



CITY OF YACHATS

**JOINT CITY COUNCIL
and LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSION**

March 20, 2019

Draft Minutes

I. Meeting Call to Order

Mayor W. John Moore called the March 20, 2019 joint meeting of the of the Yachats City Council and Lincoln County Commission to order at 6:00 pm in Room 1 of the Yachats Commons. Council members present: W. John Moore, Max Glenn, James Kerti, and Leslie Vaaler. Absent: Jim Tooke. Lincoln County Commissioners: Claire Hall, Kaety Jacobson, and Doug Hunt. Staff present: City Manager Shannon Beaucaire. Also present: Lincoln County Counsel Wayne Belmont, Lincoln County Sheriff Curtis Landers, and Public Works Director Roy Kinon. Audience: 18.

II. Introduction

County Commission Chair Claire Hall recalled the County has been having joint meetings with City Councils for around 25 years and this policy has made relationships more accessible.

III. Single Use Plastics Ban

Mayor Moore explained many Yachats residents have asked the Council to enact a ban on single use plastics and wanted to know what the County was doing in this area.

County Counsel Wayne Belmont explained the issue of recycling was related to the larger issue of management of solid waste. He noted the County could not impose a county-wide ban as they are a general law county, meaning they need the cities to consent to a policy or to have the voters approve it. Belmont stated the matter was a city issue. He noted Newport was considering a plastics ban and Lincoln City was looking at the broader issues of solid waste management. He referred to the “wishful recycling” concept where people place dirty items in the recycling bin and think it will be recycled. He recalled reuse-reduce-recycle slogan and suggested the focus now be on reducing. He stated Lincoln City was now focusing on education around reduction.

IV. Homeless & Mental Health

Mayor Moore reported Yachats had seen a recent increase in homeless travelers and local homeless persons and wanted to know what the county has been doing with policing and providing mental health assistance. Belmont explained that there has been tremendous change in

1 the law around homelessness, noting several significant court cases in the Ninth Circuit, and in
2 particular the City of Boise. He summarized that a municipality cannot make homelessness a
3 crime as that violates Constitutional rights. He stated the County was looking at amending
4 ordinances to increase housing options. Hall stated they were focusing on providing more
5 support for treatment and more affordable housing. She noted 30% of persons in jail have been
6 diagnosed with mental illness and the County was about to open a housing unit for indicted
7 persons in the pretrial phase. The State was planning to launch a \$32.5 million program for pilot
8 projects around affordable housing, and the County was hoping to be awarded some of that
9 money due to their proactive work in trying to get housing. Commissioner Jacobson County has
10 set aside \$60,000 to cost-share with cities on projects around homelessness. She added that the
11 County and Newport had been examining tax foreclosures and odd lots to see if those spaces
12 could be converted to some type of affordable housing, possibly by having nonprofits manage
13 the properties.

14
15 Commissioner Hunt noted the court decided in the Boise case that people have a right to sleep.
16 He provided an example of Portland banning sleeping in parks but allowing camping in the
17 streets/sidewalks. He explained the County was launching programs using mobile crisis
18 counselors who could intervene with populations to prevent them from reaching encounters with
19 law enforcement.

20
21 Hunt noted the private partnerships in the county with Discovery Counseling Rehab,
22 Reconnections Alcohol and Drug Abuse counseling, CHANCE Recovery (Communities Helping
23 Addicts Negotiate Change Effectively), and Powerhouse Detox.

24 25 **V. Affordable Housing**

26 Hall reported governor appointed her to Oregon Housing Stability Council. The government has
27 proposed \$400 million in new money for housing. She noted the Fistera project in Yachats was
28 funded in part through the LIFT bond program. She referred to a study that estimated that
29 155,000 housing units would have been needed to be built since 2000 to keep up with housing
30 demand. She emphasized there was no “silver bullet” solution to affordable housing.

31
32 Councilor Vaaler asked if the County had considered housing for seasonal workers. Vaaler
33 explained seasonal workers might not want to commit to a full year lease and chose to live in
34 their cars instead. Belmont stated these issues have been examined.

35
36 Belmont reported Newport had changed some building code provisions to allow for converting
37 not-used properties for seasonal housing. Hunt suggested they stay aware of this need, especially
38 in the area of multifamily housing. Hall suggested revisiting the Single Room Occupancy
39 housing and dorm style housing models. Hunt noted the benefits of increasing housing in
40 general.

41 42 **VI. Vacation Rentals and Transient Lodging Tax**

43 Mayor Moore indicated there had been many discussions with the Council about vacation rentals
44 and asked if the county was planning any actions in this area. Hall indicated they have been
45 approached by a group to discuss vacation rental policies. Moore asked how the County
46 approached its transient lodging tax (TLT). Hall indicated the County has historically had the

1 public vote on TLT rates. He recalled that the last increase was three years ago and that they try
2 to stay within the TLT range of cities within the county. Commissioner Jacobson asked what the
3 City had done. Hunt noted there were significant differences in what the county versus a city
4 could do. He added their program has been effective in terms of not having large increases in
5 noise, parking, and garbage. Hunt added that some areas have complained about the eroding of
6 character in certain neighborhoods.

7 8 **VII. Biosolids Update**

9 Mayor Moore asked if the Count was considering a change in where biosolids could be spread.
10 Newport was producing Class A Biosolids but were not spreading them within the County.
11 Mayor Moore asked if anything was in the works to lower the City's biosolids disposal costs.
12 Belmont indicated there has been some effort to look at regional processing facilities.

13 14 **VIII. Partnership Development**

15 Manager Beaucaire explained Vaaler has raised the issue of whether the City could share
16 resources with the County to save on costs, such as the City was working with the Council of
17 Governments Planning people and working to get a greater Sheriff's presence. She noted
18 Council has been supported to have a safe, warm place for Deputies to stop in or do reporting
19 when they expand City Hall. Another area was contracts where the City did not have much
20 purchasing power.

21
22 Vaaler explained there were citizens who feel the City does not get much benefit from the
23 County programs. Manager Beaucaire stated that the City recognizes that everyone has tight
24 budgets. Belmont explained they create their contracts so that other entities could piggyback on
25 their contracts. Lincoln County does partner with other counties. Belmont explained the
26 Council of Governments was getting more staff in the area of Planning. Hunt noted the County
27 had gotten the Florence-Yachats transit route operational. He noted they were continuing to
28 push for funding for transit. He also recalled they were still considering some healthcare for
29 Yachats and he had recently talked to healthcare management about creating a mobile health care
30 program. Jacobson indicated she was open to hearing more from the community.

31
32 Commissioners reported their assigned areas:

33 Jacobson: Public Works, Transit, Surveyors Office, Front Office

34 Hall: Planning, Community Corrections, veterans Services

35 Hunt: Health and Human Services, Human Resources, Finance, and IT

36
37 Sheriff Landers reported the Sheriff's Office now has a code enforcement officer, has a contract
38 to provide services in Waldport, and was having discussions about having a code enforcement
39 person support the surrounding cities. He was supportive of this cooperation in the future.

40 41 **IX. Ocean View Drive**

42 Public Works Director Roy Kinon explained they were waiting for the final scope of work from
43 the State Parks archeologist. He had hoped to pay for the asphalt out of the budget for this fiscal
44 year, but he was not certain the archeologist's work would be completed that soon. He was now
45 thinking of repaving first, then installing the guardrails and other items later. This approach
46 would allow for paving in May-June 2019. The county would need to know traffic flow before

1 they did the street striping. The plans were to pave the existing width which would allow for
2 one-way traffic and a wide bike lane. Mayor Moore asked about work on the culverts. Kinon
3 reported his supervisor did not see that as an issue. Kinon stated he has asked his supervisor
4 about re-rocking and compacting for the trail.

5
6 Vaaler asked about the safest and most attractive barrier between pedestrian and traffic. Kinon
7 suggested a wide stripe and possibly epoxy “turtles.” He added the turtles would add to
8 maintenance cost. Kinon stated Autocrest Loop north of Newport was an example of this
9 approach. He did not think the pedestrian-vehicle interaction would be problematic, especially
10 given the width of the lanes. Mayor Moore asked about using a curb. Kinon believed curbs
11 ended up being more of a trip hazard. Vaaler asked about using plantings. Kinon noted
12 plantings require maintenance and people also run over stuff very easily. He added that Lincoln
13 City has been replacing their plantings in their dividers with rock.

14
15 Hunt stated he was part of the Oregon Trail Committee to identify gaps in the Oregon Coast
16 Trail. Approximately 40 miles along coast have been identified, and Lincoln County has about
17 10-12 miles of that total. He noted the area by the old Landmark was one of the areas that
18 needed to be completed. He reported Joanne Kittel had agreed to serve on a subcommittee to
19 look at this issue. He added they also want to provide information along the Trail about other
20 activities in the area.

21
22 Vaaler stated a citizen asked her about the decision to establish easements on properties rather
23 than deeding it in the areas of encroachment. Belmont recalled they were going to do
24 legalization of the road where the County would assume ownership of areas where the road
25 existed. However, legalization would create some nonconforming lots and structures. In order to
26 ensure there was enough room to do maintenance and to not place property owners in jeopardy
27 of land use violations, they came up with easements as a way to keep the area legal for setbacks
28 and future building. Vaaler suggested the City could pass an ordinance to allow those affected
29 lots to have an exception. Belmont indicated this approach was not typical. He stated property
30 owners were in support of the easements.

31
32 **X. Adjournment**

33
34 **VI. Other Business**

- 35 **A. From the Mayor** - none
- 36 **B. From the Council** - none
- 37 **C. From Staff** - none

38
39
40 With no further business before Council, Mayor Moore adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm.

41
42
43
44
45
46 _____
W. JOHN MOORE, Mayor

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

ATTEST:

Shannon Beaucaire, City Manager

Date

DRAFT