

CITY OF NORWALK  
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY  
REGULAR MEETING  
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE  
May 17, 2021

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Michael Yeosock at [myeosock@norwalkct.org](mailto:myeosock@norwalkct.org) to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Kelly Straniti; Commission-Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Deputy Chief James Walsh; James Travers, Director, TMP; Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer, TMP

OTHERS: Mary Windt; Tanner Thompson; James Whipple; Lisa Pinto; Canyon Sharits; Marc Alan

Mayor Rilling called the meeting order at 4:00PM.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ms. Windt stated that she is here to speak on item 8 of the agenda and that she is in support of the item to create a drop-off/pick-up zone because currently people are using the no parking zone and the fire zone area for drop off and pick up.

Mr. Thompson introduced himself to the Commission and said that he is a member of the Bike/Walk Commission.

**1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING OF MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY MEETING OF MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021 AS SUBMITTED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION- COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS.**

**2. APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF RIVER STREET FOR THE WALL STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S MAKE MUSIC DAY ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2021 FROM 11:00AM TO 10:00PM.**

Mr. Yeosock said that on Wednesday, June 21, 2021, the Wall Street Association would like to close River Street for an event. Mr. Alan said that he is the event coordinator for this event and this will be the third year that Norwalk has participated in the official "Make Music Day" celebration, and it is a worldwide event and is based on free music events for the public. He said this year they would like to do part of the event on River Street because it is centrally located in the Wall Street area and there will still be access to the Yankee Doodle Garage from Burnell Blvd. He said all of the surrounding businesses have been notified of the event and there has been a positive reaction. He also said the Norwalk Arts Commission is endorsing the event and it will be safe upscale event and will be limiting the amount of people in the street at any given time.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF RIVER STREET FOR THE WALL STREET NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION'S MAKE MUSIC DAY ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2021 FROM 11:00AM TO 10:00PM.**

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

**3. APPROVE TEMPORARY NO PARKING ON MILTON PLACE, RIDGEWOOD ROAD, BRYAN ROAD AND THE PARKING SPACES IN FRONT OF FIVE MILE RIVER NURSERY SCHOOL ON PENNOYER STREET FOR MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM AT PINKNEY PARK FROM JUNE 8, 2021 TO JULY 8, 2021.**

Mr. Yeosock said this is a traditional event that is held at the park and they close the parking spaces.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE TEMPORARY NO PARKING ON MILTON PLACE, RIDGEWOOD ROAD, BRYAN ROAD AND THE PARKING SPACES IN FRONT OF FIVE MILE RIVER NURSERY SCHOOL ON PENNOYER STREET FOR MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM AT PINKNEY PARK FROM JUNE 8, 2021 TO JULY 8, 2021.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. APPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN FOR THE ROWAYTON FUN RUN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021.**

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN FOR THE ROWAYTON FUN RUN ON SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 2021.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. APPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN TO ALLOW FOR ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ONLY ON ROTON AVENUE FOR TRAFFIC EXITING THE ROWAYTON FIR WORKS ON SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021.**

Mr. Yeosock said that he had received an email earlier today that they may be postponing the fireworks. Mayor Rilling said he also received an email earlier stating that they will be recommending postponing the fireworks until September 18, 2021, but they have not received an official word regarding the cancellation.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRAFFIC CONTROL PLAN TO ALLOW FOR ONE-WAY TRAFFIC ONLY ON ROTON AVENUE FOR TRAFFIC EXITING THE ROWAYTON FIR WORKS ON SUNDAY, JULY 4, 2021.  
SUBJECT TO CONTINUING WITH THE CURRENT PLAN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. APPROVE THE ROAD CLOSURE PLAN FOR THE SONO HALF/5K MARATHON ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021.**

Mr. Whipple said they are excited to do the race this year and that it will be the seventh year and that it was held virtually last year but feel the race this year can be held in person safely. He said in 2019 they had switched from having the race on Saturday and moved it to Sunday, and also changed the course so that the race did not go down East or West Avenue and had received very positive feedback and the plan is to do the same this year. Mr. Yeosock said they have also been coordinating with representatives from the Walk Bridge project.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER- COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROAD CLOSURE PLAN FOR THE SONO HALF/5K MARATHON ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2021.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF 4 PARKING SPACES ON WALL STREET EAST OF ISAACS STREET AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN.**

Mr. Travers said this is a request from a local business in the area as well as The Parking Authority and when the angled parking spaces were created it moved a single lane of traffic so there is no longer a need for the extra space for a travel lane, and it will also provide the business some additional parking spaces. Mayor Rilling asked if staff has looked at the location. Mr. Travers said “yes” and he had measured and determined that four parking spaces can be installed safely.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER- COLLIER- CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF 4 PARKING SPACES ON WALL STREET EAST OF ISAACS STREET AS SHOWN ON THE PLAN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**8. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A PICK-UP/DROP-OFF PARKING SPACE ON SECOND STREET FROM THE DRIVEWAY FOR THE MARVIN FOR 35’ TO THE EAST.**

Mr. Travers said that staff had looked at the request and believes it has warrant and helps keep our senior citizens mobile and would largely be used for pick up and drop off to the facility and staff is in support of the request.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A PICK-UP/DROP-OFF PARKING SPACE ON SECOND STREET FROM THE DRIVEWAY FOR THE MARVIN FOR 35’ TO THE EAST.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9. APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF 3 PARKING SPACES IN FRONT OF 3-5 WALL STREET FOR OUTDOOR DINING. CLOSURE SUBJECT TO COORDINATION WITH PLANNED CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

Mr. Travers said this was for an application that was received for on street dining and staff has had discussions with DPW and there is some planned sewer work that will be done in the area and when the work is getting done the outdoor dining space will be moved to the west and shared with the adjacent restaurant, but until that time staff supports the request. Mayor Rilling asked if the merchants have been notified and are in agreement. Mr. Travers said “yes” and staff has received a letter of support from the adjacent property owners.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CLOSURE OF 3 PARKING SPACES IN FRONT OF 3-5 WALL STREET FOR OUTDOOR DINING. CLOSURE SUBJECT TO COORDINATION WITH PLANNED CITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS.**

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

**10. CONCUR WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT TO 25 MPH ON NORTH WATER STREET, NORTH MAIN STREET AND WATER STREET AND FORWARD TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OSTA FOR APPROVAL.**

Mr. Travers said staff has reviewed the area of Washington Street and these locations are in the same area and staff is continuing with our recommendation of a 25MPH speed limit. He said they are covered under a blanket permit that the city has which states the speed limit is 30MPH unless posted and OSTA no longer supports a blanket permit so each street has to be reviewed individually and submitted from the local Traffic Authority for their consideration. He staff will continue to look to be sure that all of our streets are safe. Mayor Rilling asked if there has been a response received for the Washington Street request. Mr. Travers said "no" not yet. Mayor Rilling requested that there be a press release once these have been approved to make people aware that we are working to make our roadways safer.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE TO CONCUR WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S RECOMMENDATION TO LOWER THE SPEED LIMIT TO 25 MPH ON NORTH WATER STREET, NORTH MAIN STREET AND WATER STREET AND FORWARD TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OSTA FOR APPROVAL.**

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

**11. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK ON GREGORY BLVD AT MARION AVENUE.**

Mr. Yeosock said there has been a request received from the neighborhood to install a crosswalk and staff looked at the area and supports the request.

Ms. Pinto said she is a board member for the Marvin Beach Association and said the requested crosswalk is to facilitate the crossing to The Marvin Beach Yacht Club and during the summer there is a fair amount of foot traffic and is in a blind spot around a corner.

**\*\* COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A CROSSWALK ON GREGORY BLVD AT MARION AVENUE.**

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

**DISCUSSION ITEMS/ COMMENTS**

**1. BUTLER STREET ROAD CLOSURE- JUNE 4-6 FOR NORWALK ART SPACE OPENING.**

Mayor Rilling said he is concerned about closing Butler Street where there is a large amount of truck traffic that goes to the Transfer Station and asked if staff has looked at the plan. Mr. Travers said "yes" and the request is the close one road and staff thought with the adjacent roadways could be used for traffic.

Ms. Sharits said that the road does not need to be closed for all three of the days but there is a ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for Friday, June 4, 2021 and are expecting approximately 200 guests and are expecting 200-300 people to attend throughout the course of the day on Saturday and Sunday.

Mayor Rilling asked why the road needs to be closed. Ms. Sharits said they road does not need to be closed but were just concerned about spacing people out as much as possible. Commissioner Straniti asked if this is on the truck delivery route for the SONO Collection. Mr. Travers said “yes” but most likely won’t get many deliveries on a Saturday but there will be a detoured route from Orchard to Quincy Street for the truck traffic.

Mayor Rilling asked what the hours of the event are. Ms. Sharits said the ribbon cutting will be held on Friday, June 8, 2021, from 5:00PM to 8:00PM and the event will be held over that weekend from 12:00PM to 7:00PM. Mayor Rilling said he is concerned about closing the road.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said her concern is the tractor trailers having to navigate through the detour and creating problems that are not necessary. Commissioner Straniti agreed.

## **2. CHESTNUT STREET ROADWAY OPERATIONS.**

Mr. Travers said the Common Council members for this area are concerned about the operations on Chestnut Street and he went to observe the area and found it confusing and staff is looking at what the operations would be if the street were one way all the time and what the impact will be to the local roads. He also said there is a development in the area and he has requested that they review the traffic impact of this and if it is found that this would be a successful change it would be brought to the Traffic Authority for approval.

Commissioner-Collier-Clemmons said the current configuration was a solution for the Side by Side school for the safety of the school children during drop off and pick up and she realizes after decisions are made and put into place they don’t always work the way we think it will so another look at it may be in order, but there is also a one way street from South Main Street to Chestnut Street so the impact to that intersection will also need to be looked at.

Chief Kulhawik said when this was discussed previously that when the street is a one way street that most of the traffic is diverted towards the South Norwalk Railroad Station and that was why a full time one way street was not the preferred plan at that time.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:44PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dilene Byrd