THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE

STAFF REPORT

Council Meeting Date: November 9, 2021

Subject: Speed Limit Change - Wall Street

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

Action Requested: Adoption of an ordinance changing the posted speed limit on Wall Street within the City of Asheville from 15 miles per hour to 10 miles per hour.

Background:

- N.C. Gen. Stat. § 20-141 gives the City the authority to regulate speed limits within its corporate limits.
- Wall Street is a one-way paved street located in the Central Business District that begins at Otis Street and ends at Battery Park Avenue for a total distance of 0.14 mile.
- Wall Street exhibits some characteristics of a shared street concept including flush sidewalks with the street footprint that are separated by bollards.
- City staff and the Wall Street business owners have worked together to expand outdoor dining opportunities and possible retail opportunities.
- On-street parking along Wall Street has been eliminated except for two designated ADA parking spaces,
- Loading /unloading zones have been improved.
- Signinage along the street has been improved including signs making Wall Street the first “official” shared street.
- The National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) recommends a 10 mph speed limit along shared streets and alleys where walking and public space activities are expected.
- The Traffic Engineering Division agrees that a 10 mph posted speed limit would be effective and is warranted.
- The posted speed limit on Wall Street is recommended to be changed from 15 mph to 10 mph.

Council Goal(s):

- Transportation and Accessibility.

Committee(s)

- None

Pro(s):

- Improved partnership between City staff and the Wall Street business community.
- Enhances public safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and automobiles.

Con(s):

- None

Fiscal Impact:

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

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to approve an ordinance enacting a 10 mph speed limit on Wall Street from Otis Street to Battery Park Avenue.

Attachment(s)

- Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE II, DIVISION 1, SECTIONS 23 AND 24 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 City Council has determined that the speed limit on Wall Street should be set at ten 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 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 remove:

Wall Street, in its entirety

Section 2: That Article II, Division I, Section 21 of Appendix C of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Asheville (Speed Limits – Ten miles per hour, City system) be amended to include:

Wall Street, from Otis Street to Battery Park Avenue

Section 3: That all Ordinances or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4: 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 9th day of November, 2021.

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City Clerk Mayor

Approved as to form:

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CITY ATTORNEY