

**TRAFFIC ENGINEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**April 12, 2016**  
**Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Tim Eriksen, Director of Public Works, City Engineer, TEC Chairman  
John Lampi, Public Representative  
Ben Kageyama, representing the City Manager  
Sean Kaeser, representing the Chief of Police  
Darin Malugani, representing the Supervisor of Public Works  
Kevin Thompson, representing the Planning Director  
Marty Nelson, representing MTA

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Maureen Mulheren, Council Member  
Lory Limbird, Public Works  
Neil Davis, Walk & Bike Mendocino  
Brian Kornegay  
Keith Hewett, All In One Auto  
Kathryn Hoffar, All In One Auto  
Wayne Hunt, T&T Towing  
Tim Wiles, Stevo's Towing  
Ruben Herrera, R&B Towing

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Traffic Engineering Committee meeting was called to order by Chairperson Eriksen at 3:05 pm in Conference Room No. 3, Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue, Ukiah, California.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Feb 9, 2016**

**Motion/Second: Thompson/Lampi** to approve Feb 9, 2016 minutes as written.  
Motion carried by an all AYE voice vote of the members present.

**3. AUDIENCE COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**Marty Nelson, MTA** has a proposal for new bus stop at the Post Office.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

none

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. Discussion and Possible Action regarding a Request for Exemption of City Code Section 7154 to allow Tow Trucks and Commercial Recovery Vehicles to Park in Residential Neighborhoods.

**Chairman Tim Eriksen** stated that a letter was received from Brian Kornegay which states his reasons why Ukiah City Code 7154 should not be changed to allow tow trucks to park in residential areas with Ukiah City limits.

**Keith Hewett, All in One Auto Repair** stated he had reprimanded one of his drivers for parking in front of a fire hydrant. This was the only time there was a problem that he is aware of. It is important for tow truck drivers to park in front of their residences to allow for quicker response time to an accident site. Getting there quickly is important for the safety of all public safety officers and the public in order to clean up the accident site as soon as possible. When tow trucks are parked at the business, 15 to 35 minutes is added to the response time.

**Brian Kornegay** stated he has the upmost respect for tow truck operators. Tow trucks parking on the street create unsafe hazards such as blind spots for children, pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers attempting to come out of driveways and other drivers traversing the streets. Parking a tow truck on a residential street goes against Ukiah City Code 7154 and this is not the answer for tow trucks. The City of Norco is the only city in California that he was able to find that has a city ordinance permitting tow trucks to park on their own private property but not on the street. The Norco City Code pertaining to this issue is included with his letter.

**Ruben Herrera, R&B Towing** stated he has noticed personal trailers and RVs parked in residential areas on the street. These vehicles are often times larger than a tow truck.

**Kathryn Hoffar, All In One Auto** stated that the City of Ukiah exempts themselves from this city code for public safety. The public is better served by having tow trucks parked in residential areas to decrease response time.

**Neil Davis** observed that tow trucks come in a wide variety of sizes. He asked if the tow truck companies are looking for an exception for any size of tow truck or up to a certain size.

**Keith Hewett, All in One Auto Repair** answered that the basic size for a tow truck is up to 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW). Gross Vehicle Weight means the total weight of the vehicle when loaded; not just the weight of the vehicle alone. The bigger specialty tow trucks are not taken home by operators.

**Sean Kaeser, Ukiah PD** stated the Police Department expects all tow truck drivers to respond in timely manner 365 days a year. If a company fails to respond quickly, that company will be passed up and another company will be called.

**Kevin Thompson, Planning Department** asked what percentage of business comes from emergency response calls.

**Wayne Hunt, T&T Towing** answered that his company answers about 800 calls per month and about 70% of those are emergency response calls.

**Keith Hewett, All in One Auto Repair** stated a tow truck only goes home with an employee when that operator is on duty.

**Ben Kageyama, Public Works Department** asked Brian Kornegay while he was doing his research, did he find other cities that allowed tow trucks?

**Brian Kornegay** answered that the only city that allows parking of tow trucks in residential areas that he found is Norco. Norco requires a permit, permission of adjoining property owners and requires the tow truck to be 25 feet away from any residential structure on adjoining property. The Norco City Code can be used as an example for the revision of the Ukiah City Code. Parking of tow trucks needs to be regulated in case there is a complaint. Parking of any commercial vehicle above 11,000 pounds GVW should not be allowed in residential areas.

**Sean Kaeser, Ukiah PD** stated the Norco City Code creates more government. Who is going to issue permits and then enforce those permits? This doesn't meet Ukiah's values.

**Ben Kageyama, Public Works Department** understands the need for a quick response time, but is not in favor of tow trucks parking in residential areas. The City of Norco exemption is worth looking into. This code states parking of commercial vehicles is permitted on private property but not on the street. He likes the idea of having a permit process before allowing tow trucks to park in residential areas.

**Motion/Second: Kaesar/Malugani** to concur with the request for an exemption of City Code Section 7154 to allow tow trucks and commercial recovery vehicles to park in residential neighborhoods and recommend revision of the City Code to include no more than one truck will be allowed to park near the same property and the tow truck allowed to park in the residential area will weigh no more than 26,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight.

Motion carried by an all AYE voice vote of the members present except for Ben Kageyama who opposed.

**Chairman Tim Eriksen** asked if the TEC Committee wants the proposed changes to the City Code to be brought back to the TEC Committee for approval or should it be taken straight to City Council?

**Council Member Maureen Mulheren** suggested that the changes discussed here should come back to the TEC Committee for final discussion.

**Chairman Tim Eriksen** restated that the proposed changes to Ukiah City Code section 7154 will be discussed at the next TEC Committee meeting. The edited version of the changes will then be presented to City Council.

**6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS**

none

**7. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

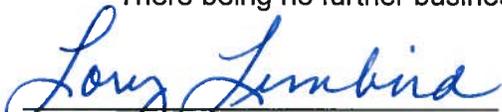
**Chairman Tim Eriksen** announced that Public Member Roger Vincent has resigned. Thanks to Roger for his years of dedicated service.

The TEC Committee is now looking for a new TEC Public Member who must be a City resident of driving age.

**Council Member Maureen Mulheren** thanked the Streets Department crew who replaced the sidewalk on North State Street for their good work. They did a good job of providing safe access for pedestrians in the construction area.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

  
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Lory Limbird, Recording Secretary