

JAMESTOWN TRAFFIC COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 17, 2016

I. A regular meeting of the Jamestown Traffic Committee was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:00 PM by Chairman Thomas P. Tighe.

II. The following members were present:

Thomas Tighe, Chairman
Mary E. Meagher, Vice-Chairman
David Cain
Timothy Yentsch
Vincent Moretti

Also present:

Police Chief Edward Mello
Kim Devlin, Clerk

Absent:

Melissa Mastrostefano, Member
William Munger, Member

III. READING AND APPROVAL OF MIUNTES

A) February 18, 2016 (regular meeting)

Motion was made by Vice-Chairman Meagher, seconded by Member Cain to accept the February 18, 2016 minutes. So voted; (5 ayes, 0 nays).

IV. OPEN FORUM

A) Scheduled to Address

There were no Scheduled Requests to Address.

B) Non-Scheduled to Address

There were no Non-Scheduled Requests to Address

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Conanicus Avenue crosswalk; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

1) Letter from Police Chief Mello to the RI State Traffic Commission

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

Vice-Chairman Meagher moved to move up items VI (B) and VI (D); Member Cain seconded. So voted; (5 ayes, 0 nays).

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B) Amendment of the Jamestown Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles, Article III. Specific Street Regulations, Sec. 70-55 Restrictions on Certain Streets - Columbia Avenue; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Mr. Christian Infantolino, Esq. addressed the Traffic Committee on behalf of his client, Mr. Mike McQuade. Mr. Infantolino stated that McQuades Marketplace has been in business for 35 years and is an asset to the community. The proposed ordinance changes would impose hardships on his business and could affect supplier deliveries and the potential loss of insurance. The proposed changes are specific to Mr. McQuades business.

Mr. Infantolino stated he has been in discussions with town officials and they have developed a possible solution, which is to have one way traffic on Columbia Avenue from 6AM to 3PM.

A discussion on the logistics of the one-way traffic during the hours of 6AM to 3PM ensued.

Mr. Morris Browning, the store manager at McQuades, stated there are surveillance cameras monitoring the delivery area and detailed the logistics of maneuvering delivery trucks in the loading dock area.

Mr. Mike McQuade stated that he has operated the store (McQuades Marketplace) there for 34 years and has never had a complaint of this type.

Member Moretti asked Mr. McQuade to clarify if the one-way traffic would be moving south on Columbia.

Mr. McQuade stated that yes, the traffic would flow one way going south.

Ms. Jane Payne, produce manager at McQuades, stated that McQuades provides valuable services to the community. They are open during hurricanes and storms, will pick people up who need help with their shopping and drop them off, and will bring groceries to people in their homes. McQuades is a good neighbor, providing valuable services to the community.

Mr. Brian Cotsanos stated that he loves McQuades and the people who work there are incredible. He goes there multiple times per week and everyone does a top notch job. Mr. Cotsanos stated that this is a small neighborhood and he feels

that this issue has been blown out of proportion. Mr. Cotsanos stated he loves this neighborhood and moved to town to be able to walk to the store. That being said, he doesn't want to take our problems and move them to another street. Mr. Cotsanos stated that he should have approached McQuades outside of this forum to try to solve this problem with the delivery trucks. The neighborhood is a walking area, there are kids on bikes going to school in the morning. The truck traffic isn't an issue, it is the speed they travel and that the delivery trucks run the stop sign and double park on the street. Mr. Cotsanos also stated that the pallets stacked up in the back of the store are a hazard and an eyesore.

Ms. Halie Beckman stated that someone is going to get hurt and that another issue is the fumes from delivery trucks parked on the street go into people's homes. Ms. Beckman stated that the issues are worse in the summer.

Mr. Wyn Reed stated that, on behalf of the Rotary Club, McQuades is a generous donor to their organization and their donations make much of what they do in the community possible.

Mr. Infantolino stated that there may be some concerns being discussed that are outside of the Traffic Committee, relating to aesthetics. The way the proposed ordinance is written will solve the traffic problems but some issues are outside of the scope of the issue presented.

Mr. McQuade addressed the complaints about the delivery trucks running their engines, stating that there are health codes they have to abide by. A delivery truck delivering perishables cannot turn its engine off. Mr. McQuade also stated he can look in to having a more aggressive schedule for recycling pick up so the pallets are not stacked so high.

Chairman Tighe asked Mr. McQuade if the Traffic Committee approved the request to make Columbia Avenue one way from 6AM to 3PM and the neighbors were to come to you with an issue regarding the business would you work with them to clear up the issue.

Mr. McQuade stated that, yes, he would work with the neighbors.

Chairman Tighe stated that if he is going to consider turning the street one way, he would want a commitment to addressing community issues. Chairman Tighe asked Executive Director Chief Mello if we make it one way would it be just trucks or would it have to be cars, as well.

Chief Mello stated it would depend on how the ordinance is written, but you could make it just trucks one way.

Mr. Cotsanos stated that his issue is not with the aesthetics but with the pallets taking up parking spaces the delivery trucks could be using.

Mr. Infantolino stated that we are not talking about parking, we are talking about the flow of traffic. These are valid concerns than can be addressed, but they are not the concerns we are addressing at this meeting.

Member Moretti stated he understands what McQuades is asking for but he doesn't understand what the residents point is concerning the pallets, considering the pallets are not in the road.

Chairman Tighe stated that pallets and parking on private property are not a concern of the Traffic Commission, the issue being addressed is the proposal for one way traffic on Columbia Avenue. He will ask Chief Mello to look at the information and come back to the committee with a recommendation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

D) Amendment of the Jamestown Code of Ordinances Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles, Article IV. Stopping, Standing and Parking, Sec. 70-87 Prohibited or Restricted Parking on Specified Streets and Sec. 70-89 Parking at Jamestown Shores Beach; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Member Cain moved to send the recommendation to go to public hearing for the proposed ordinance changes to the Town Council; Vice-Chairman Meagher seconded. So voted; (5 ayes, 0 nays).

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A) Speed limit on North Road from Sloop Street north to Summit Avenue; review and discussion and/or potential vote

A discussion on parking in the Jamestown Shores and notification to residents of the proposed changes ensued.

A group of residents from the shores (Mr. Bob Gibbs, Mr. Dan Lilly, Mr. Jerry Lemoi and Mr. Michael Egan) all attended the meeting to state they heard about the parking changes "through the grapevine" and proper notice was not provided to them, as residents of the shores.

Chairman Tighe stated that we (Traffic Committee) has had several discussions on this issue and had properly advertised that the discussions were happening.

Vice-Chairman Meagher stated that the Traffic Committee is advisory only and the Town Council will vote on the ordinance at an advertised public hearing.

Mr. Dan Lily stated that he feels this issue should have been handled with abutters notices being sent to residents the new parking restrictions will affect.

Chairman Tighe stated the Traffic Committee will look at this again on the April 21 agenda and requested the residents of the shores that are present pass the word around.

Chief Mello stated that the recommendations are related to public safety and most relate to the Fire Chief, so it is important that the Chairman request the Fire Chief come to the April 21 meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

C) Amendment of the Jamestown Code of Ordinances Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles, Article III. Specific Street Regulations, Sec. 70-55 Restrictions on Certain Streets - Narragansett Avenue in front of the "Theatre;" review and discussion and/or potential vote

This item was continued until the next meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Committee, motion was made by Committee Member Yentsch and seconded by Committee Member Cain to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Kim Devlin
Clerk