

WORK SESSION OF AUGUST 18, 2015

Mayor Cosgrove called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Cosgrove, Deputy Mayors Dunay and Lefkowitz, Councilmember Swain.

ABSENT: Councilmember Peluso

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Van Kruijning, Municipal Clerk/Deputy Manager Kwasniewski and Attorney Mondello.

VARIOUS TRAFFIC ISSUES

Traffic Safety Officer Franco was present.

Manager Van Kruijning reviewed the traffic issues referenced in his recent email, plus two additional items.

Stop Sign at Lyncrest Avenue and Willow Street

Manager Van Kruijning reported there has been an inordinate amount of crashes occurring at this location due to stop sign violations by drivers traveling on Willow Street. Traffic Safety Officer Franco recommends having a three-way stop at the intersection.

There was consensus to have a three-way stop at the intersection of Lyncrest Avenue and Willow Street.

Fair Lawn Avenue and Pollitt Drive

Manager Van Kruijning stated Traffic Safety Officer Franco is recommending implementing "No Turn on Red" at the intersection of Fair Lawn Avenue and Pollitt Drive due to high pedestrian volume from the train station.

Councilmember Swain asked how residents will be notified about the change. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated it will be advertised and there will be signage. Municipal Clerk/Deputy Manager Kwasniewski stated this change must be done by ordinance, which must be published. Mayor Cosgrove suggested putting the electronic signboard on Pollitt Drive with a notice. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated that he will be using the electronic sign to call attention to the new stop sign on Lyncrest Avenue. He will try to get another sign.

Deputy Mayor Lefkowitz asked if the "no turn on red" would be restricted 24 hours. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated that he hasn't decided yet, but most likely it would be.

There was consensus to restrict cars from turning on red at the intersection of Fair Lawn Avenue and Pollitt Drive.

Fair Lawn Avenue and Orchard Street

Manager Van Kruijning stated Traffic Safety Officer Franco has recommended implementing "No Turn on Red" for traffic coming up Orchard Street and turning onto Fair Lawn Avenue at the traffic light. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated that this is a school post so the restriction would need to be from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at a minimum and may even be 24 hours. However, sometimes the County is reluctant to do that so it may end up being from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. similar to the intersection at Plaza Road and Morlot Avenue.

There was consensus to have a "No Turn on Red" at the light at Orchard Street and Fair Lawn Avenue.

No Stopping and Standing

Manager Van Kruijning distributed copies of a diagram prepared by Traffic Safety Officer Franco, showing a "No Stopping and Standing" area on Broadway westbound near the new traffic light.

Traffic Safety Officer Franco explained that the crosswalk was eliminated when the traffic light was installed. Five or six cars fit in the area between the cross walk and the area where the current traffic signal is located. If someone parks in that area, there is no traffic control up to the cross walk, which is what they had before the traffic light was installed. He asked the DOT to install the lights at the crosswalk, but their engineer said no. He has seen cars stop on the shoulder to pick up commuters and then pull out into the road as people are crossing in the cross walk. The cars have the right of way because the signal is behind them and they are not aware the light has turned red.

Another problem occurs when traffic backs up due to an incident at 17th Street or Summit Avenue. When the light at 17th Street turns green everyone proceeds to move forward, but sometimes a pedestrian pushes the button, receives a walk signal and there is a conflict. He has explained this to the DOT, but he does not know if they are going to move the signal to the cross walk or add an additional one. The DOT suggested the "No Stopping and Standing" area, but this becomes an enforcement issue. Although it eliminates a pick up and drop off area for people transporting commuters, he has to err on the side of caution.

Councilmember Swain asked Traffic Safety Officer Franco what he anticipates will happen when the pickup/drop off area is eliminated. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated that he is hoping that DOT will add an additional signal. If not, up to five cars will be able to stop and wait near Banta Place.

Councilmember Swain asked if cones will be placed to prevent cars from stopping in the shoulder. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated that he considered placing barrels after the signage is installed, but he did not want cars discharging passengers in the roadway. He may rely strictly on enforcement.

There was consensus for Traffic Safety Officer Franco to make the shoulder area near the train station a "No Stopping and Standing" area and for him to continue working with the DOT to find a permanent solution.

Memorial School

Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated that the Council passed a resolution last year prohibiting stopping and standing along the left side of Memorial Middle School. They did not have enough time to evaluate it last year, so he would like to do it again.

There was consensus to have Traffic Safety Officer Franco to assess the "no stopping and standing" restriction at Memorial School once school begins.

In Street Pedestrian Crossing Signs

Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated he was adding a pedestrian crossing sign at Fair Lawn Avenue and Burbank Street, due to the large numbers of pedestrians who cross there. The ordinance is already in place.

There was consensus that Traffic Safety Officer Franco place a pedestrian crossing sign at Fair Lawn Avenue and Burbank Street.

Mayor Cosgrove stated he has received numerous calls about cars speeding on Prospect Street. Traffic Safety Officer Franco stated that he will advise the Chief.

PLANNING BOARD REPORT REGARDING BARRISTER'S PROPOSAL

Attorney Mondello stated they have the opinion of the Planning Board. The Council can ask the Planner to review it and give his opinion as to whether it makes sense to rezone the area. Mayor Cosgrove asked to get a price estimate from the Planner. Municipal Clerk/Deputy Manager Kwasniewski stated that she will obtain an estimate from the Planner and add this item to the September agenda.

There was consensus for Municipal Clerk/Deputy Manager Kwasniewski to obtain an estimate from the Planner to review the Planning Board's report and render an opinion as to whether the area should be rezoned.

NAMING OF THE MEMORIAL POOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Manager Van Kruijning stated that he received a memo from Superintendent Graff suggesting they name the Pool Administration Building in honor of Elizabeth (Liz) Giszack. Ms. Giszack, who works mainly at Memorial Pool, has been a Borough employee for over 55 years. She is a veteran and a volunteer in several town organizations. He supports the recommendation. The sign would be placed near the temporary trailers and would be moved if they build a permanent structure.

Mayor Cosgrove stated this was a well-deserved honor. Ms. Giszack assisted him with his deep water test when he was 12 years old.

Manager Van Kruijning stated that the Borough will do the sign installation and try to schedule a dedication before the end of the pool season. If not, they will hold it at the beginning of next year's pool season. The cost of the sign, which he estimated to be \$500 to \$1,000, will come out of the Mayor and Council's budget for special projects.

SAFE ZONES

Councilmember Swain stated there was an article in The Record about municipalities that have established safe zones for residents selling items on Craig's List or EBay who do not feel comfortable having strangers come to their home. This allows people to do their transactions in a safer manner. She spoke to Chief Cauwels and Manager Van Kruijning about establishing the lobby of the Municipal Building as a safe zone. There are cameras if people wanted to conduct business outside in the parking lot.

Manager Van Kruijning stated that Chief Cauwels did not want any transactions to take place after business hours or on weekends. Mayor Cosgrove suggested people stop in and notify the Police desk so they are aware that people are in the parking lot.

There was consensus to designate the lobby as a safe zone where residents could conduct Craig's List or EBay sales transactions.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENTS

Allan Caan, 62 Chandler Drive expressed concern about the discrepancy in the noise ordinance for residential areas versus industrial areas. He felt it shouldn't make a difference where the noise was coming from if it disturbed a resident.

The Noise Ordinance has many exceptions for an industrial area, which are not allowed in a residential area. To stop industrial noise you are required to obtain a sound meter, close the windows, stand in the middle of the room and measure the decibels. No one is equipped to do that testing on an immediate basis. In other municipalities there is no difference between the two areas.

Mayor Cosgrove suggested that Attorney Mondello look into this and report back to the Council.

There was consensus to have Attorney Mondello research the Noise Ordinance and report back to the Council.

Howard Mark, 12-23 Ferry Heights asked how much open space would be left if they rezoned for town houses near the Vanderbeck House.

Robert Milanese, 406 Highland Avenue, Wyckoff stated that if the property were rezoned, he would follow the rules regarding open space requirements. At a prior hearing there was a concern about having the house retain the backyard setting to the river, where there is a considerable amount of space. He did not know the numbers.

Pam Coles, 13-34 George Street asked if the Barrister townhouse project appeared before the Zoning Board. Attorney Mondello stated that the project would only go before the Board if they file an application. It is improper to bring a conceptual plan before the Zoning Board, but a State statute allows a conceptual plan to go before the Planning Board. If the Council decides at some point to rezone the area, then the plan would go to the Planning Board who could impose reasonable restrictions on the property.

CLOSED SESSION RESOLUTION

Upon motion by Lisa Swain and a second by Deputy Mayor Dunay, the following closed session resolution was unanimously adopted at 7:30 p.m.

WHEREAS; the Open Public Meeting act of the State of New Jersey permits the public to be excluded from certain matters to be discussed by the Governing Body; and

WHEREAS; the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn desire to discuss Contract Negotiations – Health Benefits; and

WHEREAS; these matters are ones which permit the exclusion of the public from such discussions; and

WHEREAS; minutes will be taken during this closed session and once the need for confidentiality no longer exists the minutes will be available to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Fair Lawn that the public be excluded since these matters as set forth above are ones which permit the exclusion of the public from such discussions.

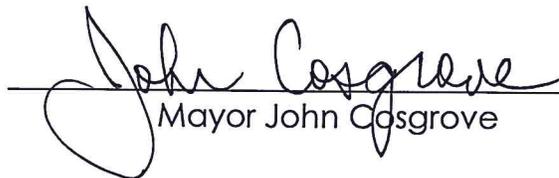
ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Councilmember Swain and a second by Deputy Mayor Dunay, the Work Session was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joanne M. Kwasniewski, RMC/MMC
Municipal Clerk/Deputy Manager

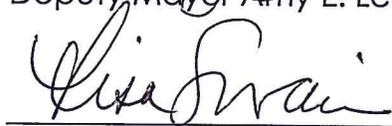
The undersigned have read and approve the foregoing minutes.


Mayor John Cosgrove


Deputy Mayor Daniel Dunay


Deputy Mayor Amy E. Lefkowitz

Absent
Councilmember Kurt Peluso


Councilmember Lisa Swain