



Town of Clayton
Street Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 7, 2022
Town Hall, 414 Main Street, Clayton

Attendance:

Chairperson:	Mr. Carrow
Committee Members:	Mr. Smith Mr. Paisley
Councilors:	
Staff:	Robert Cote, Town Manager Dave Ross, Public Works Lead Technician Melissa Knight, Recording Secretary
Guest:	Jonathan Burnett
Absent:	

1. Call to Order

Mr. Carrow called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Old Business

a. Update on “No Truck Traffic” signs for N. Rodney Street

Last time the committee met they discussed installing truck traffic signs on N. Rodney Street and Main Street. The trucks using N. Rodney Street were taking down electric wires. DeIDOT has a few signs already posted in the area. Where the Town wanted to place the signs DeIDOT has an issue with the placement.

3. New Business

a. Bridge at S. Bassett Street and S. Rodney Street

With the new infrastructure bill, both of these bridges are old and would be eligible under the infrastructure bill for repair or being rebuilt. The one on S. Rodney Street would be the first one to be rebuilt with the construction of the new apartment complex. Having leverage with the Federal Government to replace the bridges would in turn address the widening of S. Rodney Street. It would not be feasible to widen the road with the bridge as narrow as it is. Both bridges are listed with DeIDOT. With the infrastructure bill the Mayor thought this would be a good opportunity to address the aging bridges. The Mayor is recommending to the committee for the PW Lead

Technician and Town Manager to contact the transportation gentleman with Verdanta's to start drawing up a plan. The gentleman at Verdanta's has knowledge of grant writing for the transportation money. The widening of the bridge, the gas line, water line and sewer force main run parallel; they will need to be relocated for reconstruction of the bridge. The utilities are only going to affect the bridge on S. Rodney Street. Just to clarify, S. Rodney Street would be number one and S. Bassett Street will be number two for reconstruction on the bridges.

b. Improvements to S. Rodney Street – trees hanging over the roadway, widen roadway from where the contractor stops for Railroad Square to Route 300, telephone pole blocking view East at Route 300 and possibility of activating the traffic light

The Contractor is responsible for widening Rodney Street from Hasslett Street to the bridge. This would be a good time to have the rest of S. Rodney Street widened from the bridge to Route 300. Obviously, the bridge would be addressed with the infrastructure bill. The other problem on this section of the street is at the stop sign; when you look left the utility pole is blocking the view. Drivers are unable to stop short due to the location of the buildings, you physically have to drive out to the shoulder to see oncoming traffic. This a huge concern. The last item to see if the Town could get support from our elected official is to have the traffic light activated. Walmart is in favor of having the traffic light activated through the Town of Smyrna. Walmart had to pay to have the traffic light installed during the construction phase of their distribution center. Not sure if the traffic light would be Town of Smyrna or DeIDOT with Route 300 being owned by DeIDOT. Lt. Rau stated there would have to be a traffic study. The railroad causes a lot of issues in installing and activating lights. When the light turns red it is pushing the traffic over the railroad tracks. The biggest concern is the amount of tractor trailers that come through the area; it would only take on stopped on the railroad track to have an accident with a train. Once, legislators get back in session, the Mayor will have a discussion.

The trees have been trimmed back on S. Rodney Street. The trees can be trimmed back as far as the property line.

The last item is the widening of the street from the bridge to the stop sign. The Mayor stated with the widening of the bridge he would imagine the road being widened at the construction phase almost to Route 300. When the Town Manager has discussion with the representative about the bridge, they could also discuss the widening of the road to Route 300. The Mayor feels that the road would need to go triple the width at the stop sign, a right turn lane, straight and left hand turn lane and a lane turning onto S. Rodney Street. It's hard as it is right now if someone is at the stop sign waiting for traffic and another vehicle is turning onto S. Rodney Street. The fire hydrant would need to be moved by Artesian.

The utility pole belongs to DPL. Is the utility pole in line with the stop bar or where drivers stop? The Town Manager will contact DPL to see what the process would be to have the utility pole relocated. Due to DeIDOT owning the road they could possibly have the utility pole relocated. With having S. Rodney Street widened this also may be an issue; will need to be relocated anyway. If the traffic light is activated the utility

pole may not become an issue. The Mayor will reach out to Representative Carson to schedule a meeting to discuss the issues the Town has in this area of S. Rodney Street.

c. Signs for Old Country Farms and Grain Mill Station

A citizen attended a Council Meeting had concerns about speeding in Grain Mill Station. PW Lead Technician presented documentation showing signage at the entrance of the development. The signage at the entrance are watch for children, no outlet and speed limit. The speeders in this development are homeowners. The Mayor sees no other signage is needed in this area. The digital speed limit sign could be installed temporarily to collect data. Lt. Rau stated the 25 MPH is small area making it look faster then what the driver is actually doing.

The signage for identifying the development; Caesar Rodney Welcome signs. This is an informative sign for first responders and citizens. The cost for the signs are \$830.00 for two-sided with the post and hardware; the state would install. The cost for a one-sided is \$310.00 with the post and hardware the PW Crew would install. The Town could ask the Representative to install with funding that is available. At Grain Mill Station the sign would be in someone's backyard. The other concern is there would be a lot of signage in this area. The Mayor's recommendations on this item is if the Recording Secretary could take the lead on this project.

The speed limit signs in Old Country Farm; the Chief recommended that 20 MPH signs be installed in this development because of the vicinity of the school in relation to the development. The signs would be installed at the entrances of the development. Lt. Rau stated the Police Department is unable to enforce the speed limit in this development because the streets have not been turned over to the Town. The Police Department would be able to stop drivers to give a warning. At the entrance closest to Route 300 a watch children sign has been installed by the pond. The complaints about speeding are directed to two individuals that live in the development. The Police Department has their tag number and a description of the vehicle. The tag is registered out of state. The Police Department is still trying to identify and locate the resident. The street names for the signs are Sorrento Drive and Amalfi Drive.

Mayor Smith made a motion to install 20 MPH signs at the entrance of Sorrento Drive and Amalfi Drive at the recommended distance of the entrance, seconded by Mr. Paisley. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Prioritize streets for paving

The Town normally prioritize streets for paving every year. The Town has not paved any streets for a couple of years due to projects that are in the works. Is there a list of Streets? The Mayor recommends that the paving of the streets would need to follow the construction work for the sewer line. If the sewer line collapsed the contractor will need to dig it up for repair. The work on S. Rodney Street for the apartment complex; there may be more work to be done like the sewer line so there is no sense in paving until the construction has been completed.

Mr. Carrow stated that Smyrna Avenue and S. Rodney Street should be paved since the residents have endured the construction of the water line for the new apartment complex. Another factor is the storm water construction that will be going on throughout the Town of Clayton in the upcoming months. Verdanta's has not given any details of the complex work that needs to go into the storm drain project. This project may be four to five years down the road. Verdanta's is so deep into the sewer project right now. The Mayor will call Sharon with Verdanta's to discuss the storm drain project. Mr. Carrow recommends that the Town Manager and PW Lead Technician make a list of streets that need to be paved for example Wilson Avenue to Duck Creek Road; if that street is done let's schedule for it to be paved.

e. Parking spots in front of Veteran's Park

The park currently does not have any parking for citizens. Mr. Carrow stated he has citizens inquire about parking in front of Veteran's Park as there is no signage. Some citizens have parked at the Train Station and the parking lot in front of the Post Office to walk over to the park. The citizens are walking over the railroad tracks and Main Street. It would be nice to have parking closer for them. The most would be two spots. The parking spots would need to be so far from the intersection and the railroad tracks. Lt. Rau stated the only issue the Chief has would be the traffic turning from N. Bassett Street. These parking spots would only be used for citizens using the park. If the Town sees that citizens are using them as daily parking, then we could place a time limit on parking. DeIDOT maintains the parking spots on Main Street. What is the distance off the railroad tracks for a parking sport? The distance is 50ft. from the railroad tracks and 30 ft. from the intersection. There would be enough room for one parking spot on Main Street.

PW Lead Technician suggested making a couple of parking spots under the ginkgo tree for Veteran's Park Parking on N. Bassett Street. Mayor Smith would like to know how this will affect the residents that park in this area. Mr. Carrow would like to see three to four parking spots.

4. Scheduling of Next Meeting

No meeting scheduled at this time.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m., seconded by Mr. Paisley. Motion carried unanimously.