



CITY OF YACHATS
PUBLIC WORKS & STREETS COMMISSION
MEETING SUMMARY MINUTES
City Hall, 441 Hwy 101 N, OR 97498
Tuesday, October 14, 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	P
Bob Bennett	P
James Welch	P
Kevin Erdahl	P
Don Phipps	P

Staff Members	
Kimie Jackson, Recorder	Neal Morphis, City Clerk
Rick McClung, Water Lead	Dave Buckwald, Wastewater Lead
Bobbi Price, City Manager	

Audience
10

- IV. **Announcements / Correspondence** - Suggestion raised for a potential holiday dinner gathering for commission members, and noted that it would be informal and individually funded
- V. **Citizens' Concerns (5-Minute Limit)** - None
- VI. **Reports**
 - a. Meeting Summary - No changes.
 - b. Fire Dept Report - (Linn) No report.
 - c. Emergency Preparedness Committee Report - Recent simulation drill completed successfully. Identified areas for improvement

and additional training needs. CERT teams from Waldport participated actively; equipment storage and logistics were being reorganized. Plans to repeat the exercise, incorporating lessons learned. Future drills will include “shelter seekers” and first aid roles. Collaboration continues with the Seal Rock Fire Chief for upcoming scenarios.

- d. [The Public Works Report](#) highlights steady progress on the East 2nd Street Project, with one change order issued, reduced from \$8,000 to \$6,000, following inaccuracies found in the mapping. The Reservoir and Water Storage Project is evaluating a new site near the water treatment plant, which offers gentler slopes and fewer retaining walls. Estimated preliminary costs are around \$100,000, and grants are being sought to offset these expenses. This site is safe from tsunami and landslide risks and allows for improved access and reduced pipe length. Dave Buckwald reports a significant improvement in water loss efficiency, achieving 92% for two consecutive months. Crew operations are productive, with 1,800 ft of line inspected in September, aiming for 20% annual coverage. In capital projects, variable frequency drives have been installed in the Main Lift Station, and the design for the Quiet Water Lift Station is under review. The East 2nd Street project is on track, with a new 8-inch water line connected to the 6-inch main, and updated mapping is being conducted as obsolete lines are removed.
- e. [The Public Works Finance Report](#) is online for review.
- f. [CIP Report](#) is online for review

VII. Current Business

- a. [Commission Project](#): The commission was asked to work on a list of goals to forward to the Council, and will have them ready at the November meeting to review before forwarding to the Council. Not much information to report at this time. Members are still in the gathering information stages.
- b. [Report on ODOT Appeal and Speed/Camera Workgroup](#) - Don Phipps and Jim Welch reported on the recent ODOT Speed Zone Review Panel hearing regarding proposed speed limit changes

along Highway 101. The panel approved a reduction from 40 mph to 35 mph, partially meeting the city's request. Jackson noted procedural concerns with the hearing, including limited panel attendance, lack of recording, and inaccurate traffic data that failed to reflect typical highway conditions. Despite these issues, the city achieved progress toward improving roadway safety and emphasized the need for greater transparency in future ODOT reviews.

The Speed Camera Workgroup collected data earlier in the year, which showed over 37,000 vehicles traveling at 36 mph or faster through town by July, demonstrating a continuing speeding issue. Automated speed cameras, which issue citations to vehicles exceeding the limit by 11 mph or more, have been shown in other cities to reduce speeding and crashes significantly., and reported that ODOT has already approved camera use on several state highways and expressed no objection to Yachats pursuing a similar system. A required Safety and Operations Report would cost about \$20,000, while mobile camera units are estimated between \$85,000 and \$100,000, with vendor costs typically offset through citation revenue. Preliminary vendor discussions suggest potential reductions of 50–60% in local speeding and projected revenues ranging from \$200,000 to \$1 million in the first eight months. The workgroup recommended continued research and coordination with other Oregon cities implementing similar programs.

Adjourn Meeting 4:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Kimmie Jackson, Recorder