be removed.

**Road Closure Policy Update** – Chief Torielli recapped enforcement issues experienced with the policy in a resolution format. The solicitor has been requested to convert this policy to an ordinance, a proposed ordinance has not yet been received. It was thought that the ordinance could go directly to Borough Council for approval.

**Additional Parking Space Opportunities** – The Public Works Department has done a preliminary review of most of the references to potential new parking spaces as recommended by Mr. Rogers and has found a few viable options. A full review of the recommendations will be completed as the weather permits.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Rogers noted that the streetlights are still out on Fifth Avenue and Franklin Street. He also reported another outage at Fourth and Penn Avenues. Mr. Lincoln reported an outage on Pine Street.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. by Mr. Kaag and seconded by Chief Torielli.

**Motion carried 6-0.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Madeira  
Borough Secretary