

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
January 24, 2022

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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 to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons

STAFF: Chief Thomas Kulhawik; Deputy Chief Susan Zecca; Garrett Bolella, TMP;
Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer, TMP; Lieutenant Terry Blake

OTHERS: James Whipple; James Gerweck; Ann Lydecker; Jenn McMurrer

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting order at 4:06PM.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2021.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 15, 2021, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. APPROVE THE PARADE ROUTE FOR THE BOSTON BUILDUP 25K AS SHOWN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022.

Mr. Yeosock said this race is held annually. Mr. Gerweck provided an overview of the event and said that 90% of the race is in Wilton and New Canaan but it does begin and end in Norwalk. Mayor Rilling asked where the race starts. Mr. Gerweck said it starts and ends at Silvermine School.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARADE ROUTE FOR THE BOSTON BUILDUP 25K AS SHOWN TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2022.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE PARADE ROUTE FOR THE NORWALK SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AS SHOWN TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022.

Lieutenant Blake provided an overview of the event and said that it is the same route that has been done for the past several years. Mayor Rilling said if approved it will be situational based on what may be happening at any given time over the next couple of months.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PARADE ROUTE FOR THE NORWALK SAINT PATRICK'S DAY PARADE AS SHOWN TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE RACE ROUTES FOR THE HATS ON FOR HAMMY 5K AND FUN RUN AS SHOWN TO BE HELD OF SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022.

Ms. Lydecker provided an overview of the event and said the route will be the same as the turkey trot that was held in November and will begin and end at the Rowayton Community Center. Mayor Rilling asked Ms. Lydecker if she has been in contact with the Sixth Taxing District Commission. Ms. Lydecker said "yes".

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RACE ROUTES FOR THE HATS ON FOR HAMMY 5K AND FUN RUN AS SHOWN TO BE HELD OF SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. APPROVE THE RACE ROUTE FOR THE BUNNY BOOGIE TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022.

Mr. Yeosock provided an overview of the event and said the race will begin at Bailey Beach and it is a three-mile race. Mr. Gerweck said this is a local race that goes through Rowayton and Belle Island and is the same route as the Lighthouse Run that takes place in the fall and there has been no issues with traffic. Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Gerweck if he has been in contact with the Sixth Taxing District. Mr. Gerweck said “yes”.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE RACE ROUTE FOR THE BUNNY BOOGIE TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2022.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE MARVIN WALK-A-THON AS SHOWN TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022.

Ms. McMurrer provided an overview of the event and said the event was held for a few years prior to Covid, and it is the biggest fund raiser at Marvin Elementary School and the walk is done in waves from the school to the beach and back, and in the past have had a police officer present on Calf Pasture Beach Road to be sure the kids cross the street safely back to the school.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROUTE FOR THE MARVIN WALK-A-THON AS SHOWN TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2022.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF PARKING ON A PORTION OF NOVAK STREET AS SHOWN.

Mr. Bolella said that TMP was approached by Asst. Fire Chief McCabe regarding the concerns that are impacting their emergency vehicles regarding the parked vehicles that are on the street impacting the operations and efficiency for their emergency vehicles getting to South Main Street. He said the chief requested that TMP evaluate the street for feasibility of converting it to a one-way street. He said two alternatives were presented to the neighbors one being converting the street to a one-way street from Meadow Street to South Main Street, and the other was to maintain two-way operations but remove on street parking on one side of the street. He said after speaking with many of the neighbors they were largely in support of the fire department and their efforts but did present their concerns converting it to a one-way street so given the existing environment of the street TMP is proposing to install no parking signs on the northerly curve and the southerly side of Novak Street. Mayor Rilling asked if this particularly recommendation was shared with Asst. Chief McCabe. Mr. Bolella said they were shared with LT. Sussman, and he shared the plans with Asst. Chief McCabe, and he was supportive of the first effort to try and improve operations on the street. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the residents on Novak Street are aware of the proposed no parking areas. Mr. Bolella said “yes” and we have spoken with a number of the residence, and should this be approved, he will be sending a follow-up

correspondence and they are really in support of the on-street parking and requested that the department maintain as much of the on-street parking as practical.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE REMOVAL OF PARKING ON A PORTION OF NOVAK STREET AS SHOWN.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. REQUEST STATE TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW APPROVING A 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON CAMP STREET.

Mr. Bolella said that TMP has been working with the Principal of Tracey Elementary School on a number of school zone improvements around the school to make it safer for pedestrians and to help mitigate some of the congestion. He highlighted some of the improvements that have been done over the past couple of months and said TMP would like to put in a request to the state to look at the speed limits on the road and have it reduced to 25 MPH to be more compatible with the residential feel of the neighborhood as well as for the operations of the school.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE TO REQUEST STATE TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW APPROVING A 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT ON CAMP STREET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9. REQUEST STATE TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW APPROVING A 20 MPH SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMIT FOR TRACEY SCHOOL ON CAMP STREET.

Mr. Bolella said TMP would like the general speed limit of the street be reduced to 25 MPH, but at the same time put in a request into the state to establish Camp Street and the area around Tracey School as a school zone and request during the hours of pick up and drop off to be 20 MPH and to enforce that request to install school zone flashers that operate during the pickup and drop off times to reinforce the 20 MPH speed limit.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE TO REQUEST STATE TRAFFIC COMMISSION REVIEW APPROVING A 20 MPH SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMIT FOR TRACEY SCHOOL ON CAMP STREET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A “DO NOT BLOCK THE BOX” ON EAST AVENUE AT OLMSTEAD PLACE AND REFER TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION.

Mr. Bolella said at the request of the Traffic Authority TMP held a neighborhood meeting on December 9, 2021, to discuss the proposed improvements and clarify the project and during the meeting there were several concerns and TMP clarified how we will be addressing those concerns. He said prior to the meeting we canvassed the neighborhood and staff members from our department went door to door and spoke with the neighbors to get a general consensus about their desire for increased improvements or actions such as the “do not block the box” at the intersection and they were largely positive He said

during the meeting several concerns were raised and we clarified our proposal and how those concerns would be addressed and the proposal maintains all access as it is today, and residents can enter and exit from Olmstead Place in any direction which we clarified at the meeting. He said in addition the fine is subject to \$100 on the northbound lane to stop the travelers in the northbound lane from encroaching and blocking the intersection and/or stopping residents or people that are visiting the place of worship from accessing the site. He said if approved it would be installed late spring and prior to that would send out notices to all the affected neighbors/homeowners of street to reiterate how this improvement works to be sure everyone has a full understanding.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A “DO NOT BLOCK THE BOX” ON EAST AVENUE AT OLMSTEAD PLACE AND REFER TO THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

OTHER ITEMS

1. 2022 SONO HALF-MARATHON UPDATE- JS ENDURANCE

Mr. Whipple provided an update on the 2022 SONO half marathon and said this will be the eighth year the race has been held and last year the race went very smoothly, and this was the second year the new route was implemented, and he has had follow-up correspondences with Sergeant Gulino and she said that everything had gone well, and he is looking to schedule the race for October 2, 2022,

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:32PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd