

**CITY OF NORWALK  
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2019**

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

STAFF: Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Mike Yeosock, Assistant Director TMP; Fred Eshraghi, DPW Traffic Engineer

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Michael Foley - 32 Garner Street

Mr. Foley stated that he has to put cones in front of driveway to keep cars from blocking it on a regular basis, and he has also had to call the police department for cars blocking his driveway and parking on his lawn. He said the situation has gotten very bad within the last six months and people can't park to get their children off the bus and the construction workers are throwing their trash all over the place. He also said that at the bottom of the hill on Garner Street is very dangerous due to the tractor trailers.

Mr. Yeosock stated that the plan is to install two hour parking in the Golden Hill area and will put the license plate numbers of the residents in those areas into the Parking Authority's system so that the residents will not be ticketed.

Mr. Brescia said that the Parking Authority is very sensitive to the impact of the construction workers parking in the Golden Hill and Webster Lot area. He said that the Parking Authority will be implementing a two hour parking limit to relieve the parking pressure and that the resident's license plate information will be in a database of the Parking Authority so they are exempt from the parking limit. He said that the enforcement times have not yet been determined, and that the Parking Authority is working closely with representatives of the mall project to try and get them to have the construction workers park at Norden Place and to utilize the shuttle system that is available to them.

Darlene Young- Common Council Member

Ms. Young stated that once the mall is built the same parking issues are going to be a problem in that area and that a long term solution needs to be established, and the area also needs to be broadened.

The following suggestions were made:

- It was suggested that no littering signs be installed because parking is not the only issue.
- The parking tickets that are currently being issued are just being ripped and thrown on the ground because a majority of the cars are from out of state and asked how that will change the parking limitation. Mayor Rilling said that the Law Department will be contacted for options such as establishing tow away zones.
- It was suggested to have a permit system for the residence in the area so it would cover visitors of the residents who will receive a ticket and will elevate the issue of the construction workers moving their cars every two hours to avoid receiving a ticket.
- It was suggested that an app be created so that residents can make the Parking Authority aware that they have visitors and not to ticket them rather than having to call in each time they have a visitor.
- It was suggested that there be different times of enforcement established for residential and commercial zones.
- It was suggested parking be removed on both sides of the street on Brooklawn because the new curbing that was installed has narrowed the road. It was also suggested that Garner Street be one way.
- The safety issue is the biggest issue and needs to be addressed because emergency vehicles cannot get down Garner Street and Brooklawn Street the way it is now, and it is unfair for the residents to live in this environment just to have a mall built.
- It was suggested to have the parking garage opened at the mall site so that the construction workers can park there.
- It was suggested that police are assigned to the area for traffic control.

- There are cars being parked for ten days or more in the Golden Hill area from people who take the train and it was suggested that there is signage and enforcement in that area. Mayor Rilling requested that Mr. Yeosock look at the situation.

Ms. Lucille Weldon- Orchard Street

Ms. Weldon stated that parking was removed from one side of the street with no notice. She said that she has met with Mayor Rilling and Ms. Hebert in October of last year to address their issues and was told someone would get back to her with an answer and she never heard from anyone. She said that she would really like someone to look at the Orchard Street situation again. Mayor Rilling apologized and requested that she give Mr. Yeosock her contact information and he will contact her.

Mayor Rilling said the that the Traffic Authority is very intent to try and figure out what can be done long term and this is a first step but will rely on everyone who lives in the area to help to make it even better.

## **BUSINESS**

### **1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **2. APPROVE A 2 HR PARKING LIMIT RESIDENTS EXEMPTED FOR THE GOLDEN HILL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE 2 HOUR PARKING LIMIT RESIDENTS EXEMPTED FOR THE GOLDEN HILL AREA NEIGHBORHOOD, EXPLORE THE LEGALITY OF INCLUDING A TOW AWAY ZONE FOR NON-RESIDENTS AND TO PROVIDE CERTIFICATES TO THE RESIDENTS.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**3. APPROVE THE EAST WALL STREET PARKING PLAN**

Mr. Yeosock said that cars are parking at the bottom on East Wall Street and they would like to install a 50' area of no parking with a bus drop off zone. He said that he will also be meeting with the Bike Walk Commission on alternatives.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE EAST WALL STREET PARKING PLAN.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. APPROVE THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. APPROVE THE ROWAYTON MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROWAYTON MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. APPROVE THE ROWAYTON SANTA RUN ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER YOST MOVED TO APPROVE SANTA RUN ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DISCUSSION**

**SONO MARATHON- SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019.**

Dave and Shannon Whipple

Mr. Whipple stated he had submitted a packet to the city that outlines the event and that this is the fifth year the event will be held. He said that the feedback from the Traffic Authority was that they had received the least amounts of complaints last year of any year and the race was sold out. He said they try to cap the attendance to 2,000 participants, and there were approximately 25 local sponsors for the race and they raise over \$100,000 for charity. He said they had attended the Common Council meeting and there was a unanimous approval and the only negative feedback was regarding the CT DOT and the exit 16 ramps and decided to make an alteration so that the ramps would not need to be closed and were then told that there were issues. He said they would like to have a resolution so that the registration can be opened. He said he had sent out a survey to last year's participants and 65% were not Norwalk residents and that 80% of the people who were in the race last year stayed in Norwalk to go shopping and restaurants which was great for Norwalk business's. He said that they have altered both races so that they do not go in front of or on the side of the mall and that all of the runners will be out on South Norwalk by 10:30AM and he doesn't see any issues with the projects due to the revised route and timeline. He said that he would like to hear what the concerns are so that the great event can be continued. Mayor Rilling said that he had received numerous complaints from people trying to navigate through Norwalk during the race and he is not so sure Norwalk is designed to have a half marathon especially in the East Norwalk area. He said that the mall will also be opening around that time so there will added traffic for that. Mayor Rilling said the Common Council approval is only for the use of Veterans Park and was not for the route of the race and suggested Mr. Whipple work with the Police Department to make a recommendation and that a special meeting of the Traffic Authority be scheduled, but he is not overly confident that the SONO Marathon will be held in Norwalk. Commission Yost said that there is a vision meeting being held on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at City Hall and that may be a good time to get the opinions from the residents in that area.

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### **1. WESTPORT AVENUE SIGNALS AT DRY HILL AND AT GEORGE AVENUE PEDESTRIAN SIGNAL REQUEST**

Mr. Yeosock said these were installed near Norwalk High School and since they have been installed he has received requests from other schools. Ms. Rossett said that the Bike Walk commission had requested that Mr. Yeosock also request this for Westport Avenue near the area of Stew Leonard's from the state because there is a challenge for pedestrians to get across street.

### **2. CHESTNUT STREET RETURNED TO TWO-WAY**

There was no discussion.

### **3. STRAWBERRY HILL AVE NO U TURN SIGNS INSTALLED**

There was no discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:22PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd