

Rio Dell

Traffic Committee Meeting Agenda



January 23, 2025 – 4:00 P.M.
Rio Dell City Hall
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562

Traffic Committee Representatives:

Membership:
City Council (1)
City Council (2)
Fire Chief
Water/ Roadway -
Superintendent
City Manager
Chief of Police
Community Dev. Dir.

City Council	Woodall
City Council	Garnes
Rio Dell Fire Chief	Wilson
Water/ Roadways Superintendent	Jensen
City Manager/ Chairman	Knopp
Chief of Police	Landry
Community Dev. Dir.	Caldwell

"It shall be the duty of the Traffic Committee to suggest the most practicable means for coordinating the activities of all officers and agencies of this City having authority with respect to the administration or enforcement of traffic regulations; to stimulate and assist in the preparation and publication of traffic reports; to receive complaints having to do with traffic matters; and to recommend to the legislative body of this City and to the City Traffic Specialist, the chief of the Traffic Division and other City officials ways and means for improving traffic conditions and the administration and enforcement of traffic regulations." [Ord. 181 § 1, 1984; Ord. 173 § 33-03.090, 1983.]

1. Call to order
2. Introductions/Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2024 (Action)
4. Public Presentations
5. Discussion on Commercial Truck Parking Along Wildwood Avenue
6. Member Reports
7. Adjournment

Rio Dell

Traffic Committee Meeting Minutes



December 4, 2024 – 4:00 P.M.
Rio Dell City Hall
675 Wildwood Avenue
Rio Dell, CA 95562

Membership:
City Council (1)
City Council (2)
Fire Chief
Water/ Roadway -
Superintendent
City Manager
Chief of Police
Community Dev. Dir.

Traffic Committee Representatives:

City Council	Woodall
City Council	Orr
Rio Dell Fire Chief	Wilson
Water/ Roadways Superintendent	Jensen
City Manager/ Chairman	Knopp
Chief of Police	Landry
Community Dev. Dir.	Caldwell

1. Call to order

Chair Knopp called meeting to order at 4:02 P.M.

2. Introductions/Roll Call

Chair Knopp welcomed everyone back, and thanked the four members of the community for coming. Chair Knopp explained that the Traffic Committee was not a committee that meets on a regular basis, rather it was a committee that meets when an issue arises. Chair Knopp read the scope of duties mentioned in the Rio Dell Municipal Code, and explained in further detail what was expected of the members of the committee. Chair Knopp called on each member of the Traffic Committee to see if they were present. The Traffic Committee Members present at the meeting were: Woodall, Wilson, Jensen, Knopp, Landry, and Caldwell constituting a quorum. The only member absent was City Council Member Orr. Knopp mentioned that Orr's absence was excused. Chair Knopp moved to the next item on the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes of May 16, 2024 Meeting (action)

Chair Knopp called for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 16, 2024 meeting.

Motion: Woodall

Second: Wilson

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Chair Knopp asked for every member present who was in favor say "I." All members present said "I." Chair Knopp mentioned that May 16, 2024 Minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Presentations

Chair Knopp asked if anyone had anything to discuss that was not on the current agenda. The commercial truck parking was an agenda item, so no comments were made. Knopp moved on to the next item on the agenda.

5. Discussion on Commercial Truck Parking Along Wildwood Avenue

Chair Knopp explained that a number of complaints regarding commercial trucks parking in residential zones and along Wildwood Avenue were discussed at the last Nuisance Advisory Committee Meeting. The Nuisance Advisory Committee recommended that the item regarding Commercial Trucks Parking along Wildwood Avenue be brought to the Traffic Committee for discussion. Knopp handed out the current parking ordinance and the traffic safety route. Knopp explained that the Rio Dell Parking Ordinance was written and adopted back in 1983-84, and the language of the ordinance was outdated. Knopp explained that this specific topic would not be corrected overnight. It would be a topic of discussion at several Traffic Committee Meetings before being brought to the City Council. Several members expressed concern with the visibility issue on Wildwood Avenue. The large trucks prevent people from seeing when pulling out from the side streets onto Wildwood Avenue. Knopp also touched on the fact that there had been a few complaints made to the City regarding the noise of the trucks starting up in the early hours of the morning and coming in late at night waking people up. Another member brought up the fact that the weight of the trucks on residential streets are more than the streets can bare, causing damage to the roadway.

The current parking ordinance does not allow for commercial trucks to be parked along the streets in residential zones. The City notified all the truck drivers, and or owners by mail to let them know they were not allowed to park their commercial trucks along the streets in a residential zone, but they were able to park them in areas zoned town center. Most of Wildwood Avenue is zoned town center. Currently, there are a few ordinances in the Rio Dell Municipal Code that discuss parking of commercial trucks on the City's Streets, and approved truck routes. Knopp opened the floor to the public. Discussion occurred. In summary, the members of the public are willing to work with the City; However, they feel the City had already made their minds up on the topic. Many alternative parking options were discussed. The most attractive alternative parking option that was discussed was having the commercial trucks park along Northwestern Avenue. The advantages of that alternative location were that it would be accessible, and free. The biggest concern with the alternative location was if the trucks would be secure. Caldwell mentioned that he was waiting on a response back from one of the lot owners over off Northwestern to see if they would be interested in renting spaces to park the trucks. It was suggested to name Northwestern Avenue in the Traffic-Parking Ordinance as the primary location to park commercial trucks (semi-trucks). The members of the public expressed that they are feeling the cost of inflation at home, and on the job. They are just trying to make a living. Knopp mentioned that ultimately the City Council sets the rules, and the language in the parking ordinance needs to be cleaned up and modernized. This ordinance change, if approved, would not go into effect until 30 days after the final reading by the City Council. One of the members of the public asked how do you get on to a committee.

Knopp explained that there was an application to be filled out, and you must be appointed by the City Council. In order to be considered, you must be at least 18 years of age, and a resident of Rio Dell. You must not have a criminal record, and you must gather a number of signatures from community. The next opportunity to get on the City Council would be in 2026. A motion was called by Knopp to agenize the item on the next Traffic Committee Meeting in January to work on edits to the Traffic-Parking Ordinance.

Motion: Caldwell

Second: Woodall

Chair Knopp moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Member Reports

Chair Knopp mentioned that W-Tran out of Santa Rosa will be doing a study on the avenues. Wilson was happy to hear about the study. We need to enhance access at Columbus and Berkeley. Knopp asked if any member of the Traffic Committee had anything to report. Caldwell commented on how nice the Gateway looks. Everyone agreed. The walking path is also coming along. A member of the public asked about the cost of the trail, and who was responsible for the up keep. Knopp explained that the walking trail was 100% grant funded by The Clean California Program. Fortuna, Eureka, and Arcata are all putting trails in. The City would be the one responsible to maintain the trail. We are currently looking for sponsors to help keep the trail maintained. The trees down Wildwood Avenue and the exercise stations were all grant funded. The City also has a grant to repair the streets in Rio Dell. Unfortunately, Ogle Avenue and 2nd Avenue have more going on than what meets the eye. A slurry coat could cause more harm than good. These two streets have pipes running beneath the pavement. It's going to be a costly repair, but the City wants to have the project done right. Chair Knopp thanked the members of the public for coming and welcomed them to come back to the next meeting in January. Chair Knopp adjourned the meeting.

6. Adjournment

Knopp adjourned the meeting at 4:52 P.M.