

**CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 22, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Riling; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons,
Commissioner Charles Yost

STAFF: Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik, Deputy Chief Susan Zecca,
Bruce Chimento, Public Works Director; Michael Yeosock,
Assistant Principal Engineer; Fred Eshraghi, Traffic Engineer

OTHERS: Barbara Atkinson; Dorothy Hall, Rebecca Chernoff

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Riling called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Barbara Atkinson of 34 Clay Street said that she had just heard that the Commission would be talking about the parking issue at this meeting. She said that there are only four houses on the street and at that end of the street are the stairways that lead down to the street. She said that her house does not have a driveway or garage. While the commuters are not much of a problem for her because they are only there during the day, but the basketball program at Benjamin Franklin is a problem because people are not parking the Benjamin Franklin lot.

Ms. Atkinson added that no one had shoveled the sidewalks on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive for the commuters or those who walk to the train station.

Mr. Eshraghi said that they had received a request about the parking and that they would be removing the parking on the street between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. so the commuters won't be able to park on Clay or Gibson Court.

Ms. Dorothy Hall who is a resident on Gibson Court said that the cars were so close that if they ever needed to get a fire truck, there would be a major problem. It is very frightening. Mayor Riling asked if most of the streets had no commuter parking.

Mr. Eshraghi said that they had received a request about Clay Street and added Gibson Court as well. They would be enforcing the parking bans there. Mayor Riling explained that it was legal for anyone to park on the street, even those people who play basketball at Ben Franklin.

Ms. Rebecca Chernoff of 5 Gibson Court, she said that that over the years, there have been incidents including someone being found dead on their street. She added that the people from around the area park there because it is a public street but this takes up the rights of the residents. She said that this needs to change because the people who live there can't have guests over. She said that she would like to open up her driveway more. Mayor Rilling said that it would be a zoning issue. Ms. Chernoff said that she would check with Zoning about this. She asked if they would be able to have signs put on her street.

Ms. Atkinson said that the no parking ban would force her to move her car every day, and it would be a hardship. She added that she is having construction done at her house. Mr. Eshraghi said that the construction would be an exception. Discussion followed.

Mayor Rilling said that Ms. Atkinson and Ms. Hall needs to speak with Mr. Eshraghi about this. Mayor Rilling said that the Traffic division will evaluate the situation and come back to the Commission with a recommendation. Discussion followed about the details regarding abandoned cars and possible solutions.

Mr. Brad Craighead, then introduced himself and said he was representing the Norwalk Green Neighborhood Association. Mr. Craighead said that there were two agenda items about crosswalks. He said that the idea was about improving connectivity. The Green is a busy part of town but there are no cross walks connecting the Green with the East Avenue or Park Street. Mr. Craighead then suggested where a number of crosswalks are needed. He spoke about Lewis Way and said that it was utilized much more than he thought. He said that he was a property owner and has four properties on Park Street. Mr. Craighead started The Norwalk Green Neighborhood Association to promote the area and the key stake holders are the First Congregational Church, St. Paul's on the Green and the Norwalk Historical Society. He said that the Association is for the benefit of everyone living in the neighborhood.

BUSINESS

Approval of the minutes of Monday, December 18, 2017.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2017.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2017 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Revise the approve starting date of the closure of N. Water Street for the construction of the SoNo Collection from February 15, 2018 to January 23, 2018.

Mayor Rilling said that last month, the Authority had approve the closure of North Water Street for the construction of the overpass section of the SoNo Collection. The contractor

is ahead of construction and they would like to move the closure date forward to January 23rd.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REVISION OF THE STARTING DATE OF THE CLOSURE OF N. WATER STREET FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SONO COLLECTION FROM FEBRUARY 15, 2018 TO JANUARY 23, 2018.**

One of the SoNo Collection representatives was present and explained that they had an opportunity to move that particular portion of the project forward and that it would not interfere with the DOT's work on Ann Street. This will help everyone.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Request that CT DOT reconsider their decision to remove Condition 6 from TIR No. 02-60-01 SoNo Collection.

Mr. Chimento displayed a site plan included in the informational packet and said that CT DOT wants to change some of the signs that had been previously been approved. He said that they would be removing Maritime Garage and just have the sign read "South Norwalk". They have also proposed small roadside signs directing people to the Maritime Garage.

Mr. Chimento said that previously there was an overhead sign at the exit ramp for Super 7 but now they want to relocate the signage to a sign alongside of the ramp.

Mr. Chimento said that he would prefer that these proposed changes not be made. He requested that the Traffic Authority approve sending a letter to the State about this.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE SENDING A LETTER REQUESTING THAT CT DOT RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION TO REMOVE CONDITION 6 FROM TIR NO. 02-60-01 SONO COLLECTION.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approve the installation of "No Parking Monday - Friday, 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM on both sides of Clay Street and Gibson Court.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF "NO PARKING MONDAY - FRIDAY, 9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM ON BOTH SIDES OF CLAY STREET AND GIBSON COURT.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approve the installation of "No Parking Any Time" on the east side of Terry Lane.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF "NO PARKING ANY TIME" ON THE EAST SIDE OF TERRY LANE.**

Mr. Eshraghi said that Terry Lane was a narrow road and there had been a request to remove the on street parking.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approve the installation of "No Parking Any Time" on the north side of Ingalls Avenue.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF "NO PARKING ANY TIME" ON THE NORTH SIDE OF INGALLS AVENUE.**

Mr. Eshraghi explained that it was another narrow street like Terry Lane.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approve the installation of "No Parking Any Time" on the south side of Orchard Street from West Avenue to Harbor Avenue.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF "NO PARKING ANY TIME" ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF ORCHARD STREET FROM WEST AVENUE TO HARBOR AVENUE.**

This is also a narrow street which is currently clogged with construction vehicles.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Approve the parade route and associate closures of roadways for the St. Patrick's Day parade on Saturday, March 10, 2018. Parade to kick off from Veteran's Park at 11:00 a.m.

It is the same route as last year and comes from Veterans Park through North Main and ending at O'Neill's Pub.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARADE ROUTE AND ASSOCIATE CLOSURES OF ROADWAYS FOR THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2018. PARADE TO KICK OFF FROM VETERAN'S PARK AT 11:00 A.M.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

East Avenue Green Area

Crossways at Park Street and Lewis Way

Mr. Chimento said that the maps show where the crossways would go. Mr. Yeosock said that the cross walk on Park was not a major concern but the crosswalk on East Avenue would be because of the volume of traffic and the fact that there is a stop light nearby.

Mr. Chimento said that the State has plans to redo that area and said that if they put in a crosswalk, they would have to put in ramps. He said that he would not recommend a crosswalk at this time. Mr. Eshraghi said that there would be two traffic lights in less than 300 feet.

Mr. Yeosock reminded everyone that the State was planning to work on East Avenue this summer and the repaving should be done in the fall after the State is finished.

Mr. Chimento said that he would recommend a flashing sign for the crossways on Park Avenue.

Low Street and Ely Avenue

Mr. Yeosock said that the 3 way intersection has some issues with sight lines and they would recommend a three way stop sign.

NEXT MEETING

4:00 PM Monday, February 26, 2018
Norwalk Police Department, One Monroe Street

ADJOURNMENT.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services

City of Norwalk
Traffic Authority
Regular Meeting
January 22, 2018