

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
October 18, 2011
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Lt. George Stanko, Rich Lapointe and Tom Parkins

Absent: Carol Houck
Marvin Howard
Dave Gula

Guests: Pete Dakunchak, Chimes Delaware
James Kristoff, Chimes Delaware

1. REQUEST FOR NO PARKING ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHURCH ROAD.

Rich Lapointe said this item was received from a resident that lives on the south side of Church Road that there be no parking in front of her neighbor's house.

Rich Lapointe said he spoke with the resident and mentioned that he would not be opposed to requesting no parking for the entire street however he would not be able to request no parking in front of her neighbors' house only.

Chief Tiernan asked how many houses are on the street. Lt. Stanko said there are three to four houses. Lt. Stanko said one of the houses on the street has had a history of problems, however never any problems with parking issues.

Rich Lapointe said Church Road goes from Casho Mill Road to Route 273.

Tom Parkins asked in regard to parking has there been any problems. Lt. Stanko said to his knowledge there is no accident history and is not aware of any problems with parking on the street.

Lt. Stanko said he would like to see more residents in favor prior to approving the request. Tom Parkins said he would like to see more than one person in favor of the request considering there is no previous history.

Lt. Stanko said he would obtain addresses of residents from dispatch and will provide information to Rich Lapointe to send out letters to residents on Church Road.

This item was tabled for discussion until response letters until have been received from the residents on Church Road.

2. REQUEST TO INSTALL WEIGHT LIMIT WARNING SIGNS ON EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND UPON TURNING ONTO W. PARK PLACE.

Lt. Stanko said this request originated from a resident complaint of overweight vehicles using W. Park Place.

Lt. Stanko said the current signage weight limit is 5,000 lbs. Lt. Stanko said a large pickup or SUV is approximately 6,000 lbs. Lt. Stanko recommended changing the weight limit on the signs to 7,500 lbs. and install weight limit warning signs on Elkton Road (both directions) and S. College Avenue (both directions) to warn motorists of the weight restriction.

Rich Lapointe said he received an email from Councilmember Athey that a resident complained that their house shakes from large vehicles.

MOTION BY LT. STANKO, SECONDED BY RICH LAPOINTE TO REQUEST CITY COUNCIL CHANGE THE WEIGHT LIMIT TO 7,500 LBS. AND INSTALL WEIGHT LIMIT WARNING SIGNS ON ELKTON ROAD (BOTH DIRECTIONS) AND S. COLLEGE AVENUE (BOTH DIRECTIONS) TO WARN MOTORISTS OF THE WEIGHT RESTRICTION.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.

3. REQUEST TO REMOVE THREE PARKING METERS IN FRONT OF 154 FOREST LANE AND DESIGNATE AS "HANDICAP PARKING ONLY".

Mr. Pete Dakunchak thanked the committee for allowing himself and Mr. James Kristoff to address the committee regarding this request.

Mr. Dakunchak said the Chimes organization is a private, non-profit residential agency operating across the state of Delaware since 1994. Mr. Dakunchak said specifically in Newark there are six group homes with a major facility on Elkton Road in Interchange Park.

Mr. Dakunchak showed the committee a picture a group home that was recently constructed at 154 Forest Lane. Mr. Dakunchak said they can fit five vehicles in the driveway and need to park the handicap van in the street at the parking meters. Mr. Dakunchak said a gas pipe at the side of the property and a ground swale has eliminated the option of adding additional parking.

Mr. Dakunchak said with the current parking situation, the home is in need of one to two additional parking spots on the street to be designated as handicap parking. Mr. Dakunchak said Chimes would be willing to fund the cost of the signs if needed.

Mr. Dakunchak said they are requesting three additional spaces at most, however would be willing to settle for two or one at the very least.

Tom Parkins asked if this is a two way road. Rich Lapointe confirmed it was.

Lt. Stanko said he is unaware of how much revenue is generated from the parking meters. Rich Lapointe said he feels it would be best to research how much revenue is generated from the parking meters prior to a decision being made.

Lt. Stanko said handicap vehicles are exempt from paying the fee at the parking meters, however could not exceed the two hour maximum time limit. Mr. Dakunchak said the handicap van is usually parked from 9 p.m. until 8 a.m. the following morning. Mr. Dakunchak said during the evening hours the handicap van could be moved and parked in the driveway.

Chief Tiernan said this request would be tabled until next month to allow research of parking meter revenue.

4. REQUEST FOR A STOP SIGN WESTBOARD ON COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE AT DELREM DRIVE.

It was mentioned at the meeting that this item may already be completed. Rich Lapointe said he would look into this.

5. TRAFFIC COMMITTEE CALMING UPDATE

Rich Lapointe said the Traffic Calming Committee asked for DelDOT's recommendations regarding traffic calming on Country Club Drive at Stamford Drive. The recommendation is a bulb out (concrete curb) with a crosswalk and yield sign on Country Club Drive at the intersection of Stamford Drive. This would eliminate street parking for three houses.

Rich Lapointe said the next recommendation was traffic calming on Country Club Drive at Danbury Road. Option 1 shows a shicain off the side of the road with a crosswalk and Option 2 would be a center island in the middle of the road. Rich Lapointe said he feels Option 1 would be a better option. Rich Lapointe said there is a catch basin in the middle of the shicain and would require a drainage channel.

Rich Lapointe said he would send letters out to residents with a survey and will need to receive 50% responses back with 57% in favor. If 57% of the residents are in favor the next step would be to complete a mock up with temporary improvements. After the temporary improvements have been in place for some time, additional traffic and speed counts will be taken to see if it has improved.

Tom Parkins asked if residents on Stamford Drive would be included. Rich Lapointe said letters would be sent to residents on Danbury and possibly a couple houses on Stamford Drive.

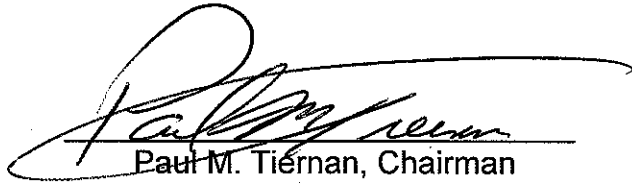
Lt. Stanko said he recommends installing a stop sign at Country Club Drive and Windsor Drive.

MOTION BY LT. STANKO, SECONDED BY RICH LAPOINTE TO REQUEST THE CITY INSTALL A STOP SIGN AT COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE AND WINDSOR DRIVE AND ADD IT TO THE CITY CODE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.

MOTION BY LT. GEORGE STANKO, SECONDED BY RICH LAPOINTE TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 4 TO 0.



Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman