THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: May 23, 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 15 mile per hour (mph) speed limit on Wells Avenue from Brevard Road to Fairfax Avenue, (2) a 20 mph speed limit on East Street from Fairview Road to Thompson Street, (3) a 25 mph speed limit on Hampden Road from Kensington Drive to Waverly Court and SR-3548 (Clingman Avenue/Haywood Road) from Patton Avenue to Riverview Drive, (4) a 30 mph speed limit on SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road) from Haywood Road to Wendover Road, and (5) a 35 mph speed limit on SR-3556 (Meadow Road) from Amboy Road to Victoria Road.

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 residents to consider changes to speed limits.
- SR-3548 (Clingman Avenue/Haywood Road), SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road), and SR-3556 (Meadow Road) are state maintained streets within the city limits.
- The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) conducted a traffic-engineering study for SR-3548 (Clingman Avenue/Haywood Road) and determined that 25 mph would be a more appropriate speed limit.
- The NCDOT conducted a traffic-engineering study for SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road) from Haywood Road to Wendover Road and determined that 30 mph would be a more appropriate speed limit.
- SR-3556 (Meadow Road) from Amboy Road to Victoria Road posted speed limit is 35 mph. NCDOT found the 35 mph speed limit to be appropriate and requests municipal concurrence to repeal the recorded 45 mph ordinance.
- City staff performed traffic-engineering studies along three streets: Wells Avenue, East Street, and Hampden Road.
    - The speed limit on Wells Avenue will be set at 15 miles per hour.
    - The speed limit on East Street will be set at 20 miles per hour.
    - The speed limit on Hampden Road will be set at 25 miles per hour.
- The Asheville Police Department has reviewed the subject actions and they concur with the speed limit changes.
- 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-3548 (Clingman Avenue/Haywood Road) and SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road).

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility.

Committee(s):

- MMTC - April 26, 2023 - Presented for information.

Pro(s):

- City staff have been able to respond favorably to the public's 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's operating budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve an ordinance enacting (1) a 15 mph speed limit on Wells Avenue from Brevard Road to Fairfax Avenue, (2) a 20 mph speed limit on East Street from Fairview Road to Thompson Street, (3) a 25 mph speed limit on Hampden Road from Kensington Drive to Waverly Court and SR-3548 (Clingman Avenue/Haywood Road) from Patton Avenue to Riverview Drive, (4) a 30 mph speed limit on SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road) from Haywood Road to Wendover Road, and (5) a 35 mph speed limit on SR-3556 (Meadow Road) from Amboy Road to Victoria Road

Attachment(s)

- Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1, SECTIONS 22, 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-3548 (Clingman Avenue/Haywood 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 from Patton Avenue to Riverview Drive; and

WHEREAS the City Council has concurred with the North Carolina Department of Transportation that the speed limit for SR-3548 (Clingman Avenue/Haywood Road) should be reduced from 35 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains SR-3412 (Sand Hill Road) 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-3412 (Sand Hill Road) should be reduced from 35 miles per hour to 30 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Transportation maintains SR-3556 (Meadow Road) and has determined through a traffic engineering investigation that the 35 mile per hour posted speed limit should be retained from Amboy Road to Victoria Road; and

WHEREAS the City Council has concurred with the North Carolina Department of Transportation that the speed limit for SR-3556 (Meadow Road) should remain 35 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the speed limit for Wells Avenue should be set at fifteen miles per hour and

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

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the speed limit for Hampden Road should be set at twenty-five miles per hour and

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

Section 1: 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:

West Asheville Bridge (SR-3548) from Craven Street to Roberts Street

Section 2: That Article II, Division I, Section 22 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (Speed Limits – Fifteen miles per hour, City system) be amended to include:

Wells Avenue from Brevard Road to Fairfax Avenue

Section 3: 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:

East Street from Fairview Road to Thompson Street

Section 4: 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:

Clingman Avenue (SR-3548) from Patton Avenue to Roberts Street
Haywood Road (SR-3548) from Roberts Street to Riverview 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, City system) be amended to include:

Hampden Road from Kensington Drive to Waverly Court

Section 6: 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:

Sand Hill Road, from Haywood Road to Wendover Road

Section 7: That all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 8: 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 23rd day of May, 2023.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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CITY ATTORNEY