



Town of Clayton
Public Hearing
Thursday, March 9, 2023
Location of Public Hearing:
Clayton Fire Company
300 East Street
Clayton, DE 19938

Attendance:	Chairperson:	Mr. Carrow
	Committee Members:	Mr. Paisley Ms. Spencer Mr. Pedigo
	Councilors:	Mayor Smith
	Staff:	Lt. Harvey Scott Dave Ross, Director of Public Works Melissa Knight, Recording Secretary
	Guest:	Gale Lukas Julie & Chuck Kelchner Bill & Rhonda Bullock Danny & Monica Holmes Garrett Laurin Markiya Mills Jonathan Burnett Pat Long
	Absent:	Robert Cote, Town Manager

1. Call to Order

Mr. Carrow called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 p.m. Members of the public were introduced to the Street Committee Members, Mayor and the staff that was present. The Public Hearing was then turned over to Mayor Smith to facilitate the hearing.

Mayor Smith thanked the Chairman and the public for attending the Public Hearing. We hope to cover the following areas: Parking Concerns, Proposed Solutions, Opportunity for the Public to Speak and Adjournment.

Our goal tonight is to bring you up to speed with an issue that has been presented to the Town. We intend to show you some of the solutions we have proposed in the PowerPoint. We would like to hear from you and some of the ideas you might have. We believe that the best way to

solve this problem is to work with the affected residents directly instead of essentially imposing a solution without seeking your input.

To you a background on two departments you will hear during this discussion:

- The Town of Clayton's Public Works Department is in charge of maintaining and repairing the Town's electric and sewer systems, you often see them throughout Town conducting yard waste cleanup, among there many other functions. All of which require them to use large commercial equipment.
- Clayton Fire Company is of course the Town's independent Volunteer Fire Company that has been in service since 1889. Their apparatus consists of many large fire trucks, that includes a recently purchase Tower Ladder Truck measuring over 45' long and over 8' wide.

At a previous Streets Committee Meeting held on January 17, 2023, members of Clayton Fire Company and Public Works Department alerted the Town to various parking issues in the Town. These issues prevented both the Public Works vehicles and the Fire Company's apparatus from maneuvering down the street. At the meeting, both department submitted a joint list of the street they were concerned with, and the committee instructed the Town Manager and Public Works Secretary to invite the residents that lived on these streets to a Public Hearing to discuss and work together to find a joint solution. Essentially that is why we are here. We have no interest in inconveniencing you by imposing an unwanted method of parking. We felt if we came together and came up with a joint solution we could solve this issue and increase your safety with the least possible disruption.

The streets that were mentioned by the Fire Company and the Public Works Department were:

- North and South Longwood Lane
- Old Creek Drive and Island Lane in Providence Crossing;
- Spelt Drive in Grain Mill Station

See PowerPoint page 8. Here is an example of the parking issue in Grain Mill Station.

Essentially, the two red sedans parked on either side of the street creates a small hole for cars to pass through. But it's way too small for the Fire Company and Public Works trucks to fit.

See PowerPoint page 9.

Here you see a satellite overview of Grain Mill Station. Specifically, you can see in the area outlined orange shows this issue from above. One of the solutions we propose for this is for you to help us ensure you and your neighbors are using the common area parking spots when you aren't parking in your driveways. This will limit the number of cars on the street. Normally at night you can ride through and see a number of parking spots in the common area open but a lot of people still parked on the street. Secondly, we propose to limit parking to one side of the street. This way if Emergency vehicles needed to get through, they would have the opposite lane of the street to move since everyone would be parked on the same side.

See PowerPoint page 10.

You can view a similar issue on North and South Longwood Lane. Also, at the previously mentioned Streets Committee Meeting in January, Clayton Fire Company informed the committee that they received an Emergency Fire Call to North and South Longwood Lane. When they turned into the neighborhood, they found something similar to this and the fire trucks could not get down the street.

See PowerPoint page 11.

Looking from the satellite you can see how narrow the streets on Longwood Lane are in general. So when you compound that with cars parked on either side of the street, it creates a real problem.

See PowerPoint page 12.

Here is what the committee proposes:

Make parking on one side of the street depending on its position. For North Longwood Lane, parking would be limited to the side of the street facing the South, which also means the side that faces the entrance. Similarly, on South Longwood Lane, the parking would be limited to the side that faces North – also meaning the side that faces the exit as the diagram shows in the PowerPoint. This would create extra room for the Fire Company, Public Works, and residence vehicles, while making it easier and more efficient for you to enter and leave the development.

See PowerPoint page 13.

Old Creek Drive and Island Lane in Providence Crossing have similar problems in their circles. The nature of the cul-de-sac means that when vehicles are parked on either side, the Fire Company and Public Works trucks have to jump from side to side while going around the circle. When vehicles are parked directly across each other on the road, there is no way for them to get through.

See PowerPoint page 14.

Looking again at an aerial view, the Committee proposes to limit parking on the residence side of the street. Again this gives the Fire Company and Public Works Department the other lane of traffic to pass cars parked on the street.

See PowerPoint page 15.

The Committee has proposed the same for Island Lane as Old Creek Drive.

See PowerPoint page. 16.

Essentially, we are hoping that if we can work with you and come to a solution together, we can:

- Increase the safety of the Public Works Crews as they work through these congested areas;
- Ensure that the Fire Company can safely and quickly reach their emergency calls.

- Make it more efficient for you to travel through your neighborhood;
- Prevent property damage.

As the Fire Company told the Committee, nothing will stop them in fulfilling their duty to extinguish a fire, rescue those that may be trapped, and prevent it from spreading. Had the Emergency call on Longwood Lane turned out to be a significant fire, the Fire Company would have had to use invasive recourse to move the resident's car. What we have presented you is the reality of the situation. The job of this Committee is to provide you with services like the Public Works Department and resolve the challenges in our community. That is what we are trying to do tonight. Therefore, we are hoping that you will help us in serving you to find a solution.

See PowerPoint page 17.

Public Hearing Section:

Each resident will have 3-minutes to speak on these issues and give your input and potential solutions. We are curious if you support or opposed these solutions or feel there is a better way. We do want to remind you that since this is a Public Hearing, your comment will be recorded in the record of this meeting. All we ask is when you stand to speak to state your name and address for the record.

Public Comments/Concerns:

Bill Bullock – 76 N. Longwood Lane

What about the parking at the T's on Longwood Lane?

What about the trees? Is it the Town responsibility to trim or the HOA?

Are you planning on painting the curbs?

Chuck Kelchner – 129 S. Longwood Lane

Would it be possible to widen the street by removing the trees?

Add parking requirements on Longwood Lane to the entrance.

The section behind the homes on Longwood Lane by adding overflow parking.

Add more fire hydrants.

See PowerPoint page 18.

Thank you all for your comments and ideas. Before we move to adjourn, please keep an eye on the Town's Website www.clayton.delaware.gov for the next scheduled Street Committee Meeting. At the next meeting the Committee will make recommendation to Council on the final parking solution. Feel free to reach out to Town Hall with any questions. They can also get you in contact with the Town Manager or any of us on the Committee.

2. Adjournment