THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: October 24, 2023

Subject: Speed Limit Changes

Staff Resource(s): Ken Putnam, PE, Transportation Department Director
Christopher Cairns, PE, City Traffic Engineer

Action Requested: Adoption of an ordinance enacting (1) a 20 mph school zone speed limit on SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road) from a point 0.044 miles southwest of Pinewood Place to 0.049 miles north of Harnett Street, (2) a 20 mph speed limit on Holt Lane in its entirety and Baneberry Court in its entirety and Sorrel Court in its entirety and Dearborn Street from East Schenck Crescent to Olmstead Drive, (3) a 25 mph speed limit on SR-3556 (Amboy Road/Meadow Road) from a point 0.15 miles west of Lyman Street to 0.041 miles south of Lyman Street and Walton Street in its entirety and Middlebrook Drive from New Haw Creek Road to Old Haw Creek Road and Pinchot Drive from Olmstead Drive to Overlook Road, and (4) a 30 mph speed limit on SR-1332 (Louisiana Avenue) from Haywood Road (U.S. 19-23 Business) to Patton Avenue (U.S. 19-23) and SR-1674 (Elkwood Avenue) from a point 0.012 miles north of Hickory Street (SR-1674) to Merrimon Avenue (U.S. 25).

Background:

- N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-141 gives the City the authority to regulate speed limits within its corporate limits.
- City staff received requests from the public to consider changes to speed limits.
- SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road), SR-3556 (Amboy Road/Meadow Road), SR-1332 (Louisiana Avenue), and SR-1674 (Elkwood Avenue) are state maintained streets within the city limits.
- The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) conducted a traffic-engineering study and implemented a school speed limit of 20 mph on SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road).
- The NCDOT conducted a traffic-engineering study for SR-3556 (Amboy Road/Meadow Road) west and south of Lyman Street and determined that 25 mph would be a more appropriate speed limit.
- The NCDOT conducted a traffic-engineering study for SR-1332 (Louisiana Avenue) from Haywood Road to Patton Avenue and determined that 30 mph would be a more appropriate speed limit.
- The NCDOT conducted a traffic-engineering study for SR-1674 (Elkwood Avenue) from north of Hickory Street to Merrimon Avenue and determined that 30 mph would be a more appropriate speed limit.
- City staff performed appropriate traffic-engineering studies along seven streets: Holt Lane, Baneberry Court, Sorrel Court, Dearborn Street, Walton Street, Middlebrook Drive, and Pinchot Drive.
- The speed limit on the following streets will be set at 20 miles per hour:
    - Holt Lane in its entirety
    - Baneberry Court in its entirety
    - Sorrel Court in its entirety
    - Dearborn Street from East Schenck Crescent to Olmstead Drive
- The speed limit on the following streets will be set at 25 miles per hour:
    - Walton Street in its entirety
    - Middlebrook Drive from New Haw Creek Road to Old Haw Creek Road
    - Pinchot Drive from Olmstead Drive to Overlook Road
- The resident on Walton Street and the resident on Middlebrook Drive who expressed concerns about speed were contacted directly informing them of the recommended speed limits.
- The Biltmore Park Association requested more consistent speed limits throughout the neighborhood and were informed of the recommended speed limit changes on Pinchot Drive, Holt Lane, Baneberry Court, Sorrel Court, and Dearborn Street.

- The Asheville Police Department has reviewed the subject actions and they concur with them.
- Once the subject action is approved and prior to the installation of appropriate signs on the City-maintained streets, Transportation Department staff will coordinate outreach and public education with the Communication & Public Engagement Department (CAPE) and the Asheville Police Department.
- The NCDOT will install the appropriate signs on SR-3556 (Amboy Road/Meadow Road), SR-1332 (Louisiana Avenue), and SR-1674 (Elkwood Avenue).

Council Goal(s):
- Transportation and Accessibility.

Committee(s):
- MMTC - September 27, 2023 - Presented for information.

Pro(s):
- City staff have been able to respond favorably to public requests.
- Provides a more appropriate posted speed limit in residential areas.
- Provides more appropriate posted speed limits for pedestrians, transit, and bicycle riders.

Con(s):
- None

Fiscal Impact:
- The cost of installing and maintaining speed limit signs is included in the Transportation Department operating budget.

Suggested Motion:
- Motion to approve an ordinance enacting (1) a 20 mph school zone speed limit on SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road) from a point 0.044 miles southwest of Pinewood Place to 0.049 miles north of Harnett Street, (2) a 20 mph speed limit on Holt Lane in its entirety and Baneberry Court in its entirety and Sorrel Court in its entirety and Dearborn Street from East Schenck Crescent to Olmstead Drive, (3) a 25 mph speed limit on SR-3556 (Amboy Road/Meadow Road) from a point 0.15 miles west of Lyman Street to 0.041 miles south of Lyman Street and Walton Street in its entirety and Middlebrook Drive from New Haw Creek Road to Old Haw Creek Road and Pinchot Drive from Olmstead Drive to Overlook Road, and (4) a 30 mph speed limit on SR-1332 (Louisiana Avenue) from Haywood Road (U.S. 19-23 Business) to Patton Avenue (U.S. 19-23) and SR-1674 (Elkwood Avenue) from a point 0.012 miles north of Hickory Street (SR-1673) to Merrimon Avenue (U.S. 25).

Attachment(s)
- Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II, DIVISION 2, SECTION 41 AND ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1, SECTIONS 23, 24, 25 AND 26 OF APPENDIX C OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

WHEREAS the City of Asheville has the authority under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-141 to regulate speed limits within its corporate limits; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road) and through a traffic engineering study has implemented a school speed limit of 20 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains SR-3556 (Amboy Road/Meadow Road) and has determined through a traffic engineering study that the speed limit should be reduced from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS the City Council has concurred with the North Carolina Department of Transportation that the speed limit for SR-3556 (Amboy Road/Meadow Road) should be reduced to 25 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains SR-1332 (Louisiana Avenue) and has determined through a traffic engineering study that the speed limit should be reduced from 35 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS the City Council has concurred with the North Carolina Department of Transportation that the speed limit for SR-1332 (Louisiana Avenue) should be reduced to 30 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains SR-1674 (Elkwood Avenue) and has determined through a traffic engineering study that the speed limit should be reduced from 35 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS the City Council has concurred with the North Carolina Department of Transportation that the speed limit for SR-1674 (Elkwood Avenue) should be reduced to 30 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the speed limit for Holt Lane should be set at twenty miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the speed limit for Baneberry Court should be set at twenty miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the speed limit for Sorrel Court should be set at twenty miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the speed limit for Dearborn Street should be set at twenty miles per hour; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE:

Section 1: That Article II, Division II, Section 41 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (School Zones – Twenty miles per hour when city schools are in session) be amended to include:

Lucy S. Herring Elementary School. Sand Hill Road (SR-3412) from a point 0.044 miles southwest of Pinewood Place to 0.049 miles north of Harnett Street

Section 2: That Article II, Division I, Section 23 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (Speed Limits – Thirty-five miles per hour, City system) be amended to remove:

Dearborn Street, from East Schenck Crescent to Town Square Boulevard

Section 3: That Article II, Division I, Section 26 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (Speed Limits – Thirty-five miles per hour, State system) be amended to remove:

Amboy Road (S.R. 3556), from I-240 to Meadow Road (S.R. 3556)

Louisiana Avenue (S.R. 1332), from Haywood Road (U.S. 19-23 Business) to the northern corporate limits, approximately 0.10 mile north of Hazel Mill Road

Elkwood Road (S.R. 1674), from the northern corporate limits, approximately 0.20 mile south of Lakeshore Drive to Merrimon Avenue (U.S. 25)

Section 4: That Article II, Division I, Section 23 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (Speed Limits – Twenty miles per hour, City system) be amended to include:

Holt Lane in its entirety
Baneberry Court in its entirety
Sorrel Court in its entirety
Dearborn Street from Town Square Boulevard to Olmstead Drive

Section 5: That Article II, Division I, Section 24 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (Speed Limits – Twenty-five miles per hour, State system) be amended to include:

Amboy Road (SR-3556) from 0.15 miles west of Lyman Street to Lyman Street
Meadow Road (SR-3556) from 0.041 miles south of Lyman Street to Lyman Street

Section 6: That Article II, Division I, Section 24 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (Speed Limits – Twenty-five miles per hour, City system) be amended to include:

Walton Street in its entirety
Middlebrook Drive from New Haw Creek Road to Old Haw Creek Road
Pinchot Drive from Olmstead Drive to Overlook Road

Section 7: That Article II, Division I, Section 25 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (Speed Limits – Thirty miles per hour, State system) be amended to include:

Louisiana Avenue (SR-1332) from Haywood Road to Patton Avenue
Elkwood Avenue (SR-1674) from 0.012 miles north of Hickory Street to Merrimon Avenue

Section 8: That all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 9: That this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon adoption by the City of Asheville and the erection of signs giving notice of the authorized speed limit.

Read, approved and adopted this 24th day of October, 2023.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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CITY ATTORNEY