



NEWSLETTER



CITY OF YACHATS

May/June 2006



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Prepared Food and Beverage Tax

At our May 8th City Council Work Session, we began discussions on the possibility of enacting a 5% Prepared Food and Beverage Tax as a way to fund part of the loan repayment for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This concept was recommended to the Council by the Green Ribbon Committee. The City of Ashland has implemented this tax to help fund their wastewater plant upgrade.

Based on the committee's research, it is estimated that revenues ranging from \$150,000 to \$250,000 per year generated from this tax would be collected by the restaurants and turned over to the City. The Green Ribbon Committee also recommended that 100% of the tax collected be used toward the loan repayment. Obviously, this idea requires a lot of thought and conversation and all thoughts are welcome and even solicited by the Council. Yes, we have the option of using property taxes for part of the repayment, as well as utility rate increases, and income from the proposed Urban Renewal District. Is that going to be enough? Is it possible to find a new source of revenue? Is the suggested Prepared Food and Beverage Tax the way to go? As you consider these questions, please keep the following thoughts in mind:

- Is "niche" taxing appropriate?
- Is cost significant? (5% on a \$30 tab is \$1.50)
- Are we projecting an image we want to project?
- Are we likely to lose lodging revenue because of this?
- Do our visitors already "pay enough"?
- Is it true that the main need for the new Wastewater Treatment Plant is to service the transient population?
- Are residents unfairly burdened with increased rates and property taxes?
- Are other coastal cities likely to implement a similar tax if Yachats does?
- Is this in the best interests of the entire community?
- Is it reasonable and fair?

As you can see, at this point there seem to be more questions than answers. Write us a letter. Give us a call. Tell us what you think. This is your City.



OCEAN VIEW DRIVE BOULDERS UPDATE

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Apparently, the boulders will be removed. After several public meetings and discussions, as well as input and discussion in a Public Works and Streets Commission meeting, the recommendation from the PW&S Commission will be implemented by the Lincoln County Public Works Department. Safety and liability issues were the driving forces in the need to make this change. Public Works and Streets recommended that Lincoln County install a curb as suggested by the county with appropriate signage along Ocean View Drive to prevent vehicles from launching over the curbing. In addition, the Commission recommends consideration be given to placing designated barriers in compliance with current standards, along the roadway.



IN OTHER CITY COUNCIL NEWS:

City Council voted to hire a consultant to prepare an updated System Development Charge Study for the water and wastewater systems.

City Council voted to rescind the 10% surcharge on gross receipts for events at the Commons, and directed the Parks and Commons Commission to come back with an alternative way to raise revenue as soon as possible.

City Council gave first approval to an Ordinance establishing an Urban Renewal Agency for the City of Yachats. The second approval will be made at the June meeting. The Agency will be the City Council members. This is the first step in a line of many that must be taken before the URD becomes a reality. The City will still need to adopt the plan that establishes the boundary and the list of projects.



SURVEY RESULTS

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Please put June 5th on your calendars and plan to come to the Civic Meeting Room between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. to discuss the results of the survey which many of you submitted last month. You will be fascinated, I believe, by what you will hear in terms of what was said, and in terms of the Community Values Statement from the visioning process of ten years ago. Our consultants from Cogan, Owens and Cogan will be here to help facilitate the process. This is a critical step in the Planning Commission's review and updating of the Yachats Comprehensive Land Use Plan.



PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By John McClintock reported the following:

Water

- 86% efficiency. A number of water leaks have recently been repaired.
- Work is continuing on the finalizing the required items as outlined in the agreement with the State for developing the water rights on the Yachats River. The City agreed to monitor the Yachats River flows. The public works staff will begin doing that this year. In addition, the City needs to develop a point of diversion, obtain legal access, and install the pipeline to get the water to the Reedy Creek storage facility from the river.

Wastewater

- Work on the wastewater system improvement project is still on schedule. A meeting in Coos Bay with the engineers is planned for next week.
- The manhole pressure test report was favorable.
- The engineering firm for Blackstone I & II has submitted a preliminary report following their testing of the manholes and sewer system in the developments. The City is waiting for the final written report.
- Russ Roberts, the new wastewater treatment plant operator, is doing a great job.
- The crew has been hauling a significant amount of bio-solids to the disposal sites up the river in preparation for the summer season. The Department of Environmental Quality has been reviewing several additional sites. One of those potential sites was not eligible but other sites have been offered so the City should have adequate sites available.
- Russ Roberts and Rick McClung attended a class on activated sludge last month. They reported that it was an interesting seminar and they learned a lot.

Streets

- The Highway 101 Overlay project is proceeding on schedule.
- The manhole risers have arrived. That is the only portion of the paving project for which the City is financially responsible.

Misc.

- The open utility position has been advertised and applications are coming in.
- The seasonal employee came on board May 1 and is busy mowing and running the weed eater.
- The Urban Renewal District Steering Committee met last week to work on developing the project list.



CLEAN SWEEP

By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Can it be that time already?? Indeed it can. Mark June 21, 22, and 23 on your calendars. As in the past, residents may put items out by the curb for which they no longer have any use. Other residents are encouraged to drive around and take anything set out that they see and that they might have use for. The City's Public Works crew will be available on Friday to pick up any items that frail residents can't lift or move. On Saturday, June 24, dumpsters will be available near the Commons for any household items that weren't taken or which homeowners no longer want. Some of the best "trades" of all are made at the dumpsters! One man's trash is indeed another man's treasure! Please, no grass/yard clippings, household trash, batteries or hazardous materials.



Commons News

By Susan Garner - Commons Coordinator

We now have a web site devoted primarily to the Yachats Commons, if you go to www.yachatscommons.org you can find out more information about the building and how to rent

rooms here. There is also a calendar of events that I have been working on. I hope this will prove helpful to everyone.

Meanwhile, work continues around the building. The picnic shelter will finally be getting electricity and water, which should make it a more desirable space to use and rent. The fence separating the playground from the parking lot is completed. Swings have been repaired and the picnic tables are slated to return. The farmers' market has started again, come get fresh produce and interesting crafts every Sunday from 9 to 2 pm.

The next Parks & Commons Commission meeting will deal with revenue increase options for the Commons. If you are a renter here or someone interested in what is going on, you should come to the next meeting on the 15th of June at 3 pm.

June Calendar

- 1st – 7 pm – Big Band Dance
- 3rd – 7 pm – Jubilate Choir
- 7th – 5:15 pm – Gemini birthday potluck
- 8th – 7:30 pm – Jamie Lavallo concert
- 9th – 6:30 pm – Teen dance
- 15th – 6:30 pm – Movie night

On-Going Events

- Mondays – 8 am – tai chi group
- Mon, Wed, Fri – 10 am – exercise class
- Tue & Fri – 8 am – yoga
- Wed & Sun – 6:30 pm – volleyball



THE BEARS ARE HERE!
By Susanne Smith, Mayor

Each spring bears come out of hibernation looking for food after their long sleep periods. Occasionally, they wander into populated areas to find food that might be available - any food. These are wild animals and they are potentially dangerous. Please check around your homes and make certain that no food is available and accessible.

Budget Comparison - Fiscal Year July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006		
<i>Reporting Through May 10, 2006</i>		
Program	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Administration	\$668,528	\$559,431
Library	\$17,571	\$13,158
Little Log Church & Museum	\$10,038	\$7,648
Parks & Commons*	\$141,078	\$131,254
Streets	\$110,545	\$80,271
Water	\$431,658	\$333,406
Sewer	\$963,572	\$480,684
In Reserve for Future Uses	\$1,616,162	\$1,399,660
Debt	<u>\$147,355</u>	<u>\$106,866</u>

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