

Vernonia City News...

At the May 16, 2011 Vernonia City Council Meeting:

Council Appoints Johnson and Mitchell City Administrator Pro Tem—Council voted to appoint consultant Jim Johnson and Mayor Josette Mitchell as City Administrators Pro Tem and to sign a contract with both for their services. The estimated cost of the contract is \$8700 for Johnson; Mitchell is not being compensated. The contract is in place pending the hiring of a permanent City Administrator. The City is currently in the hiring process, but does not anticipate anyone being able to start until August 1, 2011.

Council Hears Report on National Flood Insurance Program—Dan Brown and Jim Tierney from Community Action Team presented a report to City

Council concerning compliance with the Vernonia Flood Ordinance. According to the report, Vernonia has a history of avoiding enforcement actions, which includes dangerous buildings, building code enforcement and floodplain enforcement. A workshop for City Council is currently scheduled for June 6th to discuss the issue.

According to the report, FEMA enforcement staff made a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) to Vernonia just before the December 2007 Flood. The file has never been closed on this visit and responsibility for enforcement has not been assigned to any specific person. FEMA is telling the City this needs to be addressed. The report states that there are about ten homes with enforcement issues that need to be resolved. At risk is the community's continued participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Vernonia Pride Makes Presentation—Members of Vernonia Pride made a presentation of Banners they are donating to the City to hang along Bridge Street. Vernonia Pride also intends to install Doggie Pick-up boxes along Bridge Street, and made a donation of \$500 to help update the large welcome billboard at the corner of Rose Avenue and Bridge Street.

Council Approves Market Manager Agreement—Council approved and signed an agreement with Kathy Larsen to act as the independent manager for the Open Air Market.

Council Receives Report on Police Best Practices Review—Council received a report from Vernonia Police Sergeant Mike Conner on a best practices

review conducted by CityCounty Insurance Services. The report includes an examination of the agencies risk to exposure and provides feedback and recommendations in areas that need improvement. The report contains a Risk Management Plan, that reviews recommendations from 2007 and updates any progress on those recommendations, as well as provides a current plan of twenty-six recommendations.

Personnel Evaluations In Progress—Interim City Administrator Bill Haack, in one of his final acts in that position, reported to Council that staff reviews he initiated are being completed; according to Haack, this is the first time staff reviews have ever been done in the City of Vernonia.

DPSST Committee Recommends Revocation of Kay's Certifications

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The information revealed in the public records released by DPSST includes the following findings and allegations:

- In regards to the completion of the community service work, former Vernonia Police Chief Frank Grace asserts that he passed on information to Kay from Judge Wally Thompson concerning the need to close out a deferred sentence and needed information from Kay. Kay asserts he was uncomfortable writing a letter that was not factual, and that he spoke with Grace about his concerns. Grace refutes this and was clear that he would not have accepted or approved documentation that was not factual in content and does not recall any concern that Kay asserted.

- After reading a report by former Beaverton

Police Officer Dan Kelly, from an investigation initiated on behalf of the City by Grace, Grace recommended to Interim City Administrator Bill Haack the termination of Kay. Haack and Grace later learned that Judge Thompson had sent a letter in August of 2010 to DPSST outlining concerns about Kay's untruthfulness; the City then placed their investigation on hold, pending the outcome of an investigation by DPSST.

- King received a letter from Columbia County District Attorney Stephen Atchison that stated that although neither he nor any of his attorney's had any previous concerns about Kay's credibility, based on the current DPSST investigation he would have concerns about Kay as a witness. "You have asked me to comment on the issue of Sgt Michael Kay's credibility. From

that, I assume you wish to know if this office would be apprehensive about putting Sgt. Kay on the witness stand in any court proceeding. The short answer is: Yes."

- In regards to the misrepresentation of K9 certifications, the DPSST investigation found that Kay asserted membership in the Oregon Police Canine Association (OPCA) to the City of Vernonia and to DPSST. According to Deschutes County Deputy Sheriff and OPCA President, Kyle Joyce, his records show that Kay made an application for membership in 2007 but never paid the membership fee and his membership expired one month later.

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Take Back Our Town!
VOTE
by June 10
to
Recall Kevin Hudson

What has Kevin Hudson done for you lately?

- Ignored the requests of staff, city committee members, and citizens and voted to spend \$6,000 for a search for another new City Administrator.
- Ignored the citizens voice and voted to terminate Interim City Administrator Bill Haack on May 2nd.
- Ignored the citizens request to step down and will now cost the City for a recall election.
- Ignored the business of running a City to protect a personal friend.
- Ignored State Guidelines and voted during the current city budget process to create rules to allow committee members to meet outside the public process to discuss the budget.

Paid for by the Recall Kevin Hudson Political Action Committee