

**Police and Public Safety Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes**  
**June 29, 2022**

The meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Committee Chairman Charles Neubauer. Present in addition to Mr. Neubauer were committee members Charles Heller, Jeff Cascino, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council member Keith Endy; Lori Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Police Chief Barry Leatherman; and interested citizens.

Mr. Neubauer called for public comment; and recognized Mr. Charles Haddad who addressed the committee concerning the topic of elimination of parking on one side of East Philadelphia Avenue. Mr. Haddad shared with the committee that he provided Committee Chairman Neubauer with a folder containing all previously provided information concerning the discussion of parking on East Philadelphia Avenue. Mr. Haddad also provided the committee with a copy of a Reading Eagle Newspaper article concerning the City of Reading's discussions of traffic and parking issues within the city.

Mr. Neubauer recognized Mr. Joseph Trotter owner of Joseph's Styling Salon on South Reading Avenue. Mr. Trotter expressed to the committee that the Town Center Parking Lot provides ample parking for patrons and reminded the committee that there is no parking on the east side of South Reading Avenue in front of his business.

Mr. Neubauer made a motion, second by Mr. Heller, to approve the minutes of the June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 meeting of the committee. The motion was approved.

**Police Chiefs Report**

Chief Leatherman reviewed the Police Chief's Report dated June 15<sup>th</sup>. Chief Leatherman advised the committee that the department's recent hire Officer Wideman submitted a letter of resignation; his last day of work was June 17<sup>th</sup>. Officer Wideman expressed to the Chief that the decision to leave was not an easy decision for him and that he enjoyed working for the EBRP Department; however, an opportunity arose that he feels will be best for his family in the long term. The Regional Police Commission will begin the hiring process shortly.

**Unfinished Business**

**Part-Time Parking Enforcement Officer** – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that Shawn Pancoast has accepted the position of part-time parking enforcement officer at an hourly pay rate of \$17.00. A motion will be listed on the agenda of the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council to approve hiring Mr. Pancoast at \$17.00 an hour for a six-month probationary period.

**Parking on North & South Sides of E Philadelphia Avenue** - Mr. Neubauer opened discussion on the issue of elimination of parking on one side of East Philadelphia Avenue. Mr. Neubauer commented that he has thoroughly investigated traffic patterns and parking over the last months and he notes that many garbage trucks turn onto North Reading Avenue at the main intersection rather than continuing on Philadelphia Avenue. Neubauer is concerned that if parking on one side of Philadelphia Avenue were eliminated garbage trucks would no longer use North Reading Avenue and would choose to remain on Philadelphia Avenue due to the increased lane width. Mr. Neubauer expressed concern about pedestrian safety with vehicles able to travel at a higher speed due to the increase lane width, and believes the parking should remain unchanged. Mr. Heller stated that ninety percent of the people who attended the public meeting are opposed to the proposal to eliminate parking on one side of the street. Mr. Heller believes the parking should remain as it is. Mr. Cascino expressed his opinion that the current condition is a safety concern and believes parking on one side of Philadelphia Avenue should be eliminated.

Following all discussion, Mr. Neubauer requested the topic be placed on the agenda of the July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of Council for full Council to offer their opinion on the subject and to make a final decision.

**Hot Off the Press, Inc. – No Parking 90 Day Trial Period** – The No Parking Signs were installed on March 15<sup>th</sup>, the initial 90-day trial period expired on June 13<sup>th</sup>. At the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting Council approved a second 90 day trial period which will expire on September 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Loder stated that Solicitor Hartman is drafting an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to prohibit parking on the north side of East Fifth Street for a distance of thirty feet from Poplar Alley. Mrs. Loder expects to have the draft amendment at the July 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting for review and authorization to advertise the ordinance for adoption at the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Council.

**Resident Request to Make Oley Street One Way** – Mrs. Loder advised that Solicitor Hartman is preparing an amendment to the Code of Ordinances to designate the unnamed service street located in the middle of the 300 block of South Reading Avenue between 364 and 372 South Reading Avenue one-way from South Reading Avenue to the first service street intersection allowing travel from South Reading Avenue onto the unnamed service street and prohibiting exiting from unnamed service street onto South Reading Avenue. Mrs. Loder expects to have the draft amendment at the July 5<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting for review and authorization to advertise the ordinance for adoption at the August 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Council.

**Traffic Signal Improvement Project** – A copy of TPD, Inc.'s Traffic Signal Assessment Report, which was completed in July 2020, and a copy of the Road Impact Funding Agreement between the Borough and Delaware County Solid Waste Authority was provided to the elected officials by email. Mrs. Loder informed the committee that Mr. Lincoln, TPD, Inc.,

will update the cost estimate and will attend the July meeting of the committee to review the document and answer questions. Mrs. Loder reminded the committee that the Borough received the first payment from the Authority in the amount of \$75,000 in September of 2021. The agreement stipulates a total of ten payments of \$75,000 to be used exclusively to upgrade the traffic signals on Philadelphia Avenue.

### **New Business**

There was no new business to conduct.

### **Public Comments**

Mr. Neubauer called for public comment and recognized Mr. Haddad who expressed his disappointment with the opinions of some members of the committee on the subject of elimination of parking on East Philadelphia Avenue. Mr. Haddad encouraged the committee to continue discussion with the traffic engineer on the subject.

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. was made by Mr. Neubauer and seconded by Mr. Heller. The next meeting of the Police and Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder  
Borough Secretary