

**CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 26, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling; Commissioner Charles Yost

STAFF: Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Police Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy
Chief Ashley Gonzalez; Mike Yeosock,
DPW Assistant Principal Engineer; Fred Eshraghi, DPW
Traffic Engineer

OTHERS: Bob Giolitto; Bradford Craighead;

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:00PM. A quorum was present.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Craighead said he was representing the Norwalk Green Neighborhood Association and that the association represents 800-1000 people that live in the center of Norwalk. He said that he would like to dispel the idea that the neighborhood is largely commercial in nature which is no longer true, and that there are approximately 23 buildings in addition to 162 homes that have 250 apartments in them so it is critical that our goals of connectivity and pedestrian mobility are met but also first and foremost safety.

Mr. Craighead introduced Mr. Giolitto and said that he represents St. Paul's Church who has an additional request. Mr. Giolitto requested that a crosswalk be installed across East Avenue so that pedestrians can cross the street and that a crosswalk would at the least alert motorists that there is a potential crossing there and make it safer. Mr. Craighead said that the church leases the parking lot across the street at the corner of Park Hill and East Avenue so there people are crossing the street every weekend. Mayor Rilling requested that Mr. Giolitto email him the request and he will pass it on to the Traffic Department for their review and recommendation that they deem appropriate

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018.

On page 1, under the attendance change “Riling” to “Rilling”

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A 3-WAY STOP AT THE INTERSECTION OF LAURA STREET AND AUSTIN STREET.

Mr. Eshraghi said that after receiving some requests they have decided to clean up the old signage and install new signage. He said that they will also be adding two stop signs which will make the intersection of Laura Street and Austin Street safer and will not affect the traffic.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF “NO PARKING MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9:00AM-10AM” ON BURR PLACE.

Mr. Eshraghi said that they would like to extend the “no parking” signage from Russell Street to Burr Place to eliminate commuters from parking on the street. He said this was based on citizen’s request.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A 3 WAY STOP AND CROSSWALKS AT THE INTERSECTION OF LOWE STREET AND ELY AVENUE.

Mr. Yeosock said this was presented as a discussion item at last month’s meeting and they think it will be a good idea to put a three way stop at this intersection and a crosswalk as well. Mr. Eshraghi said that it will make the intersection safer. Mayor Rilling asked if installing a stop sign at the top of the hill towards Lowe Street will present a problem especially when there is ice or snow. Mr. Eshraghi said that he doesn’t see it being an issue and that it is a long street. Mayor Rilling asked if there will be a loss of parking in the area. Mr. Yeosock said there is a fire hydrant there and that people do park there. Deputy Chief Zecca asked that the Police Department be notified when the three way stops are installed so that they can educate people.

Mayor Rilling said that he would like the complaints monitored that come into the Police Department, his office or to DPW relative to the issue he raised of ice and snow being an issue.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK AT THE INTERSECTION OF ALLEN ROAD AND ALLEN COURT.

Mr. Yeosock said that some improvements will be done to the parking lot at the Senior Center on Allen Road and would like to install a crosswalk at the intersection of Allen Road and Allen Court and they have received numerous requests. Mayor Rilling asked if there are currently sidewalks. Mr. Yeosock said that they will be installing sidewalks. Mayor Rilling asked if the flashing beacons will be installed. Mr. Yeosock said “yes”.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK AT THE INTERSECTION OF PARK STREET AND LEWIS STREET.

Mayor Rilling asked if the flashing beacons will be installed. Mr. Yeosock said “yes” they can be installed. Mayor Rilling said they seem to make a difference. Mr. Eshraghi said that based on nationwide research they are 70% effective for crosswalks.

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

INFORMATION/DISCUSSION

1. PUTNAM AVENUE- NO PARKING REQUEST

Mr. Yeosock said at the end of the road there is a driveway from grocery store onto Putnam Street and people are blocking that, and they have been receiving a lot of complaints and that they will be presenting a recommendation back to the Traffic Authority.

2. LOCAL ROAD ACCIDENT REDUCTION PROGRAM GRANT STATUS

Mr. Yeosock said that there are currently two grants one is for Flax Hill @ Highland Avenue and the other is for over height bridge detection at the intersection of Washington

Street @ North and South Main Streets. He said that a public informational meeting was held for the intersection of Flax Hill @ Highland Avenue and the residents were concerned about losing the island, and they have reworked the plans and were able to preserve an island similar to what is currently there. He said that the next step is to decide whether or not to move forward with the project. Commissioner Yost asked what the problem is with the way it is now. Mr. Yeosock said there are two points of conflict because cars are going on both sides of the island. Mr. Eshraghi said that based on the new design that conflict would be eliminated. Mayor Rilling requested accident data including personal injury in that area. Commissioner Yost asked what the cost to change the intersection will be. Mr. Yeosock said \$400,000 and will be 90% funded by the grant.

Mr. Yeosock said at the intersection of Washington Street @ North and South Main Streets Bridge there are a lot of trucks that get stuck under the bridge, so there will be variable message signs tied with a radar system that will trigger signage that will be installed that will alert drivers of the vehicles are over height. He said that they will be scheduling a public hearing on this within the next month.

3. DOT RESPONSE TO OVERHEAD SIGN REQUEST ON RT. 7 OFF-RAMP-SONO COLLECTION.

Mayor Rilling said that he hopes that the overhead guide sign that the State will be installing will be understandable because the signs that are currently there are perfect and that it is confusing at that location because there are three different way to exit the highway. There was further discussion ensued and Mayor Rilling requested that Mr. Yeosock go back to the State articulating the uniqueness of that area.

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services