



**CITY OF YACHATS
PUBLIC WORKS & STREETS COMMISSION**

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES

City Hall, 441 Hwy 101 N, OR 97498

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

- I. Public Works & Streets Commission Meeting 2:00 pm**
- II. Call to Order**
- III. Roll Call**

Committee Members	P/A
Linn West, Chair	P
Don Groth, Vice Chair	P
Alex Cox	A
Bob Bennett	P
James Welch	P
Kevin Erdahl	P
Don Phipps	P

Staff Members	
Bobbi Price, City Manager	
Neal Morphis, City Infrastructure Clerk	Dave Buckwald, Wastewater Lead
Rick McClung, Water Lead	Becca Parrish, Utilities Clerk

Audience

IV. Announcements / Correspondence

- a. The Emergency Preparedness Committee received a county grant for a matching grant estimated at \$2,500 to replace the Connex structure at the radar site. Plans are to empty and restore the Conex, including safely removing existing shelves for reuse in the new Conex later this summer.

V. Citizens' Concerns (5-Minute Limit)

- a. None

VI. Reports

- a. Meeting Summary ([Information only](#))

- b. [Fire Dept Report](#) - (Linn) The Fire Department is currently busy with various activities, including replacing the assistant fire chief position. Scheduling a meeting with the fire chief has been challenging.
- c. [Emergency Preparedness Committee Report](#) (Linn) - April Nomad demonstration on April 16, time TBD.
- d. [Public Works Report & Fire Hydrants](#) -Lead McClung highlighted the delay in the water efficiency report, but confirmed that the data is being compiled and will be available in the next month's report.

The discussion regarding hydrants highlighted maintenance issues and accessibility. It emphasized the importance of routine inspections to ensure quick responses during emergencies and collaborating with local fire departments to evaluate hydrant locations and readiness. This guarantees that our emergency responders can access hydrants when every moment matters.

- e. [Finance Report](#) - The finance overview report shows financial metrics, with July 2023 revenue reaching an encouraging \$157,446.10 and a projection of \$175,302.79 by July 2024. The projected revenue from utility billing in 2024 is about \$1,779,751.78, based on anticipated increases from recent rate adjustments.

VII. Current Business

- a. Deliniators Ocean View Dr. - Concerns about existing safety hazards, including accidents due to unclear road boundaries and improved visibility during adverse weather conditions (fog, rain), were raised. Suggestions were given around the strategic placement of delineators to maximize impact on traffic flow and safety, considering materials and design for durability and visibility, including reflective features.

Conduct a thorough road assessment to identify critical areas for delineator installation; develop a timeline for the project, and determine funding sources. Moving forward, the focus will be on careful planning and community collaboration to ensure effective implementation.

- b. [Utility Rate Increases](#)—The presentation covered recent increases in utility rates, focusing on three key changes: the ENR (Engineering News

Record) adjustment in November and a 25% increase for vacation rentals starting in January. Financial projections showed revenues rising from \$157,446.10 in July 2023 to \$175,302.79 by July 2024, with an overall expected utility billing revenue of approximately \$1,779,751.78 for 2024 from residential and commercial accounts.

The base rate for residential accounts (895 total) increased to \$113.59, with reinstated late fees of 1.5% after 15 days of non-payment. Commercial accounts (42 total) were adjusted similarly, considering two assumed units of water usage. Vacation rental revenues are projected at \$41,832 yearly for 123 accounts, with January 2025 estimated at \$154,705.96. The previous inclusion of two free units for residents has been removed, contributing to increased revenue.

- c. [Street Fees](#) - The conversation about street fees revolved around a proposed \$10 monthly fee on utility bills to fund various city projects, including road repairs and storm drain maintenance. Members discussed the financial needs identified through recent analyses, revealing a gap where the proposed fee wouldn't cover all expenses. One individual mentioned previous assessments of a street fee on utility bills, prompting a request for historical data to ensure accurate presentation to the city Council. There was some confusion about whether a past capital fee appeared on bills or was only in the accounting system, leading to a clarification that it had not been physically listed on customer invoices. Overall, the group was focused on gathering the necessary information and exploring options for addressing funding needs.

- d. [Septic Tank Removal](#)—Commissioners Welch and Phipps met with Monty Norris of the Oregon Association of Water Utilities, who provided background on how other communities such as Portland and Crescent have dealt with the problem. In discussing where Yachats has several septic systems and lots that are very expensive to reach with sewer, the consensus was to focus on the environmental impacts and monitoring of existing septic systems educating homeowners about their septic system care and management, exploring potential funding sources for system upgrades and replacements, considering partnerships with local health agencies for guidance and support, and the need to set a timeline for follow-up meetings to review progress and make adjustments as necessary.

- e. [Speeding Data](#)—ODOT requires that cameras be limited to what it describes as high-crash corridors. ODOT needs to relax this requirement so that Yachats can pursue this avenue to increase pedestrian safety across and along 101 Highway.

As far as I'm aware, the state legislation that permits cities to install speed enforcement cameras does not carve out an exception for state highways that traverse city limits. So it is not unreasonable to assume that ODOT may not have jurisdiction over this aspect (speed enforcement) on state highways within city limits. In the state of Iowa, Iowa's Department of Transportation (IDOT) faced a similar question of its authority to limit speed camera enforcement on state highways through city limits. A city took IDOT to court, and the matter was settled in favor of the town of Iowa by the Iowa Supreme Court. IDOT had to permit speed enforcement cameras within city limits. ODOT should be made aware of this possibility.

ODOT has set the speed limit regulations for Highway 101 in Yachats. Yachats is seeking a low-cost method to enforce ODOT's speed limits.

Due to our small size, ODOT might consider Yachats for a pilot program or test case to see if camera enforcement on state highways would be manageable and if it would work to force drivers to comply with ODOT speed regulations.

VIII. New Business

- a. [Garbage & Recycling](#) - Updates were provided regarding changes to garbage collection schedules and recycling services, including adjustments in pick-up times and frequencies. The conversation addressed ongoing challenges related to waste management, which can lead to increased operational costs and reduced efficiency. Residents were encouraged to properly sort their waste and recycle effectively to improve overall program success. Plans for new initiatives to increase recycling rates and reduce waste were discussed, including educational programs and potential incentives for residents to engage in better waste management practices.

Adjourn City Council Meeting 4:15 pm

Minutes prepared by: Kimmie Jackson, City Recorder