

Vernonia City News...

At the November 21, 2011 City Council Meeting

New Police Officer Takes Oath of Office—New Vernonia Police Officer Matt Brady was sworn into office by Mayor Josette Mitchell. Brady's family was on hand for the ceremony and his wife Kris pinned on his badge.



New Vernonia Police Officer Matt Brady receiving his badge from his wife Kris.

Council Authorizes Administrator to Issue RSOQ—Council authorized City Administrator Bill Haack to issue a Request for Statements of Qualifications to select a Grant Administrator for CDBG Grant No. 6021. The Grant Administrator will facilitate management of records for the grant funds which is for the Wastewater System Upgrade project. Neither the City Administrator nor City staff are eligible to receive funds for this purpose.

Council Authorizes Mayor to Serve as Certifying Officer—Council voted to authorize Mayor Josette Mitchell to serve as the Certifying Officer to sign the Environmental Reviews for the final design of the Wastewater System Upgrade project. According to the report from the City Administrator this is standard practice.

Council Denies Request for Temporary Use Extension—Council denied a request from the Vernonia Community Church to extend a Temporary Use Permit for habitation of a recreational vehicle. The church received a temporary permit for six months which expired in July of 2011. The church requested an extension for another six months; city code restricts RV Habitation for any time in excess of six months.

Council Sends Request Back to City Planner—Council heard a request from Floyd Linn to receive a Temporary Use Permit for private use of a public right-of-way on Birch Street. Mr. Linn was requesting that he be allowed to temporarily fence an unused portion of a public right-of-way to graze horses. After a forty-minute discussion, Council took no action on the request and sent it back to the City Planner to develop more options for action.

Harrison Resigns From Several Committees—Former Vernonia Mayor Sally Harrison resigned from several city committees she was serving on. Harrison submitted a letter to Mayor Josette Mitchell and the City Council on November 9, 2011 resigning her positions on the Airport, Economic Development and Vernonia Community Learning Center Committees. Councilor Bruce McNair publicly thanked Harrison for all her work on behalf of the City of Vernonia.

At the December 5 City Council Meeting

Council Authorizes Investigation of Alternative SDC Fee Payments—Council authorized City Administrator Bill Haack to investigate possible alternatives to the System Development Charges (SDC) the City currently charges on new development. Haack

made the suggestion to Council that he research and develop some alternatives, based on what other small towns are doing, as a way to promote construction of new single family homes in Vernonia. Currently the City charges \$8424.00 in SDC's for water, wastewater, parks, storm water and streets. SDC's are fees that help the city build infrastructure that is impacted by new development and those fees can only be used by the City to build new capital projects; they cannot be used for maintenance.

Council Authorizes Negotiation for School SDC's—Council authorized City Administrator Haack to negotiate an alternative SDC fee payment plan for the Vernonia School District for the new school campus construction project. Haack informed Council that the final SDC fees for the school have not been calculated. He proposed negotiating an alternative payment plan as a way to assist the School District in meeting its cash flow constraints as well as insuring that the City receive payment of the SDC's. In his report Haack said it was not unprecedented for a jurisdiction to work with the developer of a large construction project in this way.

City Committees Cancel December Meetings—The following City Committees have canceled their regularly scheduled meetings for the month of December: Airport, Library, Economic Development, Planning Commission, Unmet Needs, and Cemetery.

Next Council Meeting is Tuesday January 3—City Council has canceled their December 19, 2011 meeting. City Hall will close at noon on December 23 and 30 and will be closed on December 26 and January 2, 2012. City Hall will reopen on January 3. The next City Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday January 3 at 7:00 PM.

Building Buyers Beware

The City of Vernonia provides this WARNING to people making a decision to purchase a home or commercial building within the city limits:

PLEASE! Physically inspect the building yourself or hire a professional to assess whether the building was flooded AND meet with City staff to make sure that the building is not subject to floodplain management rules.

These rules may restrict a purchaser's ability to modify the building if it is located in the floodway. In some cases where the

building was flooded, the building may be required to be elevated at the owner's expense within a certain time period. If you purchase a building that has this requirement associated with it you will be required to fill out a flood plain development permit prior to having the city utilities turned on at the subject building. And if you fail to elevate the house in that time period, local Ordinance No. 851 allows for a daily fine of up to \$500 per day to be levied. If you have any questions, please contact the City staff at (503) 429-5291.

City of Vernonia, Oregon WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT Request for Qualifications

The City of Vernonia is seeking qualifications from engineering firms qualified in wastewater facility work to provide design services for modifications of their wastewater treatment system and lagoons. The scope of work includes a pre-design and a final design, reports and drawings to be submitted to DEQ, City and funding agencies. This work is funded entirely by Community Development Block Grant from the State of Oregon Infrastructure Finance Agency. As such, all work, drawings, reports, and certifications must be complete by December 14, 2012. The City invites qualified firms to submit qualifications based upon the scope of work contained in the RFQ. A copy of the RFQ can be obtained by contacting the City of Vernonia, at City Hall at 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064. Sealed qualifications marked "WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT" must be received by the City of Vernonia at 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064 by 2:00 PM, Thursday, December 22, 2011. No qualifications package will be accepted after that time.

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