



## **City of Yachats City Council**

Meeting Summary Minutes  
City Hall, 441 Hwy 101 N, Yachats, OR 97498  
Wednesday, January 21, 2026

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### **Regular Session**

#### **I. Call to Order**

#### **II. Roll Call**

#### **III. Announcements, Proclamations, and Correspondence**

Council acknowledged receipt of correspondence included in the packet and an additional letter concerning water availability and housing density. Councilor Carey provided an overview of upcoming cultural events involving visiting Tibetan monks. Council expressed appreciation for the cultural significance and community engagement opportunities, noting that events would be open to the public and hosted at multiple local venues.

- a. Smith Letter regarding nonprofit business licenses
- b. Wade Email and reflections on time in Yachats
- c. Brown email - The VR Next Door
- d. Rose email - Power Lines on Ocean View Drive

#### **IV. Public Comment – limited to items not on the agenda (5-minute limitation per person)**

No public comments.

#### **V. Consent Agenda**

The City Manager highlighted key items from the staff report, including:

- Library grand opening scheduled for February 28, 2026
- Community basketball free-throw event on February 26, 2026
- State of the City address on February 10, 2026
- Upcoming work session on vacation rental code amendments on February 4, 2026

- Selection of Baker Tilly as the City's new auditor
- Progress on ADA restroom construction
- Implementation of parking fees at Yachats State Park beginning March 30, 2026
- Installation of delineators on Ocean View Drive
- Brush box monitoring improvements
- Sheriff's Office staffing changes and report format updates
- Financial reports indicated the City is tracking near budget expectations at mid-year, with some variances attributed to seasonal revenue timing. Council also received updates on the progress of the wetlands inventory, committee reports, and commission activities.

#### a. The City Manager and City Staff report

City Manager Price reviewed key highlights from the consent agenda, including community events, infrastructure updates, financial status, changes to public safety reporting, and progress on capital and planning initiatives. Council members asked clarifying questions about park parking fees, brush box monitoring, the timing of the financial report, and the wetlands inventory process. Overall, Council expressed satisfaction with staff progress, fiscal tracking, and improved reporting timeliness.

As part of the City Manager's report, staff highlighted several upcoming City-sponsored and community events. These included the **State of the City event on February 10, 2026**, the **library grand opening on February 28, 2026**, and a **community free-throw basketball event on February 27, 2026** to celebrate new gym equipment and promote open gym use. Council acknowledged the events as opportunities for community engagement, public awareness, and celebration of recent City accomplishments.

#### b. Lincoln County Sheriff Contract Report

Council reviewed the Sheriff's Office report and noted changes in report formatting under a new sergeant. Discussion included the upcoming transition to a new contracted deputy and the importance of maintaining clarity in call-type reporting. Staff will request additional descriptive information be included in future reports to aid Council understanding.

#### c. Commission/Committee meeting summaries

Council received summaries from various commissions and committees and acknowledged the work of volunteers supporting City operations. Members highlighted positive progress by the Emergency Preparedness Committee and noted updates from planning-related work sessions. Council also recognized the service of outgoing volunteers and emphasized the value of continued accountability and regular reporting.

#### d. City Council meeting summary

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**e. Financial Reports**

Council reviewed mid-year financial reports and discussed revenue and expenditure trends across funds. Discussion included water and wastewater revenues, timing of tax collections, and improved timeliness of financial reporting. Council expressed satisfaction with overall fiscal stability and ongoing monitoring of budget performance.

**f. Report from Pacific Habitat- Wetlands Inventory**

Council received an update on the Local Wetlands Inventory project conducted by Pacific Habitat. Discussion focused on progress made in mapping and responding to Department of State Lands comments, staffing challenges at the state level, and expectations for continued advancement toward project completion. Council supported keeping the item on the consent agenda to ensure regular updates and accountability.

**VI. New Business**

**a. Council President nomination and vote**

Council discussed leadership continuity and workload considerations in light of upcoming elections. Members emphasized the importance of institutional knowledge and preparation for future transitions. Councilor Hedlund indicated willingness to serve, and the Council expressed confidence in her ability to fulfill the role.

**b. Library Commission Appointment Vote - McKinnon**

Council interviewed Marilyn McKinnon, who described her volunteer experience at the library and her professional background in journalism and management. Council noted her familiarity with library operations and commitment to community service. Members agreed her skills would be an asset to the Commission.

**c. Committee vacancies announcement**

The City Manager outlined current committee vacancies and the importance of volunteer participation to City operations. Council discussed potential recruitment strategies, including outreach at the State of the City event, newsletters, and information packets for new residents. There was general agreement that ongoing recruitment efforts, rather than annual bulk appointments, best suit the community's

size and needs.

**d. 2026 Council Goals**

Council reviewed the proposed 2026 goals and reflected on progress made in 2025. Discussion focused on accountability, implementation, and the role of Council liaisons in supporting committees aligned with specific goal areas. Members agreed that goals should remain flexible, inward-focused, and fiscally cautious given economic uncertainty. Minor editorial and formatting adjustments were anticipated.

**e. Lincoln County Homeless Advisory Council reappointment**

Council noted the value of continued participation to ensure Yachats remains informed and represented in countywide efforts addressing homelessness.

**VII. Ongoing Business**

**a. Public Art Ordinance to review**

Council discussed development of a Public Art Ordinance to formally establish a Public Art Committee and clarify its scope, authority, and relationship to Council goals. Members emphasized the importance of clear governance, transparency, and alignment with community values before adoption. Resolution 379 will be finalized with suggested changes. The public hearing should be in February.

Secetion 5, A - Added #6. The Public Arts Committee finds a significant portion of the community that the artwork is offensive or has become offensive to a group in the community.

**b. Chamber Quarterly Update**

Council received a report from the Chamber of Commerce highlighting current activities, community partnerships, and efforts to support local businesses and tourism. Council expressed appreciation for the Chamber's role in economic vitality and community promotion.

**c. Agenda Center**

Council discussed the recent implementation of the new Agenda Center system. Members acknowledged a learning curve but agreed the system improves public access, organization, and long-term recordkeeping. Staff will continue refinement and training as needed.

**d. New Water Tank Update**

Council received an update from Rick regarding the City's water tank system. The discussion addressed the current condition of the tank, recent and ongoing maintenance considerations, and its role in meeting water storage, pressure, and reliability needs. Council noted the importance of continued monitoring, long-term

planning, and integration of the water tank's status into future infrastructure and capital improvement planning. No formal action was taken.

## **VIII. Other Business**

### **a. From the Mayor**

The Mayor provided remarks on several specific matters raised during the meeting. Discussion focused on ongoing challenges with U.S. Postal Service mail delays affecting timely public notice delivery, and the need to evaluate supplemental notification methods to ensure residents receive required notices in advance of public hearings. The Mayor also referenced coordination with state and regional partners on infrastructure, housing, and regulatory matters, and highlighted the importance of clear Council procedures, agenda management, and collaboration between Council and staff to maintain transparency and effective governance. No formal action was taken.

### **b. From Council**

### **c. From Staff**

## **IX. Adjourn**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:16 pm.

**Minutes prepared by: Kimmie Jackson, Recorder**