

Chief Brian Kilcullen called the meeting to order at 9:02 hours

Members Present: Chief Brian Kilcullen, Ted Gillen, Soupie Dethlefsen (Associate Engineer) and Tom Donahue (BOA Representative)

Members Absent: Commander Charles Whitehead, and Bradley LaFaso of LaFaso Electric

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request for “No Parking This Side of Street” signs to be installed on one side of Edgerton Street (for the block between East Street & Lafayette Street) – Paula Strusinsky

Chief mentioned how it's already marked from the block of Lafayette to the Dead End that parking is prohibited on the North Side, it's only permitted on the South Side of the Street. Ted Gillen stated that based on his conversation, she would like to see “No Parking” on the South side of the Street, she lives on the North side. She can't quite squeeze around when they're directly opposite her driveway. She did say that she tries to communicate with them but they're night owls, she's a little reluctant to approach them. Ted mentioned that it is a tight squeeze. Chief Kilcullen agreed and mentioned they went up and measured it and it laid out at 21.6 feet. If it was less than 20 feet, we could say “No Parking” on both sides. It's 21.6 so we can say “No Parking” on one side. Chief said that he thought it made sense to just continue on that block to prohibit parking on the North side. He thinks that no matter what side they put it on that someone will have a concern. Ted said that he doesn't mind giving people bad news, this is what makes sense for the situation. Chief mentioned again that it's already prohibited on the North Side and permitted on the South Side of the Street (Dead End section). It's fairly narrow, It's a Dead End. Chief said that when we did Edgerton (the dead end block), he was thinking that maybe the Fire Department may have requested it, but he thinks that the Fire Hydrants might be on the North Side. Said he thinks there was some conversation about that and I think that's why they were permitted on that side. Nora mentioned that that sounds familiar to her. Chief felt it was like 6 or 8 years ago. Chief Kilcullen said he didn't think to look yesterday when he was out checking on this. Ted mentioned he had a few things to do after this, will drive through here again and double check this because of the Hydrants. Chief Kilcullen asked if we would have hydrants on both sections of Edgerton. Ted said he doesn't want to assume we wouldn't, unless the Hydrant flows through the center of the road. Chief Kilcullen said he thinks it makes sense to limit parking to one side and restrict it to the other and assuming that the Fire Hydrants are on the North Side, we will prohibit parking on the North Side. If it's something other than that, we can come back next month. Does that make sense? Ted said Yes, it does and that he will talk to the Owner, go look farther and go across the Street and talk to the neighbors and say they can park here but just stay out of bounds of the opposing driveway. Chief Kilcullen said if he needed anything else from us to let him know. Very good.

2. Request to put up a Stop sign up at the corner of Hillcrest and Highland Avenue – Linda Harris

Nora indicated that Linda Harris was across the street at City Hall, not sure what department, yesterday and they said for her to bring it over here to be put on Today's meeting. She mentioned that there's one already on Highland Ave and Bellevue. Chief Kilcullen asked Ted if he took a lot at this. He said he did, just before he came here. Chief said that she can see it's for speed. Chief Kilcullen said that Highland Avenue, he thinks come into Hillcrest and there is no Stop sign. We have run into this a number of times. He said he thinks it makes sense to put one up at Highland Avenue Extension but I don't see the need on Hillcrest and then she says it's to control the speed. That's a short block. Chief doesn't think this would be supported by the MUTCD to place a Stop sign there. Ted said they just had the same conversation coming over here. It doesn't have the traffic volume. That's what Soupie said. It's short, it's probably one or two people that are maybe speeding or perceived as speeding. It would be my instinct to have a 3-way stop there. I like to have them at those T-intersections and controlling intersecting streets based off of sight distance and the Chief said that's probably why one was put up on Bellevue. Said he doesn't remember that one coming here (Traffic Safety Committee). Ted Gillen indicated

that we probably just replaced one, there because they paved Bellevue last year and that's a pretty odd intersection. Bellevue kind of swings around and there's a boulder there and Ted said he feels like in his mind he can see an old faded Stop Sign pushed back in a weird spot and we just installed a new one to make sure it's compliant.

Tom arrived. Apologized for that. Chief said that we'll fill him in. We're on the second item. We will fill you in on the first and second but the second was a request to put up a Stop sign at the corner of Hillcrest and Highland Avenue and so typically when we get these, we go out and look at what the requests are so we have a pretty good sense of what it looks like, evaluate and this this request, the person requested this does indicate the request is to control the speed, my feeling is that it's not supported by the MUTCD. It's the governed document in place for these kinds of things. Chief referred to the 2st request, mentioned that 6-8 years ago that did restrict parking on the North side and permitting parking on the South Side because it's fairly narrow, it's a Dead End. Said that if the Fire Dept. didn't request it, they were involved in sort of the analysis of the request and evaluation and we did restrict parking on the North side. Parking is only on the South side. We approved this request (1st request). Chief said the reason why there was No Parking on the North side, he remembers is because the Fire Hydrants were on that side. It gives the Fire Department easier access. So, if that's the case, we will do the same on this block. (Allow parking on the South side but prohibit it on the North side, so we would just be extending, it would be an extension of what is already in place on the block to the East of this) Tom indicated that he could provide some input but first of all, Disclosure that his siblings own a house on Edgerton (the one his Dad built when he was alive) His mother died of Covid so they now have the house, 50 Edgerton. Said he is familiar with this, he grew up on that Street, literally and so he still feels like he can still participate because I don't feel like it's a conflict of interest but it's important to disclose it. Disclosing it doesn't mean that you don't have to weigh in or vote, it just means to make a decision and this doesn't matter to him other than he has an interest in a house, there. Having said that, he said that he's familiar with the Street and there's almost the same exact number of houses from one side to the other. There's actually one more on the North side. In his mind, he was counting them and believed there was 9 on the North and 8 on the South side. So, number of houses doesn't matter as much. Said that he's familiar with what she's getting at because we drive up the Street to check on the house every so often and the only pitch point is right at her house because the person across the Street, who used to be Officer Crowley's house, that was the family of the Crowley brothers. Chief asked, of the Run? Tom stated Yes and Larry Crowley was with the City PD and his Godfather and that was their house. The people that live there now, they park there and it's at the crest, there's a little hill there. (At the crest of it) It's right where those two sides are always conflicting not anywhere along the two sides of the street and I can say this from experience. I know that Street probably better than anybody. It's just never a problem all the way up the street until you get to that crest and then those two houses are always parked across from each other. But, he's never had a problem getting through, it's just that you have to ease through because it's a little tight. He's sure that's the reason she has brought this up. However, as far as how many people park on one side of the Street or the other, I can tell you that if you were looking to do it basically on volume, most people park on the South side of the Street, very few people park on the North side, except in front of her house. So, if you want to be the least disruptive in providing a one side or the other version, you're probably going to disrupt it much less on the North side because literally no one parks on the North side. He said he shouldn't say literally, virtually. You can drive up there any time of day and you can see if there's car's parked, they're always on the South side. Ted Gillen said that he think's he's right. Tom said that it would probably be the least disruptive response to her request, would be to just do the North side and everybody on the South side will still be happy. But, he thinks if you do it the other way around, everybody on the South side isn't going to be happy. Very unscientific, by the way. Chief stated that when they went up yesterday, there were three cars on the South side, two of which were parked facing traffic. He said that he was out measuring and Emilio starts writing a ticket, so the woman comes out and he starts talking to her and explained it to her and she moved it so he didn't write her a ticket. So as she grabs her keys, Chief said he was measuring, he was done, he gets in the passenger seat, Emilio starts pulling out, they're heading East, past where she's parked and she can't see them and that's exactly why you can't park facing traffic. She was pulling up, almost hit them and said Sorry. Then there were two cars closer to Lafayette, one was facing traffic. Tom mentioned there's

apartment's on that side and that may be the reason for the volume. One on the very corner of the South side and then next to it, it's fairly large, thinks John Ruggiero owns it, that building, or used to, anyways, thinks it has like half a dozen apartment's in it and then the one next to his parent's. Said they own the brick house, back when they built houses in brick. They're horrible to heat, by the way. The next house, which was Senator Kennedy, Peg Flory, she was a Kennedy. That's where she grew up. That's a fairly large, probably no more than 4 apartment's but he thinks the volume on the South side is also more because of the Apartment houses. On the other side, there's no apartment houses, it's all single family. Ted stated that that was what she told him on the phone and it just happens because there's one house across the street from her driveway, there's a lot of vehicles so she has a tough time navigating through. She also brought up cars parked on both sides of the street, emergency vehicle's sneaking through. Ted said it makes sense. Tom said he would do it on the North side, makes sense for the sheer volume. Ted stated that they'll take a cruise up after this and double check the hydrant locations. Tom said that's a good point too. Ted mentioned and then if there's a mid block hydrant that's of concern, he can report back. Otherwise, we can set it up to match the neighboring block, call her back, knock on door and speak to neighbors and just have them stay out of this zone. Tom said it will be less confusing, too, to have all North side from one side to the other. Said he was trying to think of where the hydrant is and he actually doesn't know. He can't recall. Ted said they could just be on the corners. Nora mentioned seeing them on the corner.

Tom Donahue stated that there was a time when the previous Chief used that (Stop sign) as a calming measure and that it became the policy for awhile. Tom stated that it's a very quiet neighborhood and there's going to be minimal traffic there. Chief mentioned that this particular intersection is a 3-way intersection and there's no Stop sign at all and Highland Avenue extension comes into Hillcrest and there's no Stop sign. Tom said, right, same as Wendy and Laverne where he lives. Chief Kilcullen mentioned that as we get these requests, well, that Ted Gillen had come up with a plan on prioritizing. Ted indicated that they went through 2 phases (all the Class 1 road intersections first) because there were some that would have these T or 90 degree intersections that would have a Yield sign so we upgraded those to Stop's and then we looked at all of the Class 2 highways and collectors and there was a lot of those intersections that were totally uncontrolled.

Anytime there was a T, we would stick a Stop sign there. Ted indicated that this Hillcrest would be way down the priority line based on the traffic volumes. He said there may be one or two, just an assumption. Referred to all these guidance's. He and Soupie were talking and it doesn't say Shall or Shall not, but the guidance's say Yield or Stop signs should not be used for speed control and that's just one bullet point and a number of considerations that you should take into account. The first one being: Combined vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian volumes entering the intersection from all approaches averages more than 2,000 units per day. They said maybe in a Year. If you have a lot of volume, then you have to think about controlling something. Then, it goes down and talks about if you want to control something, you think about controlling the lower volume street first. Tom said, so that's kind of the situation. Tom asked if Ted had already gone out to see it or are you putting it off until the next meeting? Ted said they'll both take a cruise out there but they will definitely go out there but that he's very familiar with the area. Tom asked Chief, did you say the standard operating procedure here was to go out there and see it first. Chief said, ideally. Nora stated she didn't get this until yesterday, she brought it in late. Chief mentioned he was out measuring Edgerton and he swung up there, too. Chief stated that he is comfortable denying this request. Just for it to be incorporated into the larger project. Chief doesn't think there is anything urgent, doesn't think there is anything urgent to be addressed here, just conditions that we are trying to address through the City. Evaluate this in the context of what you're trying to do with everything in the City .

Other old business

Ted Gillen said that he just needed to add a couple of things under Old Business.

1. Ted said he knew that they had talked about it last week but that, you know that one midblock crosswalk at the new multi-use path? Yep. West Street. Ted indicated that there was some paint down there at one point in time but just the water based, the water based of which that wears rapidly. Said that we've got additional funds and we've been trying to put something more durable down, like epoxy. Trying to sneak our way through the City and when we get that down, we will do that stretch because there's other spots in that corridor that are pretty rough and that just so happens to be out bounds of the Pine Street intersection, just out bounds of the Class 1 paving project where you can see they're painting that. So, we've got to get that intersection locked up with the pavers, so we'll just make sure, whoever the contactor is, that it goes down West Street all the way. Tom mentioned that it has a blind spot there, then said he shouldn't say blind spot, just limited visibility. However, he did compliment at the same meeting, those stop signs with the solar flashing lights, those are slick. It even has a sound to it if you're visionally, sorry, hearing impaired, not visionally impaired, I'm sorry. Traffic really does pay attention to those blinking lights. You just have to take the time to hit the button and he makes sure to do every time. Ted mentioned that there is one at every crossing. He also mentioned that they put a couple in on Stratton/Allen, West from the hospital. Thinks that they paid for them and we installed them. So, like every crossing on Allen Street and South side of Stratton and thinks we have a couple others that we will be installing soon, downtown. Tom said, It's flashing, it's solar powered. What's not to like? Very nice. Well done.
2. Updates from DPW Engineer in regards to Old Business Items

Any other new business? No.

Adjourned at 9:31 hours

Submitted by Nora J. Moore, Records Clerk