



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS February 2005

Visit www.ci.yachats.or.us for the minutes of City Council and Commission meetings



Mayor's Message - February 2005

By Sue Smith

At the risk of boring you all to death over the upcoming Waste Water Treatment Plant, I want to, once again, go over the pertinent information about this project, which is, after all, the hugest project Yachats has ever undertaken or is likely to undertake for the foreseeable future. It is not something to be taken lightly and cavalierly and, I can assure you, your elected officials and the Streets and Public Works Commission are studying it VERY thoroughly. The following is a fact:

The new WWT Plant WILL be built. This has been dictated by the Department of Environmental Quality and is part of an agreement (Mutual Agreement and Order) which the City signed in June 2003 with the DEQ. What the City has control over is HOW this facility is financed.

- It was first thought that General Obligation Bonds (GO Bonds) which are added to existing property taxes made the most sense. The advantages to using those are that: 1) property taxes are deductible on federal income tax IF one itemizes deductions; and 2) ALL property owners will pay, whether or not houses exist on the property. At first blush, it would appear that GO Bonds are the fairest. Approximately 83% of all property in Yachats is residential and 15% is commercial.
- HOWEVER, when water consumption is considered, the picture is somewhat different. Residences account for some 52% of consumption while commercial properties account for about 48%. There are those who feel strongly that the increases should be borne according to usage.
- Another consideration is connection to the system. Is it equitable that all users pay the same connection fee? Some would say not.
- There seems to be some confusion about whether or not certain monies can be used to pay for this new facility. Water and sewer funds, as enterprise funds, are required to be self-supporting for operations. But rate increases can also be used to finance construction or capital improvements.

Current thought is that this new plant should be paid for using a combination of available options. Voting FOR the bond on March 8 does NOT obligate the City to finance the new WWT Plant with property taxes. It merely gives the City that OPTION, along with rates, systems development fees, general fund resources, visitor amenity money. If the ballot measure is defeated on March 8th, one funding option will be eliminated.

I know that this is very confusing, but it is also very important. I urge you, if you have questions, to call City Hall at 547-3565 or any City Councilor or member of the Public Works and Streets Commission. Let us know, too, what you think is the fairest way to pay for this and what you think is in the best interests of all who live in, own property in, or enjoy visiting Yachats.



New City Council Member Appointed

Four applicants for the vacant City Council position? Yes, **FOUR!**

Cy Kauffman, Larry Nixon, Carol Dutra, and Rachel Vanderthorne were all present at the February 10 meeting for an interview.

Councilor Wulff asked each what would be their most important goal for the next two years, aside from the water and sewer systems.

- Kauffman said that it is important to have a safe and inviting community for the citizens and the visitors alike; and of course, the trails and the Commons are important to the community.
- Dutra said that parking and congestion are a problem; and, she would like to see a better balance between the interests of the business owners and the residents.
- Vanderthorne said that she would like to see more activities and events in town to bring people here and get more notice.
- Nixon said one of the best things that ever happened for this community was when the Commons became available and the City jumped at the chance to buy it. So, the *community* is his main goal for the next two years. Nixon said that he also has some real concerns about emergency preparedness as well as dealing with the aftermath of a disaster.

Smith asked each what their leadership strengths were.

- Kauffman said that he was willing to listen, get enough information to make a decision, and is willing to get out there and work.
- Dutra said that she is able to see both sides and has no biases. Dutra also said that she has never been involved with city government so she would bring a new perspective to the table.
- Vanderthorne said that she brings a spirited position to everything she does and she is a flexible person.
- Nixon said that he has history and experience serving on the City Council, and he would have a good ear for the public works.

Smith said that with the major sewer related projects facing the City in the next few years it seems that it will be necessary for the City Council members to make a substantial time commitment; and she asked each of the applicants if they would be able to make that level of commitment. Each indicated that they would be able to devote the necessary time and effort to the job.

It was a tough decision, and when it was made experience won out. Nixon was appointed to fill the vacant seat created when Smith was elected Mayor. Nixon's term will end December 31, 2006. Under the new Charter, it will not be necessary to hold a special election.

Nixon has served on City Council numerous times in the past, in both elected and appointed positions. His last appointment was for several months to fill a vacancy when Paul Plunk resigned in the spring of 2002.

At his last meeting in December 2002, Nixon tried to take his name plaque with him as a souvenir of his time on the Council. City Recorder, Nancy Otterson took it from him and said that *this* time she would keep it for the *next* time he was appointed, to save the City money. So when Otterson administered the Oath of Office, and Nixon took his seat at the Council table his name plaque was ready.



City Council Adopts Goals for 2005

At the February meeting City Council reviewed the goals from the various Commissions as well as their own goals and objectives for the new year.

LONG TERM GOALS

- Maintain a sustainable water supply & efficiency rating
- Pursue stable long term funding
- Provide for resident and visitor safety
- Pursue effective communication
- Maintain and enhance the livability of Yachats

COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- To continue expediting the Wastewater Treatment plant project (plans, construction, etc.)
 - To monitor development of directional signage on the trails and in town
 - To pursue Disaster Preparedness for citizens and visitors
 - To review City's Visitor Center
 - To encourage citizen review of the 2020 Visioning Plan and re-populating the Committee for Citizen Involvement
 - To continue to seek completion of the 804 mediated settlement with the assuming of Ocean View Drive by the City
 - To continue working on improvement of parking in the downtown core
 - To continue oversight and monitoring/adjusting of the Capital Improvement Process
 - To identify and implement specific actions to improve local safety
-



PUBLIC SAFETY OR PUBLIC NUISANCE?

By Mayor Sue Smith

For several months, a task force sanctioned by the City Council has been proceeding with the formation of a volunteer Public Safety Patrol. The intent has always been, from the very beginning of discussions, to enhance life in Yachats by, as the Mission Statement says: addressing "issues of safety, public assistance, and education on ordinances by serving as 'extra eyes, ears and helping hands' for residents and visitors alike." Research was conducted into how these patrols function in other cities; Mr. Alan Canfield, coordinator of the Waldport Citizens' Patrol shared information with the committee; Sheriff Dennis Dotson attended meetings twice to address the issue of volunteer patrols. It was gratifying that so many (over 19%) of the surveys were returned and most offered very constructive suggestions/concerns. Twenty-five people have indicated an interest in participating in this process. They will fill out applications and participate in an interview process. The Sheriff's Office will conduct background checks; and training will be done through the Sheriff's department before any Patrols are out and about. These volunteers will be non-confrontational and will not be armed.



In Other City Council Business

- City Council adopted Ordinance No. 250, which grants Charter Cable a nonexclusive franchise agreement for cable television service.
 - City Council adopted Ordinance No. 251, which added Chapter 2.10 to the Municipal Code dealing with public contracting and purchasing. This was needed because of changes to the State contracting laws that will go into effect on March 1.
-



WHAT ON EARTH IS A "DOUBLE MAJORITY?"

By Mayor Sue Smith

Several years ago, Oregon voters decided that it would be fiscally prudent to require a higher voter

turnout when issues involving money are concerned. So, with any money measure on the ballot (such as you will be asked to vote on at the March 8 election), in order for the measure to pass, over 50% of the registered voters must vote and of them over 50% must vote in favor of the measure for it to pass. Hence the term, double majority.



Public Works Director

by John McClintock reported

- In January it was necessary to run the water treatment plant only 11 days; which means that it was not using electricity or chemicals. It also means that most of the substantial leaks have been found and fixed.
 - The leak detection service was in town for several days and found 12 additional leaks; the crew is already working on some of them. More good news is that the invoice for the leak detection services ended up being considerably less than expected.
 - The water system will be flushed this month.
 - The sewer plant tours were not well attended, but the public works crew did an excellent job in conducting the tours for the few that showed up.
 - The sign for the gateway has been delivered and within the next couple of months, the work should be completed. Once the north gateway sign has been finished the work will get started for the one at the south end of town
 - The temporary skateboard ramps have been repaired many times, and the kids keep taking them apart and moving the pieces around. The wood is rotten and there is no way to repair them without spending a lot of money on them. City Council agreed that the ramps are a liability and authorized the public works crew to remove them. City Council remarked that when *and if* the kids come up with a plan and a funding source room will be found for a permanent structure.
-



What on earth is a labyrinth?

By Mayor Sue Smith

Several people at the Community Celebration expressed interest in creating a labyrinth in Yachats. A labyrinth is an ancient symbol for wholeness, combining the circle and spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. Walking a labyrinth provides an opportunity for contemplation and self-reflection.

When many people hear the word "labyrinth" they think "maze". A maze is a puzzle to be solved; it has many twists, turns, and dead ends. It requires logical sequential activity to find the correct path and the way out. A labyrinth has only one path, leading circuitously to the center and back out. There is no right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth; it may be done quietly or joyously; playfully or prayerfully.

There are several labyrinths in Oregon, mostly in the Portland area. However, there is one close to Yachats in Newport in the courtyard of Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital. It was built to honor surgeon, Dr. James Ryan.

If you are interested in participating in planning a labyrinth for Yachats, please call Mary Crook at 547-4547.



YACHATS NEWSLETTER

By Mayor Sue Smith

The Yachats Newsletter is one of our most important communication tools. Since we don't have a newspaper or radio station of our own, we depend on this way, along with the City website (www.ci.yachats.or.us) and www.yachats.info to provide information about City operations, Council and Commission activities, Commons activities, ordinance updates, etc. It is available to every property owner and resident in the City. The Mayor asked that the January and February issues be hard copied to everyone, even those who have requested electronic delivery. However, this is a reminder that the Yachats Newsletter is available by e-mail for those of you who would like to receive it that way. Just call City Hall (547-3565) and ask to be added to the list. Thank you for helping us to serve you in the most efficient way possible.



NEWSLETTER NOTICE

By Mayor Sue Smith

In an effort to save money (about \$2,500 - \$3,000 a year) and staff time, the City Council has decided to send the Newsletter with the water bill beginning in April. We will try it for three months (through June) and evaluate its effectiveness in July. This, of course, will mean that enclosures will no longer be sent by that method. The Newsletter is available by e-mail for those who would like to receive it that way.

If you would like your newsletter emailed (text only) please send an email to nancyo@ci.yachats.or.us and your email address will be added to the distribution list for electronic delivery.

If you would like to view the newsletter on the Internet at www.ci.yachats.or.us please send an email to the above address letting us know that you would like to be removed from the mailing list. If you like we could even send you an email letting you know when it has been updated.

And don't forget, there is a lot more on the web-site than the newsletter. You can access the minutes of all the City Council and Commission meetings, a calendar of events at the Commons and all the meetings, reports on the quality of the drinking water, water conservation tips, download any number of forms and much, much more.

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005		
<i>Reporting Through</i>	<i>01/31/05</i>	
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$615,500	\$459,255
Library	\$15,758	\$8,196
Little Log Church & Museum	\$13,418	\$10,450
Parks & Commons*	\$117,412	\$88,014
Streets	\$121,913	\$79,920
Water	\$405,769	\$233,979
Sewer	\$690,714	\$535,228
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,289,151	\$1,282,306
Debt	<u>\$126,118</u>	<u>\$11,963</u>

	\$3,395,753	\$2,709,311
--	-------------	-------------



House Numbers

Making sure your house number is clearly visible could mean the difference between life and death. Emergency vehicles need to be able to see the number when responding to a call. The UPS or Fed-X driver would probably thank you as well.

A City ordinance requires that all house numbers be posted, and they should be visible from the street **at night**, and in all kinds of weather.



Low Income Waiver on water bills

Yachats Code allows the City Recorder to grant a partial waiver if the consumer is eligible.

A waiver of 50% of the monthly base water charge may be considered by the City Recorder based upon written request by the user, and documentation of eligibility for low income assistance from the State of Oregon. Based on the current base rate that waiver is \$11.50 per month.

If you meet the criteria, and would like your case considered contact the City Office.



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

There is no excuse now! An exercise program is now in place here. Every Monday and Wednesday you can come in from 10 to 11 am and sweat and stretch and get in better shape. Joe Valenti will lead you through a good work out with fun music. Cost for the class will be \$30 per month. His number is 547-3840. Come one and all and get in shape.

Meanwhile, ballroom dance will begin again at the Commons. Starting March 7, Bonnie Prater will be teaching a basic ballroom dance class for those new to the art or those who want to refresh their skills. Cost for the month-long class will be \$25 per person. The classes will be on Mondays from 6:30-8 pm. Call me at 547-4734 for further information.

If you want to see what the plan looks like for the Yachats Commons Park behind the building, come into city hall to take a look at the model Anna Chasman and her Roots and Shoots students made of the plans that the Parks Task Force put together. This will be a wonderful addition to our great community.

Here is the calendar for the next few weeks, remember, check the readerboard for weekly highlights and the calendar on the city web page as well as the weekly calendar on the Commons bulletin boards.

Thur, Feb. 24 – 1230 Lunch Bunch Luncheon

Thur, Feb. 24 – 6:30 pm film night dealing with food sponsored by Oceana

Fri, Feb. 25 – 7 pm Chautauqua talk "American Songs of Protest"

Sat, Feb 26 – 7:30 pm Mardi Gras with Etouffee

Thur, Mar 3 – 7 pm Yachats Big Band Dance

Fri & Sat, Mar 4 & 5, 11 & 12 – 8 pm "Sordid Lives" play

Sun, Mar 6 & 13 – 2 pm "Sordid Lives" play

www.ci.yachats.or.us

[Archived Newsletters](#)