



City of Yachats
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING
PUBLIC WORKS & STREETS COMMISSION
PARKS & COMMONS COMMISSION

May 27, 2020

Approved Minutes

I. Call to Order

Chair Bob Bennett called the May 27, 2020 meeting of the Public Works and Streets Commission to order at 3:03 pm via Zoom. Members present: Bob Bennett, Ron Urban, Don Groth, Tom Fisher and Linn West. Absent: Tom Bedell.

Chair John Purcell called the May 27, 2020 meeting of the Parks and Commons Commission to order at 3:03 pm via Zoom. Members present: John Purcell, Linda Johnson, Dean Shrock, Dawn Keller, Scott Gordon, Michael Hempen, and Craig Berdie. Absent: none.

Staff present: City Manager Shannon Beaucaire, Water Plant Lead Rick McClung and Deputy Recorder Kimmie Jackson. Council Present: Leslie Vaaler. Audience: 2.

II. Discussion of Driftwood Project

Rick McClung reported the engineering plans were complete. The plan included:

1. 18 new parking spots
2. ADA approved sidewalks
3. two-way traffic
4. head-in parking

Commissioner Shrock asked for clarification on the area around the vehicle charging station. Commissioner Purcell suggested using diagonal parking as opposed to head-in parking. McClung indicated he first considered parallel parking, then shifted to a one-way street with diagonal parking. He believed a one-way street would cause too much congestion. Purcell stated drivers will have more awareness with diagonal parking.

Manager Beaucaire stated the benefits Purcell mention are correct, but she stated diagonal parking would mean that a wider street is required.

1 Commissioner Berdie indicated he measured the area and noted this project moves the
2 pavement to 12 feet beyond the existing telephone poles. McClung estimated five to
3 eight feet. Berdie suggested that the parking be moved to the east side of the road.
4 McClung indicated curbs would be needed on both sides of the road for drainage
5 purposes, so the side for the parking would not change that need. Commissioner Urban
6 clarified that the street would be of adequate width.

7
8 Nan Scott (Combs Circle) stated that she was concerned about having a two-way street
9 and sidewalks on both sides for such a small distance. She stated a concern with
10 encouraging traffic to go through the church parking lot to get to W 7th Street. She
11 noted that the church brings elderly people and children. She also noted the east door
12 opens close to the road and can be dangerous for people exiting if cars are driving by.
13 She asked what the rationale for a two-way street was.

14
15 McClung suggested the church could add some kind of physical barrier or post signage.
16 He suggested the city needs to plan for growth. He thought the two-way traffic would
17 allow people to exit without going through the church parking lot.

18
19 Commissioner Hempen asked about the drainage on the west side. McClung pointed
20 out a storm drain catch basin in the drawing.

21
22 Commissioner Johnson did not like the idea of a two-way street in that area. She asked
23 why they needed so many parking spots. McClung indicated the parking was for both
24 the public and the 501 Building. McClung speculated on future uses of the area.
25 Johnson noted there were 23 marked spaces around the 501 Building and did not see a
26 need for 18 more spaces.

27
28 Shrock noted the area where the 18 spaces would be was currently filled every Sunday
29 for the Farmers Market. He favored additional parking but was not in favor of losing
30 green space.

31
32 Berdie clarified that the project does not include landscaping.

33
34 Urban stated the area is currently used by vendors who have larger rigs. He asked
35 what those people would do if this area was marked for head-in parking. McClung
36 indicated they could use the area on the west end of 4th Street or the code enforcer
37 could get an exception from code enforcement. Manager Beaucaire stated they could
38 temporarily unload and move to a longer-term spot.

39
40 Bennett stated that part of the 101 Project was to increase the walkability in the City.
41 He believed this location was a good central location for visitors to park and would make
42 the City more walkable.

43
44 Johnson believed that a two-way street would encourage people to travel faster.
45 Bennett did not think the layout would encourage people to speed.
46

1 Johnson asked who was paying for the project. McClung indicated the City received a
2 grant for \$100,000 from the State of Oregon and the City would contribute \$50,000.

3
4 Purcell noted this was a public works project and he wanted Parks and Commons
5 involved in the decision as the area involved a City park. He appreciated the amount of
6 work McClung has done. He suggested there were things that could be done to
7 minimize speed such as speed bumps.

8
9 A person on chat asked why there was no public input on the project. McClung
10 indicated they started discussing the project about four months prior to the coronavirus
11 outbreak. Bennett added this project has been in the Public Works CIP for over a year.

12
13 Councilor O'Shaughnessey asked if anything been done to reach the public other than
14 meetings. She suggested they need to get information to the public so they do not feel
15 blindsided and better communication would build trust.

16
17 Johnson stated she is on the Parks and Commons Commission and reads everything
18 they get. She had never seen this plan. She noted she would have voiced an opinion
19 had she seen it earlier. She noted it is one thing to say that you are repaving and
20 another to say it will cost \$200,000.

21
22 Bennett suggested they could start putting Public Works CIPs in the newsletter.
23 O'Shaughnessey said she goes to the Green Salmon each day and no one there knew
24 this project was going on. She indicated many people do not go to the website. She
25 noted people are talking about loss of revenue and the City needs to choose projects
26 that can be justified.

27
28 Purcell indicated it's not a \$200,000 project and it is a project that only costs the City
29 \$50,000. O'Shaughnessey stated that would be a good argument to make for the
30 project. Purcell stated that the project has many advantages and ignorance of the law
31 does not excuse people, and that communication with citizens was important but care
32 was needed in deciding what was presented.

33
34 Johnson asked where she would find the budget for this project and whether it would
35 note the grant. McClung noted it would be listed as \$157,000 in the budget document
36 which was on the City website. Manager Beaucaire indicated Driftwood Project was in
37 last year's budget and in her City Manager's reports, both for the project and for the
38 grant. She believed there was something in a Newsletter article as well.

39
40 Keller wanted to see flexible spaces for parking so that the area could handle overflow
41 parking. She explained that once you put the road in, the road and parking become
42 fixed to only one possibility for travel and parking. She suggested they have a zoom
43 meeting with the town so the public would not be taken by surprise by this project.

44
45 Shrock asked about the deadline for the grant. McClung indicated the funds must be
46 spent a year from now. Shrock agreed with Johnson in that he has no awareness of

1 this project. He noted everyone will not agree with the project but he wanted see this
2 project be more public.

3
4 Hempen indicated he was aware of this project for about six months as he has been
5 proactive in keeping aware. He favored the project and thought the parking was
6 necessary.

7
8 Purcell noted the importance of the opportunity to get \$100,000. Purcell did not think it
9 would be good now to have a public meeting as that would be counterproductive.

10
11 Nan Scott clarified that the City was not planning to redo the skate park fence and
12 would not need to take it down to rebuild the street.

13
14 Bennett wanted to give the project a green light to proceed.

15
16 Urban moved that the Public Works & Streets Commission recommend to the City
17 Council to approve the Driftwood Project: Aye – 4; No – 0; Not Present – 1 (Fisher
18 technical difficulties).

19
20 The Parks and Commons Commissioners supported the recommendation with Keller in
21 opposition and Hempen not present.

22
23 Keller indicated she was not prepared for this vote. She stated that the input at this
24 meeting did not matter and it seemed as if they were just there to approve the existing
25 plan. McClung indicated the input did matter as they still had access to the Council.
26 McClung indicated that if Parks and Commons Commission did not approve the project,
27 he would have to start over.

28
29 Vaaler noted there were two Councilors on the call who would have made notes on the
30 input from this meeting for the Council meeting. She thanked the Commissions for their
31 work.

32
33 McClung adjourned the meeting at 3:59 pm.

34
35
36
37
38 _____ Date
39 Bob Bennett, Chair Public Works & Streets

40
41
42 _____ Date
43 John Purcell, Chair Parks & Commons

44
45 Minutes prepared by H.H. Anderson on June 3, 2020.