BOROUGH OF WEST READING
TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016

The Borough of West Reading Traffic Committee met on Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Borough Hall, with the following persons present: Chair Christopher Lincoln, Borough Manager Richard Sichler, Public Works Director Dean Murray, Police Chief Stephen Powell and Mayor Valentin Rodriguez.

Visitors: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Old Business

Cherry Street Traffic Calming – Mr. Lincoln recapped the request from Edwards Business Systems for Chief Powell and discussion ensued concerning the possibilities of striping a crosswalk and posting signage with solar lights. There was a concern that if this were to be done it would lead to requests from other businesses therefore it was decided to create a policy to set standards. It was recommended that it pertain to businesses that have their own parking lots with at least 20 parking spaces in the General or Central Business District only. A second location where this might be necessary is behind Baldwin Brass on Court Street. It was also noted that there is an existing mid-block crosswalk at RM Palmer, however it has been there for a very long time and would be grandfathered. Mr. Lincoln will determine if the Borough is permitted to stripe a crosswalk in the Borough without PennDOT's approval. This will be discussed further at the March meeting with the intention of presenting the idea to Council in March as well. Mr. Sichler will contact Mrs. Thompson from Edwards to let her know what the Committee is proposing.

ARLE Grant – Mr. Sichler received some clarification from PennDOT concerning the grant and they have indicated that it will not be a problem to hold onto the grant for now with the hopes of obtaining other funding. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Permit Parking – The information previously gathered will be sent out to Committee members for review prior to the next meeting. This will also include the current permit parking language in the Borough ordinance.

Electronic Parking Enforcement – Chief Powell reported that the new equipment is working well. He will provide a more extensive report for Council.

School Zone Signage – S. 4th Avenue – Signage for the corner of Grape and S. 4th was discussed again. It was decided to install stop signs on Grape heading toward 4th; a 30" sign on the left side and a 24" on the right, just before the ADA ramp. As well a stop bar will be painted on the street. "Do Not Enter" signs will be installed on the back side of the stop signs as well. The possibility of a speed zone was discussed again however it was noted that a study to show the need for the zone would have to be conducted which may determine that it is not necessary. This will be discussed further in March.

Parking Signage/Stall Lines – 700 Block of Penn Avenue – Tabled.

Penn Avenue Loading Zones – This was briefly discussed and Chief Powell suggested that a possible solution may be to create one 15 minute loading zone space per block. This will be discussed further in March when more research has been completed. The information will be send to Committee members prior to the meeting.

List of Alleys and Streets – The classifying of streets and alleys was discussed and Mr. Sichler recommended that if no homes or businesses front on a particular roadway, it would be considered an alley. If a home does front the roadway, it should be considered a street which would make it a higher priority for snow removal. It was suggested that the alleys be named however Mr. Murray indicated that names do currently exist. He will look into obtaining that information.

New Business

Municipal Parking Lots – Mayor Rodriguez spoke about the lots on Cherry Street and Franklin Street which currently allow vehicles to remain on site up to 24 hours. He recommended that it be changed to allow for more turnover of vehicles parking at those locations. Discussion followed which suggested that it be made the same as Penn Avenue with a two hour restriction however it was felt that a four hour window might be more appropriate.

Vehicles with Expired Inspections – Chief Powell said that his officers have requested that an ordinance be passed that would prohibit vehicles with expired inspections from remaining on Borough streets. Current regulations and state regulation do not prohibit this. Mr. Sichler noted that registration stickers are being phased out by the end of 2016 and that this new requirement would help in this situation. It was also noted that there is no regulation prohibiting the changing of vehicle fluids on Borough streets. Chief Powell will obtain a sample ordinance. Tractor trailers parked on Borough streets was also discussed however there are usually never complaints in this regard therefore vehicles are not ticketed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Borough Secretary