

CityNews...

City Council June 2, 2008

Council Accepts Lease Agreement with CCFR...

The Vernonia City Council approved a lease agreement for use of space in the Vernonia Community Learning Center Building. The lease runs through June 30, 2009, for \$600 per month. The lease was also retroactive and requires payment of \$1,400 per month back to January 1, 2008, through June 30, 2008.

Council Extends Meter Contract...

Council renewed its contract for two years with Meterreaders, LLC, to provide utility meter readings for the City of Vernonia.

Council Doesn't Renew VCLC Director's Contract...

Citing budget constraints, Council declined to renew the contract for the Director of the Vernonia Community Learning Center. Mayor Sally Harrison stated that volunteers have stepped forward to help run scheduled programs.

DAD'S Recycling Contract Not Renewed...

Council declined to renew a contract with DAD'S Recycling, stating that a new permanent location had not been identified and secured. Council gave an extension until July 31, 2008, to move from the current location and asked that DAD'S not receive any more material after June 14th in order to ensure proper clean up and disposal of the current location.

Howard Retained as Planning Director...

Council has decided to retain Aldie Howard as Planning Director on a contract basis, for a probationary period, and based on positive performance reviews. Howard has previously worked for Vernonia under a contract situation as City Planning Director and had filled in as Interim City Administrator from December 5th through May 31, 2008.

City Council June 16, 2008

New City Administrator Takes Over...

New Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson showed he was immediately in charge in Vernonia, introducing a new agenda format, new comprehensive, easy to read, and easy to understand staff reports, and providing information about how audience participation during council meetings will be allowed.

Councilor Daughtry Resigns...

City Councilwoman Shirlee Daughtry turned in her resignation due to personal reasons, effective immediately. Mayor Sally Harrison accepted her resignation "...with a heavy heart" and said the community should thank Ms. Daughtry "lovingly" for her service to Vernonia. Daughtry has served as a Vernonia Councilwoman since 1998.

New City Committee Process Questioned...

Both Mayor Harrison and Councilor Randy Parrow expressed concern about the new Vernonia Economic Development Committee and how it is operating. Mayor Harrison said she would attend the next meeting of the committee, and Councilman Parrow stated that he felt the committee had "...gotten away from what was allowable."

Airport Committee Raises Concerns...

Vernonia Airport Committee President Randall Henderson expressed concern that the city was considering leasing the Vernonia Airport to a private entity. Mayor Harrison explained that in order to find ways to make the airport financially self supportive, all ideas were being considered. A lease agreement was one idea that was "only being looked at, at this time." Harrison assured the committee that their input would be considered before any decisions were made. Henderson also requested that a council person be in attendance at Committee meetings in the future. Both Mayor Harrison and City Administrator Johnson expressed their intention to attend future meetings.

Public Works Grants Move Forward

Council approved a motion to accept an Oregon Economic and Community Development Department (OECDD) Special Public Works Fund Grant for \$78,125 for removal of sludge from the wastewater treatment facility. This grant will work as a match for a FEMA grant for \$234,375 for this project, giving the city \$312,500. Council then approved a contract

with Brown and Caldwell for engineering for the project in the amount of \$29,093.



Former City Councilwoman Shirlee Daughtry, with Mayor Sally Harrison, at last year's Jamboree parade. Daughtry resigned her position on the Vernonia City Council in June.

Council also approved a Resolution declaring an urgent need to move the city wastewater facility. In the hope of strengthening the city's proposal, this Resolution would be added to a Community Development Block Grant that the city is currently preparing.

Council Authorizes Lot Line Adjustment

Council authorized City Administrator Johnson to proceed with a lot line adjustment on the old city hall building tax lot. Council had previously declared the property surplus and has

offered the property for sale for \$100,000. Council asked that the lot line adjustment not include the courtyard area between the building and the Community Learning Center as part the sale offering.

Sergeant Kay and Kruger Going To K-9 Nationals...

Vernonia Police Chief Mathew Workman announced the Police Sergeant Michael Kay and Canine Officer Kruger have secured a place at the K-9 Pro Sport national competition in Dallas, Texas, in February. Pro Sport is a working dog competition that tests dogs and their handlers in obedience, obstacles, agility, speed, strength, and other police patrol work.

Council Rejects County Public Road Event Ordinance...

Council rejected an ordinance from Columbia County that would regulate how the city can hold and permit public events that take place on public roads.

Council Approves Street Closures...

Council approved a request for closure of Madison Avenue on Friday's from 4-7 PM until October 3, 2008, for the Open Air Market. They also approved a request to close 2nd Avenue on August 9th from 11AM- 4PM for a Block Party.

City Council:

By Mayor Sally Harrison

The only constant we can depend on is change itself. There have been and will continue to be considerable major changes to our city. Our job is to maintain control of these changes so we wind up with the results we want.

One change that has happened lately is Shirlee Daughtry's resignation from City Council after 10 years of service to her community in that capacity. No one has more lovingly worked for the betterment of her city than Shirlee. My hope is that she will continue to be a drawing force, not only in running the Scout Cabin (Cabin in the Woods), but in other matters where her considerable knowledge and good ol' common sense can be of use. Thank you, Shirlee

We're also saying goodbye to Aldie Howard as our Interim City Administrator. He was "The Man of the Hour." When we needed him after the flood, he stepped forward and took on the monumental tasks at hand. Our thanks to him for taking Vernonia to his heart and starting early and staying late each day to get the job done.

Now we have Jim Johnson as Interim City Administrator. He has committed to helping us find that special person to serve as our permanent administrator. In the meantime, it's a joy working with Jim.

We are changing direction when it comes to wastewater and storm water issues. With all the information to which we have recently been made privy, we are finding out that updated "old ways" are the cheapest safest and most eco-friendly ways to deal with waste water. I'm encouraged and excited with the prospects. I promise to keep you apprised of plans.

Finally we have changed seasons! What a relief to finally have this winter over and

warm weather! That means school is out, and our kids are on bikes, skate boards and fast along our highways and byways. Fluffy and Fido are out and about, too. I've also seen does with baby Bambis on the south side of town and also in my own yard. Be aware, take care and drive carefully. But most of all enjoy the summer.

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