



CITY OF YACHATS

CITY COUNCIL JOINT WORK SESSION WITH LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 15, 2020

Draft Minutes

I. Meeting Call to Order

Mayor W. John Moore called the July 15, 2020 special meeting of the Yachats City Council with the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners to order at 6:00 pm by participation through the county's virtual meeting platform. Council Members present: W. John Moore, Max Glenn, Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey, Jim Tooke, and Leslie Vaaler. Absent: none. Staff present: City Manager Shannon Beaucaire. Also present: County Commissioner Doug Hunt, County Commissioner Claire Hall, County Counsel Wayne Belmont, and Lincoln County Public Works Director Roy Kinion.

NOTE: Councilors Vaaler and O'Shaughnessey could not unmute due to technical difficulties.

II. COVID Update from Lincoln County Health

Rebecca Austin, Lincoln County Health Department, stated there were 362 positive cases and seven deaths. She noted COVID appears to be impacting younger people from ages 20-29. She stated the positivity rate was a percentage of total tests and was just over 6% at present, which was higher than the state at 4%, Benton at 2% and Linn at 1%.

Austin had concern that they currently have only two mitigation methods: testing with quarantine and personal care with six-foot distancing and washing hands. She indicated testing was experiencing significant backlogs at the labs and with getting test results, noting they have been waiting for tests for twelve days. She stated that the national supply chain has been sending resources to the southern United States which means they were having difficulty in getting test kits and reagents. She indicated that the most reliable test was with the nasal swab.

1 Austin stressed the importance of wearing masks, washing hands, and social
2 distancing. She suggested it might be helpful to give away masks.

3 Councilor Tooke thanked Austin for her hard work and reporting.

4 Hunt stated that conducting more tests does not mean the positivity rate increases. He
5 explained the positive rate was a percentage. He pointed out that Lincoln County's rate
6 was at least three times that of neighboring counties. He added that Lincoln County
7 was on the Governor's watch list and that entering Phase II was impossible when rates
8 were increasing. He added that the County Commissioners voted to extend their 24-
9 hour hold on lodging.

10 **III. Update on Oceanview Drive**

11 Roy Kinion, Lincoln County Public Works Director, explained the archeological testing
12 was delayed due to COVID and has not been completed. He stated the local Tribes
13 have reviewed it and it was now at the State Historic Preservation Office for review. He
14 hoped to have an answer by the end of July and noted the report did not have findings
15 of items of archeological value.

16 Kinion stated the county was going to proceed with the guardrail replacement. He
17 stated Manager Beaucaire had asked about building a wall similar to what was around
18 the Sea Lion Caves. He was not able to get costs and indicated the county would
19 contribute the value of the guardrails to the City if they wanted to pursue a rock wall.

20 Kinion stated the county would be striping roads in August and he hoped the City could
21 provide a result on traffic flow direction soon. Mayor Moore stated the City was waiting
22 on getting a transportation safety plan prior to making a final decision on traffic flow on
23 Oceanview Drive.

24 **IV. County Health and Mobile Health Facility**

25 Austin indicated the Health Department was working to find grants to fund a mobile
26 health clinic. However, she noted all grant work at present was focused on supplies
27 and testing around COVID. Tooke stated the City would like to pursue the issue in the
28 future. Mayor Moore stated a mobile unit would be good to pursue as it could service
29 other areas as well. Hunt indicated Dr. Ogden at Samaritan Hospital was very
30 supportive of a joint effort.

31 **V. County Housing Initiative and Workforce Housing**

32 Commissioner Hall had technical difficulties and could not be heard. County Counsel
33 Wayne Belmont reported the county was pursuing a low-income housing rehabilitative
34

1 grant through Business Oregon community development block grant program. He
2 indicated they were working through DevNW to continue to feed that program. He
3 indicated they were looking for \$400,000 to add to this program that helps keep people
4 in their houses.

5 Hunt reported that Commissioner Hall was appointed to the Oregon Housing Stability
6 Council which could give the local area greater voice at the state level. Tooke
7 wondered if it was possible to work with organizations such as Habitat for Humanity on
8 building projects. Councilor Glenn stated that the Community Services Consortium
9 (CSC) had leftover funds and asked if the county was working with this group or with the
10 Council of Governments (COG). Belmont explained the CSC money was the seed
11 money for DevNW. Tooke suggested that organizations such as AmeriCorps has
12 training programs where students could provide labor, depending on their restrictions.

13 **VI. Vacation Rentals and County Policy**

14 Mayor Moore stated the Council did drop the 24-hour hold on short-term rentals and put
15 in a one-hour hold. Hunt thanked the Mayor and the City for their contributions to the
16 worker and business relief funds.

17 Belmont stated the county suspended the issuance of new short-term rental licenses
18 just prior to COVID while they examined getting additional resources such a tracking
19 software and code enforcement. He indicated the license suspension was continued
20 until September 30 while they adjust their code. Belmont state there would likely be a
21 ballot measure on short-term rentals in the unincorporated areas of the county.

22 Glenn suggested it could be helpful to have unified policies. Belmont noted that all the
23 jurisdictions in the county have different regulations so it was very difficult to get a
24 unified policy. Mayor Moore noted how the cities have diverged in their policies over
25 time.

26 Tooke stressed the importance of getting COVID under control to avoid shutting down
27 all short-term rentals.

28 **VII. Lincoln County Financial Outlook and Impact on Yachats**

29 Belmont stated they were monitoring the state to see how the state finances would
30 impact Lincoln County. He noted the CARES act funding for recovery and rebuilding
31 was covered under the state and county emergency orders as long as the monies were
32 spent by the deadline. He stated the impact of transient rentals was less significant on
33 the county budget. He reported at the federal level, the HEROES Act does include
34 funding for losses experienced by cities, but that is subject to change. Hunt noted they

1 were anticipating quarterly rather than semi-annual budget adjustments. He noted that
2 not filling open positions has enabled the county to compensate for loses.

3 **VIII. Lincoln County Planning and Certificate of Occupancy**

4 Hunt and Belmont were not certain of what information the City was wanting. Belmont
5 did not want to discuss any particular case. Manager Beaucaire stated Councilor
6 Vaaler had a question about the process of issuing certificates of occupancies. Belmont
7 did not have knowledge of this information and indicated he would try to get the City
8 information.

9 **IX. Riggs Property**

10 Manager Beaucaire stated a citizen had concern that the property had been
11 reclassified. She suggested she work with Belmont to get more information to bring
12 back to the Council.

13 Glenn thanked the county for the funding for the social services grants.

14 Mayor Moore adjourned all meetings at 7:02 pm.

15
16 ATTEST:
17

18
19 _____
20 W. JOHN MOORE, Mayor

21 _____
Shannon Beaucaire, City Manager

Date: _____