

CITY OF NORWALK
TRAFFIC AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
BY VIDEO CONFERENCE AND TELECONFERENCE
JULY 15, 2024

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ATTENDANCE: Mayor Rilling; Commissioner Collier-Clemmons; Commissioner Lopez, Commissioner Paladino; Commissioner Sumpter

STAFF: Kyle Benjamin, Traffic Analyst; Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Paul Sotnik, DPW Senior Engineer; Chief James Walsh, Deputy Chief Terry Blake; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore

OTHERS: Jason Twedt; Sue Brown-Gorden; Jerry Toni

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:00PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 17, 2024

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2024, AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH (3) THREE IN FAVOR AND (1) ONE ABSTENTION-COMMISSIONER SUMPTER.**

2. APPROVE THE ROAD RACE ROUTE FOR THE DON CARMELO'S MARGARITA 5 K ON JULY 25, 2024, FROM 5:30PM TO 8:00PM

Commissioner Paladino moved the item for discussion.

Mr. Twedt said the date of the race will need to be amended to August 15, 2024.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO CHANGE THE DATE TO AUGUST 15, 2024.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Commissioner Lopez asked if this would be a conflict with any other events that are scheduled. Mr. Benjamin said he has spoken with Ms. Breault, and she said she had specifically chosen that date because there are no other events scheduled.

Mr. Twedt provided an overview of the route and said they plan on using the sidewalks. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked how many people they are expecting to participate in the race. Mr. Twedt said this is the first year the event will be held and that is one of the reasons they had delayed starting this week as they needed some ramp up time, but his guess is there will be approximately 200-250 participants and will work with the police and will close a lane in the road if necessary. He said there will also be volunteers to help with the event as well as a crew that will come in and work with the police directly to control intersections. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the event will be capped off at a certain number of participants. Mr. Twedt said "no" as he does not expect it to be over 250 participants for the first year.

Commissioner Lopez said since the event will take place on the sidewalks there should be no issue with traffic. Mr. Twedt said the only concern that he has is coming up Calf Pasture Road but there should not be much traffic flow at that time of the day. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if there will be prompters along that way so that the runners know to stay on the sidewalk. Mr. Twedt said the course is clearly marked and there will be cones and signage. Commissioner Sumpter asked in addition to the signage if there are instructions given to the runners prior to the start of the event. Mr. Twedt said “yes” and there will also be a racer guide they will be able to access but they are always at the discretion of the police so if they decide the route should be changed, they will follow what they say.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE ROAD RACE ROUTE FOR THE DON CARMELO’S MARGARITA 5K ON AUGUST 15, 2024, FROM 5:30PM TO 8:00PM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE SONO ARTS FESTIVAL FROM 6:30AM AUGUST 3, 2024, TO 8:00PM AUGUST 4, 2024

Mayor Rilling asked if there are any changes to the pattern that has been approved in the past. Ms. Brown-Gordon said “no” and they are excited to be doing this again with a lot of support from the local merchants, and everything has been working well so far so unless there are any suggestions from the commission, she would like to continue what they have been doing in the past. Mayor Rilling asked if all the permits and insurance are in place. Ms. Brown-Gordon said she is currently working on everything with Recreation and Parks, and everything is proceeding according to plan, and she will be sure everything that is needed will be completed.

Ms. Brown-Gorden said because they would like to have the police leave on Sunday evening, they will encourage the exhibitors to start breaking down a little earlier and moving their items to the side so that the officers are not waiting for the last stragglers.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE SONO ARTS FESTIVAL FROM 6:30AM AUGUST 3, 2024, TO 8:00PM AUGUST 4, 2024
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION OYSTER FESTIVAL FROM 3:00PM SEPTEMBER 6, 2024, TO 10:00PM SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Mayor Rilling said he believes the traffic pattern will be the same as it has been in the past. Mr. Toni said “yes”, and this is the 46th year the event will be held.

Mr. Toni said one of the concerns that is expressed by the local residents that are affected by the street closures is enforcement of the “no parking”. Mayor Rilling said that is the responsibility of the police department and they will take note of that.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION OYSTER FESTIVAL FROM 3:00PM. SEPTEMBER 6, 2024, TO 10:00PM. SEPTEMBER 8, 2024.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. APPROVE THE PROPOSED “NO PARKING”, “15 MINUTE” & “NO STANDING”
REGULATIONS ON ST. JOHN STREET**

Mr. Benjamin said one of the signals that TMP will be upgrading is on East Avenue @ St. John's Street and as part of that there were upgrades to the sidewalks around the intersections and crosswalks. He said prior to the project being done they had a discussion with the businesses as there were issues with vehicles parking on the sidewalk so as a solution to this issue, they are proposing to create two 15-minute parking spaces that would help alleviate the issue that was creating a hazard for pedestrians and destroying the sidewalk. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if currently there is parking on the sidewalk. Mr. Benjamin said there is no legal parking there, but vehicles were parking on the sidewalk, which is illegal according to the city code, so they are trying to accommodate the users of the restaurant as well as to have safe traffic around the intersection. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons said that habits are sometimes hard to break and although those two parking spaces are being made available there will still be those that feel they can park on the sidewalk and asked if that will be enforced. Mr. Benjamin said “yes”, and the plan is to have multiple signs to disallow people from being able to park on the sidewalk and the sidewalk will now be concrete with a concrete curb and will be having a discussion with the police to be sure it is enforced and will also be looking to see if the Parking Authority can enforce it as well. Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if it is possible to give a letter to the establishments that they can give to their customers stating that there will be no more parking on the sidewalk. Mr. Benjamin said they can definitely do that.

Mr. Paladino asked if in Norwalk does “no standing” allow for drop off people and if so, is there a limitation as to how long they can be there with the engine running. Mr. Benjamin said the federal and state standard is that no vehicle can be there whatsoever, but he will look into the city ordinance.

Commissioner Lopez asked if there is an area for truck deliveries. Mr. Benjamin said he believes there is a location within their parking lot, but he will inquire and report back to the commission.

**** COMMISSIONER PALADINO MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED “NO PARKING”, “15 MINUTE” & “NO STANDING” REGULATIONS ON ST. JOHN STREET.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. APPROVE FULL ROAD CLOSURE OF PERRY AVENUE BRIDGE FOR A PERIOD
NOT TO EXCEED 30 DAYS FOR REPAINTING OF THE BRIDGE**

Mr. Sotnik said the residents in the area have requested the Perry Avenue bridge be repainted and in order to remove the existing paint from the rails a containment system will need to be installed to collect the debris from the surface preparation for the sandblasting of the rails to repaint them. He said they are proposing to close the area from 187 Perry Avenue to the intersection of Perry Avenue @ Old Kings Highway and detour traffic down Silvermine Avenue to James Street to Perry Avenue and the proposed detour is approximately 2.9 miles and will keep traffic on city collector streets. He said once the contract is issued, they will have 90 days to complete the work, but can only close the road for a maximum of 30 days, and due to the width of the road it would be extremely difficult and almost unsafe for the workers to have alternating one way traffic and that is why they are proposing this detour and road closure.

Mayor Rilling asked who will be performing the work. Mr. Sotnik said they will not know that until the bid is awarded.

Mayor Rilling asked if it is possible to reopen the bridge in the evening. Mr. Sotnik said they would need to take the containment structure off the bridge and would be a lot of work to take it down on a daily basis. Mayor Rilling asked Mr. Sotnik if he anticipates the would being completed in less than 30 days. Mr. Sotnik said he hopes so and that the work should not take more than three weeks but is weather dependent and that is why they are requesting 30 days.

Mayor Rilling said there are three stores in that area and asked if they have been contacted. Mr. Sotnik said “no” as they wanted to present to the Traffic Authority first and once, they receive feedback from the Traffic Authority they will go and speak with the local businesses. Mayor Rilling said the Traffic Authority would like to know the responses from the businesses once they are contacted to be sure there are no significant objections.

Ms. Valadares requested the approval this evening and they will include the request for the businesses feedback into the bid package so that it can be issued and if there is something that the businesses are opposed to, they will come back to the Traffic Authority with a different proposal as they would like the work to begin early fall otherwise it will be too cold to paint.

Commissioner Sumpter asked about any environmental issues there may be. Ms. Valadares said they will be installing the containment system to catch the material.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE FULL ROAD CLOSURE OF PERRY AVENUE BRIDGE FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 30 DAYS FOR REPAINTING OF THE BRIDGE.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd