THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: March 28, 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 mph speed limit on Lee Garden Lane in its entirety and John Walker Avenue in its entirety, (2) a 20 mph speed limit on US 25 (Biltmore Avenue) from Hilliard Avenue to Aston Street and Pruitt Street from Louisiana Avenue to Herron Avenue, and (3) a 30 mph speed limit on Deaverview Road from Patton Avenue to Pisgah View 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 the public to consider changes to speed limits.
- US 25 (Biltmore Avenue) is a state maintained street within the city limits.
- The N.C. Department of Transportation (NCDOT) conducted a traffic-engineering study for US 25 (Biltmore Avenue) and determined that 20 mph would be a more appropriate speed limit.
- City staff performed appropriate traffic-engineering studies along four streets: Lee Garden Lane, John Walker Avenue, Pruitt Street, and Deaverview Road.
- The speed limit on the following streets will be set at 15 miles per hour:
    - Lee Garden Lane in its entirety (the existing speed limit is the statutory 35 miles per hour)
    - John Walker Avenue in its entirety (the existing speed limit is the statutory 35 miles per hour)
- The speed limit on the following streets will be set at 20 miles per hour:
    - U.S. 25 (Biltmore Avenue) from Hilliard Avenue to Aston Street (the existing speed limit is 35 miles per hour)
    - Pruitt Street from Louisiana Avenue to Herron Avenue (the existing speed limit is the statutory 35 miles per hour)
- The speed limit on the following street will be set at 30 miles per hour:
    - Deaverview Road from Patton Avenue to Pisgah View Road (the existing speed limit is the statutory 35 miles per hour)
- The Asheville Police Department has reviewed the subject actions and they concur with the recommended 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 Communications & Public Engagement Department (CAPE) and the Asheville Police Department.
- NCDOT will install the appropriate signs on US 25 (Biltmore Avenue).

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility.

Committee(s):

- MMTC - February 22, 2023 - Approved 5 to 3

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 15 mph speed limit on Lee Garden Lane in its entirety and John Walker Avenue in its entirety, (2) a 20 mph speed limit on US 25 (Biltmore Avenue) from Hilliard Avenue to Aston Street and Pruitt Street from Louisiana Avenue to Herron Avenue and (3) a 30 mph speed limit on Deaverview Road from Patton Avenue to Pisgah View Road.

Attachment(s)

- Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1, SECTIONS 22, 23, 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 US 25 (Biltmore Avenue) and has determined through a traffic engineering study that the speed limit for US 25 (Biltmore Avenue) should be reduced from 35 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS the City Council has concurred with the North Carolina Department of Transportation that the speed limit for US 25 (Biltmore Avenue) should be reduced from 35 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the speed limit for Lee Garden Lane and John Walker Avenue should be set at fifteen miles per hour and

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

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the speed limit for a portion of Deaverview Road should be set at thirty 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:

Biltmore Avenue (US 25), from Southside Avenue (US 25) to Aston 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 – Twenty miles per hour, State system) be amended to remove:

Biltmore Avenue (US 25), from Aston Street to Patton Avenue

Section 3: 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:

Lee Garden Lane in its entirety
John Walker Avenue in its entirety

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, State system) be amended to include:

Biltmore Avenue (US 25), from Hilliard Avenue to Patton Avenue

Section 5: 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:

Pruitt Street, from Louisiana Avenue to Herron Avenue

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, City system) be amended to include:

Deaverview Road, from Patton Avenue to Pisgah View 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 28th day of March, 2023.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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CITY ATTORNEY