CITY OF YACHATS

PUBLIC WORKS & STREETS COMMISSION

SUMMARY MINUTES

January 14, 2025

The regular meeting of the Public Works & Streets Commission was called to order by Chair Linn West at 2:00 pm in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons. Members present Co-Chair Don Groth, Commissioners Bob Bennett, Kevin Erdahl, Don Phipps, Alex Cox, and Jim Welch. Staff: Dave Buckwald, Wastewater Lead, Rick McClung, Water Lead, and Kimmie Jackson, Recorder.

Audience: 14

I. **Announcements & Correspondence** – None

II. **Citizens' Concerns** – None

III. **Chair & Vice Chair** – Vote -Chair West opened the floor for volunteers to serve as Chair for 2025. After no volunteers emerged, Chair West stated his willingness to continue as Chair. Vice Chair Groth is also interested in continuing his role as vice chair.

The Motion was called for Linn West to continue as Chair and Doon Groth as Vice-Chair. All were in favor, and it passed unanimously.

IV. Reports

a. No Fire Department Report moving forward

Emergency Preparedness Report - The Emergency Preparedness Committee is focusing on possibly designating the Commons as an emergency shelter rather than just a warming shelter. With input from Steve Rupnow of the Red Cross, the committee learned about the requirements necessary to become an accredited shelter. There was a discussion about organizing a class conducted by the Red Cross, specializing in shelter operations.

b. The commission plans to declutter and reorganize Radar Rd. Conex. Due to issues with the current one's access and functionality, a proposal for a new Conex will be submitted in the next budget cycle. Public Works will demonstrate the Nomad water disinfecting system in late spring. All commissioners will be notified of the timing, as they need to understand how to operate the system in potential emergencies.
c. Public Works Report – Attached to the online packet for detailed information.
d. Finance Report – Attached to the online packet for detailed information.
e. CIP 5-year Status – attached to the online packet for detailed information.

V. Current Business

VI. Utility Rates - An overview of the existing utility rates was presented, highlighting the need for a review to ensure they align with operational costs and community needs. The potential for adjusting rates was examined in light of increasing service delivery costs, infrastructure maintenance, and upcoming projects. The discussion included the impact of such adjustments on residents and businesses.

The comparisons with rates from neighboring areas were conducted to assess competitiveness and fairness. This analysis aims to determine whether current rates are equitable while covering the city's operational expenses. Plans were discussed for holding community meetings or forums to solicit feedback and ensure transparency in the decision-making process.

The discussion explored projections for utility usage and demand over the next few years, considering population growth and development trends within the community. If necessary, recommendations for rate adjustments would be prepared for further discussion in subsequent meetings. The goal is to ensure sustainable utility services while addressing the financial realities faced by the Public Works Department. Overall, the utility rate discussion highlighted the need for a balanced approach to designing fair rates that fund necessary services while remaining mindful of the economic impact on residents.

VII. New Business

a. 2025 Project - Reviewed and prioritized projects based on community needs, available resources, and potential impacts. Emphasis was placed on projects to improve existing infrastructure, such as road repairs, water system upgrades, and public facility enhancements, to ensure safety and sustainability. Discussions included budget implications for the proposed projects. The need to balance funding allocations while maintaining fiscal responsibility was a central theme, with considerations for grants and other funding sources to support project implementation. A preliminary timeline for project execution was established, aimed at beginning key initiatives in 2025 while allowing for necessary planning and approvals in advance. Overall, the discussion focused on strategic planning for upcoming projects, emphasizing collaboration with the community and careful consideration of funding and implementation strategies to address the city's evolving needs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.
Kimmie Jackson, Recorder