

# Vernonia City News...

## At the Special Vernonia City Council Meeting on August 22, 2011:

**Council Approves Liquor License**—Council approved the Liquor License application for La Cabana Mexican Restaurant at 853 Bridge Street for Full On-Premises Sales.

**Citizen Interview Panel Selected**—Fifteen citizens were chosen by lottery from a pool of twenty-nine to sit on the Citizen Interview Panel. The panelist will interview candidates for three vacant City Council positions and make recommendations to Council for appointments to the empty seats. Citizens selected for the panel were: Ernie Smith, Sharon Parrow, Sharon Bernal, Janet Wageman, Keli Crowdis, John Agee, David Spackman, Sandy Welch, Philip Wageman, Doris Garcia, Helen Hudson, Heidi Matheney, Sonia Spackman, Lorna Poetter, and Eric Larke. Five alternates were also chosen: Heather Lewis, Leboyce Yow, Sam Potter, Carol Davis, and Andrew Nebergal. The interviews were scheduled to take place on August 25.

## At the Special Vernonia City Council Meeting on August 29, 2011:

**Council Appoints New City Councilors**—Councilor Randy Parrow and Mayor Josette Mitchell approved the recommendation from the Citizen Interview panel and appointed Bruce McNair, Kim Tierney and Donna Webb to the Vernonia City Council. The Councilors randomly chose which seats they would fill; Kim Tierney will serve in the position which runs through December 2012; McNair and Webb will serve through December of 2014.

**Council Extends Personal Contract with Johnson**—Council approved the extension of the Personal Services contract with Interim Pro Tem City Administrator Jim Johnson through the month of September. Council also approved extending the amendment to the contract that allocates responsibilities between Johnson and Mayor Josette Mitchell, who is also serving as part-time Pro Tem City Administrator.

**Thompson Promoted to Full-Time Officer**—Mayor Josette Mitchell administered the Oath of Office to Brent Thompson, who was promoted to full

time officer. Thompson, who had been serving as a Reserve Officer is scheduled to begin Police Academy Training shortly.



Mayor Josette Mitchell administers the Oath of Office to Vernonia's newest police officer, Brent Thompson.

**Council Approves First Reading of Ordinance to Create Office of City Attorney**—Council approved the first reading of Ordinance 877 to create an Office of City Attorney. The City Attorney is an appointed position and therefore an officer of the city; the City Charter has no provisions creating this office. The Ordinance will take effect thirty days after the second reading.

## At the Special City Council Meetings on August 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011:

**Council Authorizes Contract Negotiation**—Council met on August 30<sup>th</sup> and moved directly into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (a) to discuss employment of Public Officers, Employees and Agents. Candidates for the open City Administrator position, Bill Haack and Dennis Rhodes were included in the Executive Session. After the Executive Session, Council announced that they would meet on August 31<sup>st</sup> to deliberate on a decision for City Administrator. On August 31<sup>st</sup> Council went into Executive session under ORS 192.660 (2) (a) to discuss employment of Public Officers, Employees and Agents. After the Executive Session, Council directed Interim Pro Tem City Administrator Jim Johnson to negotiate an employment agreement with the number one candidate for City Administrator.

## At the September 6, 2011 City Council Meeting:

**Council Approves Contract with Haack**—After meeting in Executive Session prior to the start of the regular City Council Meeting under ORS 192.660 (2) (a) to discuss employment of Public Officers, Employees and Agents, Council approved an employment contract with William Haack as Vernonia City Administrator. Haack will work part-time until September 19, when he will begin full time employment. (See full story on front page.)

**Council Holds Study Session for New Councilors**—Prior to the start of the regular Council Meeting, Council held a Study Session to update the three new City Councilors, discussing the Vernonia City Charter, City Council rules and other pertinent information.

**Council Makes Committee Assignment Choices**—New City Councilors Bruce McNair, Kim Tierney, and Donna Webb chose which City Committees to which they would act as the Council Liaison. McNair will serve as Liaison to Public Works and Unmet Needs; Tierney will serve as Liaison to Emergency Man-

agement; Webb will serve as Liaison to Economic Development and the Library. Mayor Josette Mitchell is serving as Liaison to the Cemetery and will also serve the Airport Committee. Councilor Randy Parrow serves the Parks and Vernonia Community Learning Center Committees.

**Council Approves Open Space System for City**—Council approved Resolution 25-11 establishing an Open Space System for the City of Vernonia. The City of Vernonia has accepted a number of properties from the FEMA buy-out program and under this resolution these properties are now designated as Open Space. ORS 105.682 provides for limits of liability for lands designated as Open space that are the same as properties designated as Parks where limited recreational uses are allowed.

**Council Approves Second Reading of Ordinance to Create Office of City Attorney**—Council Approved the second reading of Ordinance 877, establishing the Office of City Attorney. The Ordinance takes effect thirty days from the second reading.

**Council Enters Executive Session to Discuss Property Transaction and Legal Counsel**—Council enter into Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) and (h) to discuss Real Property Transactions and Legal Counsel. After returning from Executive Session to Open Session, Council made no announcements.

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Edi Sheldon  
503-429-1819  
LTC#29629-C  
edisheldon@gmail.com

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