

Good morning Mayor and Council Members,

I wanted to address the smoke issue you discussed at your Monday, May 7th work session. Although it does not appear to be on your agenda for the Thursday regular council meeting, I know you will be addressing this in the future. I felt compelled, as the actions you take will directly affect me, as a long time an in-city resident.

I would like to offer some suggestions regarding process for making your decision on this item that would affect Yachats city residents and property owners:

1) Need for Hard Data:

a) The fire department requires a burn permit. Even with a permit, you need to call to let them know any time you are planning a burn. They should have records of in-city and out-of city burns, as their district covers a wider area. From that you would have an estimate of how many burns happen per year in the boundaries you control, the city limits.

b) What is the average time per year that burns are allowed? There is a burn ban in effect from as early as June 15th to October. Again, YRFPD would be able to give you the 5 year or longer history on that. Coupled with extremely wet winters when nothing will burn, you have a very short window for yard waste burning.

c) How many emergency responses on record have there been for people who have been adversely affected by yard waste smoke? Again, this could be collated as in city limits and outside.

Suggested steps before restrictive action and enforcement:

a) The smoke issue from yard waste is due to wet material and too small a fire. A article in the news letter from YRFPD on how to do a hot safe burn will help minimize smoke. Offer demonstrations at the commons, like with the solstice and mushroom festivals bon fires.

b) enlist one of the city trucks to collect yard debris once a month. That would be a tremendous help to residents, especially elderly or anyone without a way to transport waste. Again, this could happen at peak times for pruning.

c) provide a place on city property for yard debris.

As to the issue of yard debris being dumped along the Yachats River, I offer the following thoughts:

a) There is an assumption that this is being done by Yachats residents, without license plates or positive id to backup the assumption.

b) Consider who has the largest amount to dump or the largest amount of money to save in dump fees. Offer information on legal and safe places to dump yard waste to yard care companies when they apply for their business licenses.

c) Have the people who brought the issue to you worked with the Sheriffs office Forest Patrol or Forest Service Law Enforcement? The land in question in in their jurisdiction.

I hope we can find solutions on any issue that increase benefits to living in the city limits rather adding additional cost and restrictions .

Thanks for your consideration.

Marilyn Kennelly