

CITY OF YACHATS
CITY COUNCILOR APPLICATION



NAME: Fran Morse DATE Jan 17, 2021

STREET ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

MAILING ADDRESS: [REDACTED]

EMAIL ADDRESS: [REDACTED] HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]

Present employment: retired

May we contact you at work? No Yes / Work phone #: [REDACTED]

Are you a registered voter? Yes No

How long have you lived in Yachats? since 2000, part-time. Full-time from 2006 - 2014. Returned full-time in 2016.

Please attach your answers to the following questions with the application

1. What do you think are the biggest issues facing the City?
2. What is your primary motivation for seeking the vacant Council seat?
3. Please list any previous involvement, such as City Council, Commission member, Committee member, or other community service in Yachats or elsewhere
4. What other experience or education have you had relevant to serving as a Council member?
5. What are your major interests in, or concerns with our Community?
6. What are your major interests in, or concerns with City Departments and/or administration?
7. Do you have any other major interests or concerns?

Applications are due to City Hall by 1 P.M. Friday, January 22, 2021

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CITY OF YACHATS

CITY COUNCILOR APPLICATION QUESTIONS

January 2021

1. Biggest issues facing the City.

CARS: Completion of the *Ocean View Drive project*, to protect the eroding cliff and neighborhood. Working with the community to accept the necessary one-way directional change. Planning, negotiating and budgeting to accept the ownership and upkeep of the roadway from Lincoln County.

Planning and budgeting for the maintenance and *upkeep for all city streets*.

Negotiations with Oregon Dept. Of Transportation (ODOT) for the corrective re-design of problematic areas resulting from the Sidewalk project (e.g. With *priority to 2nd Street*).

Developing a strategic plan to address *downtown parking* needs during high tourist seasons.

WATER: Completion of *water-usage rates* study and policy.

Assurance of *future water supply sources*, and negotiations required to obtain them. Acquiring ownership and control of our watershed.

COMMUNICATION: Advertising current avenues for *effective citizen communication* with all aspects of the city governance structure. Ensuring adequate access and use of historical and current documents.

HOUSING: Exploration of public private partnerships to develop and provide *work-force housing*. The city can review requirements, service-charges, tax-rebates and other ways of removing barriers or adding incentives to development. The private sector can develop, provide and maintain housing, which then offers avenues of additional revenue at reasonable and affordable rates.

THE COMMONS: Reorganization and preservation of the *Commons as an essential community center*. Review of policies regarding types of usage allowable for free access to local citizens vs paid contracting for group usage.

COVID-19: *Pandemic-related adjustments* for access to all public and community facilities and businesses, as restrictions are lifted.

2. My primary motivation for seeking the vacant Council seat. I believe I have the experience, training and skills needed for this moment in time. Throughout my working career, and more recently, during my volunteer time in Yachats, I was called to deal with a great deal of conflict. I have a history of facilitating groups in resolving issues, and more importantly, then rebuilding the damaged relationships and group dynamics afterwards. It seems to me that this approach is needed at this time. I would like to be an active force in the community again, helping us to enlarge our focus on priorities, and regain the sense of being a trusting and collaborative village.

3. Previous community service in Yachats. I served about two years each as a member of the Planning Commission, and the Parks and Commons Commission, between 2009 and 2013.

I served a couple of years as President, Friends of the Yachats Commons, between 2011-2013. During this time, there was an internal conflict over the position of the Commons Coordinator, which was contracted to and supervised by the Friends. During my tenure, the Friends also supervised and coordinated a change in management of the Farmers' Market.

I served as a facilitator for the Yachats Adult Programming Task Force, Summer - Fall 2010. This was a joint project of the City Council, Friends of the Commons and the YFFAP Board (Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program). The task force explored options for organizing, promoting and managing adult programs, classes and activities within the Commons complex. I reported on the results of the community-wide survey on needs and opportunities, for the purpose of evaluating the layout and design of the Commons, in order to determine if modifications should be considered.

I served on the board (called "Session") of the Yachats Community Presbyterian Church for about a year and a half (2018-2019). I chaired the Worship & Music Committee, and the Nominating Committee, and was appointed to the Endowment Committee. I have sung in the YCPC choir since 2008.

As a certified Enneagram teacher, I led self-study groups and classes in my home from 2009 - 2012 for numerous community members (including the mayor). I attended the Ford Leadership Training (in 2011, I believe), and supported the building of the Gerdeman Gardens "handicapped-access" trail.

4. Other relevant experience or education. I am a (previously) licensed clinical psychologist, with a major emphasis in social-organizational psychology. Previous to my retirement in Yachats, three of my career positions were in managerial positions, reporting to and working in partnership with volunteer boards. As director for the Utah Division of Services to People with Disabilities, I reported to and worked with a State board. As an associate director for Valley Mental Health, a semi-private/semi-public tri-county community mental health center, I reported to and worked with a Salt Lake County board. As executive director for the Governor's Council for People with Disabilities, I reported to and worked with a volunteer board of parents, agency heads and advocates for people with disabilities. I had shared authority over the budgets of these positions, varying from 40 million State, to 20 million County, to 2 million at the Governor's Council (which was dispersed as grants to private, non-profit agencies).

I worked closely with the Utah Legislature in two other positions: one was the executive director for the Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities, where we won enough trust from the Legislature to be asked to review relevant agency budgets before they were approved. As a policy analyst in the Department of Health Policy Office, I did research, wrote up the results of studies, and wrote proposed policies for the Utah Department of Health.

I served as the Director of Mental Health for the Commonwealth of the Marianna Islands from 1980-82. This was a small island community of 7,000 with a mixture of indigenous citizens and ex-patriots, fully 50% of them under the age of 18. During my tenure, we transferred almost all the patients on the inpatient ward to home-based community services for medications and daily activities.

5. Major interests/concerns with the Yachats Community. My answers to Question #1 address my concerns for the community, in terms of City Council work responsibilities. I believe the Council should stay focused on the big issues affecting citizens' life in the City: essential resources, like water, and city revenues to keep everything flowing smoothly -- water-rates, taxes, and tourism. I care that the city provides a workable environment to support the private businesses necessary to tourism.

I also treasure, and would like to protect, the quality of life issues, those for which people have moved here: a) natural beauty issues, like sign-ordinances, dark sky, protection of trees, beaches, cliffs, ocean; b) social issues, like noise, traffic congestion, parking c) community relationship issues, like communication, trust, mutual respect, collaboration and support of city volunteers and hired staff.

6. Major interests/concerns with City Departments/Administration. The separation of this question from the previous one is a concern. Is this question seeking "concerns" specifically? The purpose of questions is to direct thinking, maybe as ammunition against a new administrative structure which is still in a bumpy transition. This transition is my major "concern" about administration. The City voted to change formats to a City Manager-Council structure, and I perceive a strong resistance to allowing this new structure to take root and succeed. I believe the resistance stems from a misunderstanding of how to successfully partner with the new administrative structure. I believe I can help with that.

7. Other major interests/concerns. I have a strong interest in both religion and politics, the two subjects that have been traditionally forbidden in civil social conversation. I am just finishing my fourth year of a course at St. Luke's Episcopal church on the history of Christianity. I have bought at least 20 books during the Trump administration, to try and understand what our nation was going through. I love music and have been doodling around on the piano for most of my adult life, more competently at some times than others. I love choral music and singing in a choir/chorus. Aside from these things, I maintain close relationships with my family and friends. I live here because of the natural beauty, the quiet, and what has always been a close and supportive community for me.