

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

A meeting of the Regional Transportation Commission was held on February 18, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. at the White Pine County Library, 950 Campton Street, Ely, NV

THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS WERE PRESENT:

Wayne Cameron, Chairman
Richard Howe, WPC Commission
Jim Alworth, City of Ely

ALSO PRESENT:

Bill Calderwood, WPC Public Works Director
BJ Alberg, Basin Engineering
Martin Troutt, White Pine County Road Dept
Janette Trask, City of Ely
Mike Cracraft, City of Ely
Steve Baer, NDOT
George Chachas
Naomi Harris, Recording Secretary
Pat Stork, Ely Fire
Jacob Stark, Ely Fire
Shane Cooper

Wayne Cameron called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

***COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 Minute Time Limit):** - George Chachas said he wanted to remind the Board that the curb and gutter has not been put in on the Mill Street chip overlay project. The whole project should have been done under a General Improvement District. Again, they can't override City regulations.

On the corner of Campton and Great Basin, the Copper Queen continues to drain its parking lot run-off on the sidewalk, which is illegal, which is a State Highway. The Campton access needs to be widened to City standards. It was improperly narrowed and never approved by the City Council. He wants to remind them that the City would not allow him to narrow Avenue G when he put in his improvements. Avenue G is considerably wider than Campton. The City sued him for putting curb and gutter and sidewalk on Avenue G and he followed their directions. He wants to caution them about selective enforcement and discrimination.

The RTC is assisting the City on a regrind project on a section of Avenue D between The Prospector Hotel and Wheeler Machinery, along with an oil stabilization to prep for a future chip overlay. The whole project needs to be done under a General Improvement District. Not all of the road is paved. There is no curb, no gutter, no sidewalk or ADA compliance along the west end or east end. Traffic in that area is too heavy for just a chip overlay. It appears they're doing a sweetheart project. They need to adhere to adopted City standards. They cannot override them.

The City sued George when he put in new curb and gutter and sidewalk with ADA access after telling him how to do it. And then they refused to have the City Engineers stake the grade for the project.

George presented 3 different pictures of Avenue D and the parking problems being caused there.

The egress/ingress on Avenue D off Aultman/Highway 93 (near the Holiday Inn) is much too narrow. It does not meet minimum street widths set by Ely City Code. There is a large triangle that has been put in the center to separate traffic with each lane being approximately 10 feet wide. When a large vehicle enters onto Highway 93 it runs over the curb and the stop sign has been knocked over 3 times that he has seen himself. The boulder protecting the edges has been pushed onto the sidewalk impeding pedestrians, especially those in a wheelchair. The access is too narrow to allow emergency vehicle access, let alone a large fire truck or ladder truck. The Holiday Inn is a 3 story structure. The curb does not meet City standards and is not L-shaped on the north side. The curb should have been installed 5 feet from the property line, not 11 feet. The street was narrowed by 6 feet. The north side sidewalk is not passable by pedestrians and especially by those in wheelchairs. The County and the City needs to hire engineers and inspectors that abide by the codes that have been adopted.

The 3 minute time limit was called for public comment.

DISCUSSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION-- DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THE BRUSH FIRE IN THE AREA OF AVENUE M AND ROSEWOOD COVE, ON SEPTMEBER 12, 2020, RESULTED IN DAMAGE OF THE PROPERTY AT 6 ROSEWOOD COVE, ELY, NV AND WHETHER THE ACTIONS OF AMERICAN PAVEMENT PRESERVATION CAUSED SAID DAMAGE -- Wayne Cameron asked Pat Stork what they determined was the cause of the fire . Pat said that during the investigation the people of American Pavement said that they were weed whacking, they went out a little ways and when they turned around a fire had started. Pat they stated that he had contacted the foreman of American Pavement. While conversing with the foreman of American Pavement, the foreman began to discuss a different fire out in Ruth, NV. After discussing what fire they were talking about, the foreman asked if a bum or other person could have walked by and threw a cigarette. Pat agreed that it was a possibility that a bum or another person could have thrown out something, but there was no evidence to support that theory. Pat continued on, stating that his best determination of the cause of the fire was the metal blades being used in the weed whacker. The fire started about 10-15 feet from where they had passed. Pat said could they 100% prove that, and answered his own question with no. Could someone earlier have thrown out a cigarette, sure, but nobody had seen anyone in the area. Again Pat said their best determination is that the fire was caused by the metal blades of the weed whacker.

Jacob Stark also commented on the topic saying that upon arrival it wasn't a big fire but there was a fire. He said that there were no children playing, smoking, running off or playing with matches. He said they saw a few homeowners spraying the fence and the construction workers. The weed whackers weren't running, they were on the ground next to the workers and there were hand tools there. Everyone knows that when you strike a hand tool on the ground it can cause a spark. Jacob stated that with the high fire risk this season, everything was super dry. Jacob continued on to say that they are not fire investigators but this is our best determination of what could have possibly happened.

Pat furthered on the topic saying that the foreman had asked if it was really possible for a fire to start that way. Pat said yes and that in his 32 years with the fire department that this was the first time he had ever seen three fires this year alone that were started by safety chains from trailers dragging on the ground. This year has been exceptionally dry, that we had fires burning in November that were burning like fires in August. Pat confirmed again that they believe the metal blades on the weed whackers are what caused the fire. Can we prove this 100% , again no but given all the circumstances and everything else, there was nobody else in the area, none of the neighbors said that they had seen any kids playing with matches or anything like that. Pat said that the foreman was adamant about Jacob changing his report. He told the foreman no, that is what he saw, this is what he documented, that is what is standing in his report. The foreman called back again, getting rude, Pat told him that he can direct any further questions to the City Attorney. He then back pedaled and said it is what it is and that is where he left it with me.

Chair members discussed and agreed with Pat and Jacob and their findings on the fire. They feel that the city is not responsible for damage and that the company should pay the damages caused to the property.

DISCUSSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – APPROVAL TO RESTORE DAMAGE TO 6 ROSEWOOD COVE, ELY, NV BY PAYING FOR REPAIRS FROM AMERICAN PAVEMENT PRESERVATION’S CONTINGENCY FUND, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,900– All attending member’s voted on whether or not American Pavement should be held accountable for the damages at 6 Rosewood Cove. All members voted to have American Pavement preservations contingency fund pay for the damages amounting in \$4,900.

DISCUSSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION –PUBLIC TRANSIT BUDGET FY22- CITY OF ELY – Members discussed the budget amount of \$200,000 for the City of Ely’s FY22. Board member Jim Alworth motioned, Chair member Richard Howe seconded the motion to ratify the budget.

DISCUSSION FOR POSSIBLE ACTION – RATIFICATION OF RTC BUDGET FY22 – Members discussed the budget, Bill Calderwood discussed the changes in the numbers from last meeting. Chair member Richard Howe motioned, Board member Jim Alworth seconded the motion. All members approved.

DISCUSSION- SET DATE FOR NEXT RTC MEETING- Bill Calderwood recommended waiting until next spring once more projects got going. Members motioned for the third week in May (the 20th) for the next meeting

APPROVAL OF RTC MEETING MINUTES (FEBRUARY 02, 2021) – Steve Baer had a comment about page 3 regarding the question asked by George Chachas about the four lanes in the central business district. Steve was under the assumption that it was in East Ely, but actual the four lanes downtown will be a three lane section. Also corrected that current project will be at Majors junction not Lodges junction. Board Member Jim Alworth motioned to approve the minutes, Chair member Richard Howe seconded the motion.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC (3 minute time limit) - George Chachas reminded the members, Carol McKenzie still has not corrected that non-ADA sidewalk she put outside her fence along the State Highway 318. She made rules and regulations when she was on the Planning Commission and as a Regional Planning Officer so she needs to take care of business. She can't regulate what everyone else does and ignore the rules when it pertains to her.

There is still no ADA access on the corner of Avenue C and 11th Street or on 13th Street and Avenue M. Both were RTC projects and they both need to be corrected.

Nothing has been done on 7th Street at the Railroad Crossing across from the old grade school. They have taken away George's access so he can't do maintenance along his fence line because rip rap is there the size of a big softball. They are putting the handicapped out into the street. That rip rap is all the way up to the street and there is no walkway. It was a Federal project. Again, Federal ADA regulations allow for ADA access and there is none. It is mandated if you took the time to read the rules and regulations. The Rail Road needs to address it. RTC shouldn't give the City any money until they look at that. It's the City's area.

He has not seen anything done on 15th Street East. That street is going to be narrowed once the median goes in. There is no sidewalk for pedestrians to walk on and it needs to be addressed. It has not been addressed to date.

On 7th and Avenue D, below the junction, that corner of the curb and gutter has been put in 3 different times and they need to address that. There is no proper ADA access on the corner. Why do they have rules and regulations? Every day George gets taunted over rules and regulations and everything he brings out, everyone looks the other way.

Wayne Cameron adjourned the meeting at 8:30am