

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

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via e-mail in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Garrett Bolella at gbolella@norwalkct.gov to provide written comment prior to the meeting.

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

STAFF: Chief James Walsh; Deputy Chief Melissa Lepore, Deputy Chief James Dinho; Kyle Benjamin, Traffic Analyst, Sabrina Godeski, Director, Business Tourism & Development; Anna Breault, Special Event Coordinator, Business Tourism & Development

OTHERS: Jessica Morin; Gene Morrell

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 4:02PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2024.

**** COMMISSIONER SUMPTER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION-COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS.**

2. APPROVE THE FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE ANNUAL CITY OF NORWALK MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON MAY 27, 2024 FROM 9:00AM TO 1:00PM

Mr. Benjamin said this will be the same route that was approved last year and in previous years.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE FULL ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE ANNUAL CITY OF NORWALK MEMORIAL DAY PARADE ON MAY 27, 2024 FROM 9:00AM TO 1:00PM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. APPROVE THE FULL CLOSURE FOR THE ANNUAL ROWAYTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION FUN RUN ON JUNE 16, 2024, FROM 8:00AM TO 12:30PM.

Mayor Rilling asked if the event will be the same as has been done in past years. Ms. Morin said “yes”.

**** COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FULL CLOSURE FOR THE ANNUAL ROWAYTON CIVIC ASSOCIATION FUN RUN ON JUNE 16, 2024, FROM 8:00AM TO 12:30PM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. APPROVE THE FULL CLOSURE FOR FIRST DERBY EVENT ON MAY 4, 2024, FROM 9:00AM TO 11:00PM

Commissioner Sumpter moved the item for discussion.

Ms. Breault said this will be the first Ultimate Kentucky Derby block party and will be held on May 4, 2024, and the actual event is from 3:00PM. to 10:00PM. and will take place on River Street and is the same closure that occurred during the Wall Street Wonderland holiday event that took place this year. She said the closure will be from 9:00AM. to 11:00PM. and there will be a stage setup at the end of River Street on the Wall Street side. She said there will be no access to the Yankee Doodle Garage through River Street or to the lot in front of the Yankee Doodle Garage and the businesses are being notified and that the only way to access the Yankee Doodle Garage will be from Burnell Blvd. She said there will not be alcohol or vending whatsoever on River Street, and the purpose of the closure is for easy and safe access for the attendees going to and from the businesses throughout the day, as well as for the stage.

Mayor Rilling asked what will be on River Street other than people. Ms. Breault said the stage as well as restrooms and sinks on the Burnell Blvd. side of River Street. Mayor Rilling asked if there will be police officers present to prevent people from bringing alcohol out of the establishments. Ms. Breault said she believes that ARC is hiring and providing security and Chief Walsh has been in contact with Ms. Vonashek regarding security and she believes it was discussed that the police will be needed on each end of the street. Chief Walsh said that Deputy Chief Blake has been contacted and there is a whole security plan with officers. Deputy Chief Blake said the security plan is similar to the winter event and there will be officers on each end of the street as well as officers patrolling the street on foot in the small area to ensure status quo and to keep the drinking inside the restaurants.

Mayor Rilling asked for additional information regarding the betting. Chief Walsh said that he will contact the Economic Development department tomorrow regarding the liquor laws and consumer protection laws that prohibits that. Mr. Morrell said there is an OTB at the top of the street and the betting will be handled through them directly and will not be handled through the bars and there will be an entrance to go into that structure to place their bets.

Mayor Rilling asked that there are barriers placed to prevent people from exiting the garage on the River Street side.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked what the charge is for attending the event. Ms. Breault said it is a free event.

Commissioner Lopez asked about the road closure being from 9:00AM to 11:00PM. Ms. Breault said when she originally made the closure map the actual time of the event wasn't confirmed but has now confirmed that the event will begin at 3:00PM so if the closure needs to be shortened it would be completely fine. Commissioner Lopez asked if there is an expected set up time for the stage. Mr. Morrell said the stage will be set up around 8:00AM but will be setup on the sidewalk and will not be obstructing the street at all and are only closing the street for when there will be people there, so the closure can be pushed back an hour before the start time of the event. Chief Walsh said that River Street is not a highly traveled road, so he does not see much impact from the morning closure. Mayor Rilling suggested the road closure begin two hours before the event.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the businesses have been notified. Mr. Morrell said that every business that is on River Street will be part of this event and all businesses that will be affected have been notified of this event.

**** COMMISSIONER LOPEZ MOVED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT:**

****APPROVE THE FULL CLOSURE FOR FIRST DERBY EVENT ON MAY 4, 2024, FROM 1:00PM TO 11:00PM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. APPROVE NEW 1-HOUR PARKING REGULATION FROM 9:00AM TO 7:00PM
MONDAY-SATURDAY FOR 28 BOUTON STREET**

Mr. Benjamin said at the January Traffic Authority meeting the commission had a similar request from a deli on Lexington Avenue that the commission had approved two parking spaces for one hour parking from 9:00AM to 7:00PM and this request is the same concept but on 28 Bouton Street for Manny's Deli. He said the owner has requested a similar parking situation because they had issues with people parking on the street and not having the ability for customers of the deli to come in. He said there is parking available on the lot however, that parking is for the residents who live above the deli as well as for the contractor yard that is in back of the lot so there is no parking for the deli customers. He said TMP does not see any issues with giving them the two parking spaces for one hour parking from 9:00AM to 7:00PM to meet their requirements.

Mayor Rilling asked if the police department would be called on to enforce that. Mr. Benjamin said "yes". Chief Walsh said the Parking Authority has LPR's to determine how long a vehicle has been parked and the police will have difficulty in determining that. Mr. Benjamin said the ability should be the same as is on Lexington Avenue where if a vehicle is staying too long the police would be called but for the most part the vehicles come and go unless there is an issue with a vehicle staying too long.

Commissioner Collier-Clemmons asked if the parking spaces that were approved on Lexington Avenue are working well. Mr. Benjamin said he has not seen any data to say whether it is working well or not but there have been no complaints from either the business or residents on the street.

Commissioner Lopez asked why the request is for one hour parking and not 30-minute parking to create more turnover. Mr. Benjamin said they just don't have that ability and still want the residents to be able to park overnight.

****COMMISSIONER COLLIER-CLEMMONS MOVED TO APPROVE NEW 1-HOUR
PARKING REGULATION FROM 9:00AM TO 7:00PM MONDAY-SATURDAY FOR 28
BOUTON STREET.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT

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

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:27PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd