

Vernonia City News...

At the February 7, 2011, Vernonia City Council Meeting

Council Approves Continuation of \$12 Sewer Charges-- Council approved the continuation of a \$12 charge that appears on the city sewer bill. The continuing charge will be collected to repay DEQ Loan R93642. According to information presented by the Public Works Committee, the City began collecting the \$12 charge to repay DEQ Loan R93641 around September, 2006; that loan was used to pay for a portion of Phase I of the Wastewater upgrade project and was scheduled to sunset by March of 2011. The City also has an outstanding balance of \$4.3 million that was used to pay for other work for the completion of Phase I. The first payment on that loan was due in May of 2008. No payments have been made on this loan and the City has accumulated interest of \$2.2 million. The Public Works Committee recommended to council that the City begin repaying this loan and continue the \$12 charge for the next twenty years.

Council Approves Policy Establishing a School Resource Officer-- Council Approved Resolution 04-11 which adopted Policy number 401 into the Vernonia Police Department Policy Manual and establishes a School Resource Officer position. The new policy is based on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Vernonia Prevention Coalition, the Vernonia School District and the Vernonia Police Department. According to the MOU, the Vernonia Prevention Coalition will provide 100% of the funding for the position, up to \$20,000, through June 30th, 2011. The Vernonia Police Department will provide a Youth Services Resource Officer to the school for no more than 30 hours per week. According to Interim Vernonia Police Chief Mike Conner, the position will be filled by current officers working overtime.

Council Delays City Administrator Decision-- City Council, which has been debating whether to offer current Interim City Administrator Bill Haack the regular position as City Administrator, or to go through a full search for other possible candidates, delayed their decision until February 22, when a workshop will be held at 6:00 P.M. prior to the regular City Council Meeting.

Scouts Present Flag-- Webloes representing Pack 201 from Vernonia,

and led by Den Mother Nicole Larke, presented the Oregon and American Flags at the start of the City Council Meeting on February 20, 2011. The Scouts earned a merit badge for their presentation.



Webloes from Pack 201, from left, Zachary Larke, Ashton East, Sean Coffey, and Tyler Wolfe presented the flag during the February 7th Vernonia City Council Meeting.

Council Hears Presentation about 9-1-1 Communications-- Council heard a presentation from Rich Fenton representing the Oregon Wireless Interoperability Network (OWIN) in conjunction with Columbia Emergency 9-1-1. The presentation was in regard to enlarging the current local emergency network tower and facility to help expand the planned OWIN network. The current tower sits on city-owned property and is leased to Columbia County. The OWIN network, currently mandated by the state, would create a state-wide public emergency communications system for first responders (state police, local fire departments, county sheriffs, local police and medical responders), allowing all agencies to communicate with each other on a single radio frequency and would construct 400 towers across the state.

The presentation was for information only, but identified two areas of concern-- the length of the lease and term extensions that would need to be in place if a new tower was constructed, and a clearly defined area that would be leased.

City Presents Certificate of Appreciation-- The City of Vernonia presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Donna Webb for many hours of volunteer service at the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce. Webb recently stepped down as President of the local Chamber.

Council Appoints Cahill to VCLC Committee-- Mayor Josette Mitchell, with approval from Council, appointed John Cahill to the Vernonia Community Learning Center Committee.

February Proclaimed "Kiwanis Children's Cancer Cure Month"-- Council proclaimed February, 2011, as "Kiwanis Children's Cancer Cure Month," encouraging citizens to celebrate the many contributions made by members of the Kiwanis Clubs of the Pacific Northwest.

City Awarded Grant for Training-- The City of Vernonia received a grant for \$1500 from CIS Trust to pay for City Council Workshop provided by the League of Oregon Cities (LOC) on February 12, 2011.

City Accepts Donation-- The City of Vernonia accepted donation of a small piece of property from the Margaret Ann Aldrich Living Trust. The Property had previously been donated and the deed recorded, but had not been formally accepted by the City of Vernonia.

Council Approves Lease to School-- Council approved a lease for Spencer Park with the Vernonia School District. The City and School District had previously entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for the sale of the property, but it has been identified that the School needs to begin preparing the property for construction, and a lease was needed until the final sale was completed. Council will be reviewing proposed purchase and sale agreements at the February 22, 2011, City Council Meeting.

Council Approves Lease for Ball Fields-- Council approved a Ground Lease as finalized by the City Attorney

for use of property owned by Richard Titus and Kenneth and Penny Smejkal for use as ball fields during the time while new schools are being constructed on the site of Spencer Field and until the old school site is demolished and new fields are constructed. All improvements and maintenance will be paid for by the users of the fields. The property is located south of Vernonia on Highway 47, off of Lone Pine Road.

Council Approved First Reading of Ordinance 872 to Permit Social Gaming-- Council approved the first reading of Ordinance 872 which allows Social Gaming in private businesses, private clubs, or places of public accommodation where there is no house income from the operation of the social game. A second reading will take place on February 22 and the Ordinance will take effect thirty days later.

Council Approves Transfer of Funds-- Council approved Resolution 03-11 authorizing repayment of interfund loans from the Sewer Rehab Fund to the General Fund. With this action, funds were transferred in the amount of \$90,000, plus \$3,000 in interest from the General Fund to the Sewer Rehab Fund. This same action will take place each year for the next three years in order to repay a previous interfund loan.

Council Gives Police Chief Authority to Update Policy Manual-- Council approved Resolution 05-11, giving the Police Chief authority to periodically update the Police Department Manual with technical and specialized policies pertaining to police action. According to information provided, the current Police Policy Manual has not been updated since it was adopted in 2007. City Council retains the authority to review and approve any new policies added by the Police Chief.

Council to Hold Work Session to Review Transportation Plan Update-- Council has scheduled a joint work session with the Vernonia Planning Commission on Thursday, March 3, 2011, for the purpose of reviewing draft documents for the Transportation System Plan Update.



Vernonia Mayor, Josette Mitchell, left, presents Donna Webb with a Certificate of Appreciation for her work at the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce.

For Sale or Rent



430 Louisiana Ave, Vernonia
1924 - 2 bdrm, 1 bath, within walking distance to new school being built. Extra building w/ shop/washer/dryer & plenty of storage. Single car garage w/ fenced backyard. \$5,000 down & assume \$155,000 loan or \$900/month.
Michelle (503) 515-5410

Local Properties For Rent

406 A Street
5 bedroom, 3 bath, family room, laundry room. Updated vinyl windows throughout. Formerly a 3-plex converted into a home. For faster reply contact Ted at 503-799-0999 or leave msg at 503-255-2959 \$995/mo.



1125 Ruth Ave
3 bedroom, 2 bath, large "great room concept", with free-standing wood stove, oak kitchen opens to great room, gas stove, gas heat, 2 car garage, large deck, \$950/mo.

For more info contact Danielle 503-784-9560 or leave message at 503-255-2959

VIP Property Management, Inc.

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