

**CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Harry Rilling, Commissioner Kelly Straniti; Commissioner Fran Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; Kathryn Hebert, Director, TMP Mike Yeosock, Assistant Director TMP

OTHERS: Michael Galante, Frederick P. Clark Associates

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:02PM. A quorum was present.

Mayor Rilling welcomed new member Commissioner Straniti.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

**1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING OF
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019.**

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF
NOVEMBER 18, 2019 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENSION- MS.
STRANITI.**

2. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF SHORT TERM (30 MINUTES OR LESS) PARKING IN THE WALL STREET AREA AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSED PLAN. EXACT PARKING TIMES TO BE DETERMINED BY THE NORWALK PARKING AUTHORITY.

Ms. Hebert said that the Parking Authority has received many requests to consider short term options for customers in the Wall Street area. In response they had called over 40 businesses in the area and are proposing 24 short term parking spaces that will be strategically located throughout the Wall Street district. If approved this evening the Parking Authority will have a discussion at their meeting on Wednesday, December 18th related to the timing of the short term parking as to whether it should be 15 or 30 minute parking, and if approved by the Traffic Authority and the Parking Authority it will be implemented in January. Mayor Rilling asked why the Parking Authority has not yet decided whether they will approve 15 or 30 minute parking because that would have been helpful for the Traffic Authority to know. Ms. Hebert said that the TMP team is proposing 15 minutes in most of locations based on talks with the businesses in the area but the Parking Authority wanted to have the ability to approve the timing at their meeting on December 18th. She presented the areas that staff is proposing to be 15 minute and 30 minute parking.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF SHORT TERM PARKING ON WALL AND MAIN STREET AS SHOWN ON THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR 15 AND 30 MINUTE PARKING AS PRESENTED
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF 4 PARKING SPACES ON MAIN STREET AT FREESE PARK.

Ms. Hebert said that the TMP is proposing an additional four parking spaces on Main Street adjacent to Freese Park. She said this will not just add parking capacity to the street but it will also slow the traffic down. Mayor Rilling asked if the parking spaces will be paid parking. Ms. Hebert said “yes”. Mayor Rilling asked where the kiosk will be located to pay for parking. Ms. Hebert said on the onset the Parking Authority will most likely recommend Pay by Cell and that a pay station will be ordered but the location has not yet been determined. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said with all of the parking that has been removed throughout the city it is good to provide additional parking spaces somewhere.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF 4 PARKING SPACES ON MAIN STREET AT FREESE PARK.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK WITH AN RREB ON WILLIAM STREET AT THE REAR ENTERANCE TO NATHAN HALE SCHOOL.

Mr. Yeosock said there is a walkway in the rear entrance to Nathan Hale School on William Street that people are using to get to the school, and to make it safer staff would like to add a cross walk at that location. Mayor Rilling asked if that has been requested by the residents. Mr. Yeosock said “yes”

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE
INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK WITH AN RRFB ON WILLIAM STREET AT THE
REAR ENTERANCE TO NATHAN HALE SCHOOL
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF PARKING AS SHOWN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF 111 ROWAYTON AVENUE.**

Mr. Yeosock said this request was before the Traffic Authority previously and the commission had requested that letters be sent to the abutting property owners. Mr. Galante provided an overview of the project said there is an existing office building that will be demolished and a residential development will be built on the site and the driveway will be opposite the intersection to the south. He said they are requesting the removal of four parking spaces for safety purposes for the driveway access and sightline. Mr. Yeosock said that letters were sent to the four abutting property owners and have not received any response back and the project has also been approved by Planning & Zoning. Mayor Rilling asked when they plan to remove the parking spaces. Mr. Galante said if approved the construction will start in the spring and some demolition could possibly begin over the winter months. Mayor Rilling said he is concerned that the business operator for Rowayton Pizza has not been notified and only the property owner has been notified. The owner of 111 Rowayton Avenue came forward and stated that the father of business owner for Rowayton Pizza was notified and the reason they don't have enough parking is because they have installed outside seating that was not approved by Planning and Zoning. Mayor Rilling suggested that the item be tabled until the business owners are notified.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE
JANUARY MEETING AFTER BUSINESS OWERS HAVE NOTIFIED
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF 2 UNITED WAY “THERE IS HOPE” SIGNS
ON WEST AVENUE AND CONNECTICUT AVENUE AS SHOWN.**

Mr. Yeosock said they have received a request from the United Way and the Connecticut DOT to install the two signs. Mayor Rilling asked if the DOT will be installing the signs. Mr. Yeosock said “no” they will be installed by city staff. Mayor Rilling asked if the signs were donated. Mr. Yeosock said “yes”.

**** COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF 2 UNITED WAY “THERE IS HOPE” SIGNS ON WEST AVENUE AND CONNECTICUT AVENUE AS SHOWN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS ON GOLD STREET, SILVER STREET AND EMERALD STREET AS SHOWN.

Mr. Yeosock said there are currently no stop signs in place and staff is recommending installing stop signs for safety.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS ON GOLD STREET, SILVER STREET AND EMERALD STREET AS SHOWN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION

1. HEATHER LANE- PROPOSED REMOVAL OF PARKING ON THE EVEN NUMBERED SIDE OF HEATHER LANE.

Mr. Yeosock said there is a situation on Heather Lane where it is difficult for emergency vehicles and plow trucks to get down the road due to the parked cars. He said school buses are also using it as a cut through and he has contacted the transportation department at the Board of Education. There are also some contracting firms that are parking there overnight with commercial vehicles and he has requested that Planning & Zoning investigate and enforce per the ordinance. Mayor Rilling asked how this came to our attention. Mr. Yeosock said there were five requests made through customer service from the residents.

Mary Kopas- 13 Heather Lane

Ms. Kopas said that she has lived in the neighborhood for over 50 years and the neighborhood has changed but one of the major issues is the school buses using the street as a cut through. She said the other issue is there are residents that have vehicles with plows on them that are parking in the street which is a dangerous situation and emergency vehicles have not been able to get down the road on numerous occasions. She said her proposal is it possibly becoming a one way street from Tierney Street to Strawberry Hill which would help prevent a lot of the traffic but the parking would then have to be kept on the even side of the street. She also suggested it be turned into snow emergency street so the snow plows can get through because during the last two snow storms could not get through.

Diane Stein- 6 Heather Lane

Ms. Stein said she has lived in the neighborhood for over 30 years and a lot of the driveways are only single sized so she is not sure parking on one side of the street would be enough to house the residents alone. She said she is in agreement to make the street one way but have parking on both sides of the street. She also said that the school buses are the biggest problem and the people from all three schools use it as a cut through and speed down the road and she has seen numerous people almost get hit.

Gladice Pollard-25 Heather Lane

Ms. Pollard said where she lives is where all of the conjunction is and suggests it should be a one way street and that they had also requested speed bumps but were told they could not be installed because of emergency vehicles.

Mayor Rilling requested that the traffic engineers relook at the area and make some further recommendations relative to what the feedback was from the residents at the Traffic Authority meeting. Ms. Kopas said when they do the traffic study it should be done between the hours of 7:00AM- 8:30AM and from 2:15PM to 3:30PM during the school year. Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Yeosock how long it would be until he can come back to the Traffic Authority with his recommendations. Mr. Yeosock said approximately one month. Mayor Rilling requested the item be on the February agenda. He also requested enforcement from the police and also from Planning and Zoning to be sure people are not parking oversized vehicles on the streets

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:46PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd