CITY OF YACHATS

CITY COUNCIL REGULARMEETING

SUMMARY MINUTES

September 18, 2024

The regular meeting of the Cit Council was called to order by Mayor Craig Berdie at 1:00 p.m. in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons. Members present: Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey, Council President, Councilor Barry Collins, Councilor Anthony Muirhead (via zoom) and Catherine Whitten-Carey; Staff: City Manager Bobbi Price, Recorder Kimmie Jackson

I. Announcements & Proclamations

National Preparedness Month read into the record.

II. Citizens' Concerns

None

III. Consent Agenda

City Manager & Staff Report, Commission/Committee reports, financial reports are attached to the online packet for review.

Move to approve the consent agenda; requested staff to incorporate the previously submitted community coordinator reports moving forward. The vote was called and passed unanimously.

VI. New Business

Lincoln County Water Alliance

Billie Joe Smith from the Lincoln High Water Systems Alliance spoke about their campaign to develop a 50-year water supply plan for the county, discussed Oregon State University's decision-making platform to evaluate water management strategies and the need to gather data from individual water entities. It was mentioned the draft resolution for a county-wide water alliance, emphasizing voluntary participation, feasibility evaluation, and potential technological sources; discussed forming a coalition with an Inter-Governmental Agreement and sharing water plans with OSU; expressed concerns about the alliance's feasibility but supported exploration due to limited city resources. Also mentioned the need for legislation, cooperative agreements, and state support. The team agreed to join the alliance; discussed surveying residents about city services and the Civic Master Plan for long-term development.

Stakeholder Survey

A survey was developed by staff and Council President O'Shaughnessey that could be used for residents within city limits; the hope is to help identify issues that are important to our residents; to gather information about the resident satisfaction with city services and thoughts as other projects that they see that are important to the community. The survey has eleven questions with a scale from very satisfied and very dissatisfied, and three open ended questions.

Civic Master Plan & Vote

It was expressed by some of the council members' concerns about incorporating previous plans into the current process. A/R/C Architects discussed their approach to assessing long-term needs and their experience with civic projects. These members confirmed their coastal expertise; highlighted the company's implementation record and community engagement approach. A/R/C introduced their long-term planning abilities; the review of past material to avoid duplication; appreciated the nature connection focus and citizen feedback approach. Didway and Shapiro discussed their landscape architecture experience and facilitation of community conversations and emphasized understanding the community's needs.

The city manager led the discussion on understanding the pros and cons of various proposals, suggesting a ranking system for participants; and clarified that the project would be funded from the general fund and capital improvements. The team reviewed the results of a preference poll, with Scharen and A/R/C emerging as the top choices. The council planned to gather input from each counselor on the poll results and their thoughts on moving forward.

The vote was called to move forward and select a firm: The vote was called to approve the proposal of Scharen Design Studio. The vote was Aye: 3 and Nay: 2. The motion passed to move forward with this project understanding that the next step is to negotiate a detailed contract in the authorized amount of the city budget; and the city manager is authorized as part of the job description.

Change of October Council Date

It was announced the Change of the October Council Date has been moved to October 23rd.

V. Ongoing Business

Delineators Update

There are two bids that were above what they were granted from ODOT; McClung discussed the financial situation of a project, stating they were $35,000-$40,000 short of the $75,000 bid. Also mentioned the possibility of getting reimbursed for money already spent and expected to receive more grant money; and explained the high bid cost was due to the need to widen and flatten the narrow path to meet ADA requirements. Also discussed the design of the pathway project, including the cost of 9,000 delineators and the speed limit of 25 miles per hour. It was suggested modifying the project or defer other projects to fund this one; the suggestion was made to ask the city manager to find budgetary adjustments. The group agreed to move forward with the project, with the city manager finding the necessary funds.

It was moved that the $75,000 bid be accepted without conditions; staff will continue to pursue additional funds to cover the shortfall; the city manager to find funding for what is not covered by ODOT. The vote was called and approved unanimously.

Utility & Rate Vote

This was a discussion about proposed rate adjustments in phase one and phase two. She explained the details of each suggested adjustment, including estimated revenue and the option to vote yes or no. Kimmie also discussed the potential impact of skipping phase one and starting with phase two, which would involve tiered rates. Rick clarified that without phase one, phase two would have soaked up all the money and charged $11 a unit. It was suggested a combination of phase one and phase two as a softer approach. The team also discussed the potential for tiered rates, suggesting a system where the first two units cost a certain amount, and the next two units cost a different amount. The team agreed to further investigate the potential of tiered rates.

The discussion continued around adjustments to the city's water rates, including implementing tiered pricing to encourage conservation; proposed maintaining a base rate while increasing costs for heavier usage; addressed concerns about the impact on fixed-income residents. The team voted to eliminate included water units for commercial users and vacation rentals, increasing their rates compared to residential. It was also suggested equalizing rates for large hotels based on past usage, potentially generating $20,000 in additional revenue.

The city manager will check with the attorney regarding the prepaid SBC fee and stated utility rate adjustments will follow the city manager's recommended schedule. It was clarified that the timing will be communicated in October for November-January implementation. It was suggested to consider funding a rebate or scholarship program through the visitor amenities fund instead of increasing the handling fee.

The vote was called eliminated all included water units, on base rate for 5/8 meters which are commercial users and vacation rental license holders; to begin the process to increase as of November; and to increase the base rated by 25% more than the residential users for water and sewer. The motion was approved unanimously.

Water Shortage Agreement and City Goals Update

Discussion continued about the city's major goal for the year, to amend the water shortage agreement. The mayor expressed his appreciation for the work of the city staff and the water team, and mentioned that he had made some edits to the water shortage ordinance, which were intended to clarify the language rather than make substantive changes; then discussed the final edits to the water shortage ordinance, which were approved for public notice and a vote in the next meeting. It was emphasized the importance of the water sharing agreement that is in place, which allows for the changes. also mentioned the council's progress on their goals and the need to approve the surplus of unused equipment. The council thanked public works for their work on the boardwalk and requested an update on the location and accessibility of emergency phones.

Lastly, it was announced the visit of the Rain Shadow Running Group and the League of Women Voters.

Next steps

• City Manager to negotiate contract details with Sharon Design for the civic master plan project.
• City Manager to find funding for the $35,000 shortfall for the delineator project.
• Rick to pursue additional funding from ODOT for the delineator project.
• City staff to begin implementing approved utility rate changes for commercial users and vacation rentals.
• City Attorney to research legality of prepaid SDC fee and provide opinion.
• City Manager to defer restaurant equalization rates to Phase 2 for further study.
• City staff to integrate final edits to water shortage ordinance amendment.
• City Manager to put water shortage ordinance amendment on agenda for next meeting with public notice.
• Public Works to sell surplus 2005 Chevy Silverado and Kubota Backhoe Loader tractor.
• Public Works to provide update on AED locations and accessibility.
• City staff to look into AED training options for interested citizens.
• City Manager to add post office discussion to next meeting agenda.

Adjourned at 5:15pm
Kimmie Jackson Recorder