



CITY OF YACHATS
YACHATS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL WORK SESSION
SUMMARY MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2025

The Special Work Session meeting of the City Council is called to order by Mayor Craig Berdie at 10:00 am in the Civic Meeting Room of the Yachats Commons. Members present: Council President Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessey, Councilor Barry Collins, Councilor Catherine Whitten-Carey, and Councilor Nicole Hedlund. Staff: City Manager Bobbi Price, Recorder Kimmie Jackson.

Members participated in an icebreaker activity where they shared personal motivations for serving on the Council. The key themes of the Council are dedication to community service, desire for positive change, and commitment to transparent governance. Mayor Berdie stressed the value of long-term strategic thinking.

- I. The Council reviewed the progress on 2024 goals, highlighting achievements and areas for improvement. Key accomplishments included infrastructure improvements, enhanced public safety measures, and steps taken toward environmental sustainability. The Council acknowledged the importance of transparent communication with residents regarding completed projects and ongoing initiatives. Structured reporting mechanisms will be developed to track progress more effectively.
- II. The Resident Sentiment Survey was reviewed, with discussions focusing on infrastructure, public safety, housing, and environmental sustainability. The survey indicated a strong public willingness to pay additional fees for city improvements, with priorities including enhanced public safety measures, green spaces, and sustainable development. A key takeaway was the need for better communication about completed and ongoing projects.

Water sustainability was a major topic, with discussions on long-term strategies for securing the city's water supply. The Council emphasized the need for improved water conservation efforts, infrastructure upgrades, and



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partnerships with environmental agencies to enhance water resilience. Public concerns about water security were acknowledged, and proactive measures to prevent future shortages were discussed.

Improving the city's communication strategy was another focal point. The council discussed potential updates to the city website for better accessibility and user experience and the use of multiple communication channels, including social media, newsletters, community meetings, and local newspaper outreach. A 'Myth Busters' section in newsletters to address community misconceptions was proposed, and the Council recognized the importance of reinforcing messages about completed projects to ensure public awareness.

In closing, the Council agreed to refine and finalize strategic goals 2025. Mayor Berdie emphasized the importance of collaboration and responsiveness to community feedback. The City Manager was assigned to compile the 2025 City Council goals based on the meeting discussions. The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2025, to review action items further.

Adjourned at 4:40 pm

Kimmie Jackson Recorder