

Vernonia City News...

At the January 3, 2012 City Council Meeting:

Conner Takes Oath of Office as Police Chief—Newly promoted Vernonia Police Chief Mike Conner was sworn into office by Mayor Josette Mitchell. (see story on front page)

Next Council Meeting is Tuesday, January 23—City Council will change their regular schedule and meet on Monday January 23, 2012. Council normally meets on the First and Third Monday of each month, but will adjust their schedule to allow Councilors to attend the City County Dinner on Tuesday January 17 in St. Helens. City Hall will be closed on Monday January 16, 2012 in honor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

Lindsley Provides Information About Water Rate Study—Roger Lindsley, a citizen of Beaverton who is a member of the Vernonia Public Works Committee, provided Council

with some personal observations about the Water Rate Study process during Topics From the Floor. Lindsley, who stated he was not representing the Public Works Committee during his statement, provided Council with information about what should shape a rate study, specific considerations for Vernonia for this rate study, and concluded that Vernonia needs to provide accurate information to the third party that is developing the rate study. Lindsley also provided Council with several tables of figures based on a tiered system of rates.

The Council is working to complete this water rate study so it can be used to formulate the budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

Council Approves Additional Exploration Work—Council authorized City Administrator Bill Haack to sign an addendum to the contract with Shannon and Wilson Geotechnical and Environmental Consultants to complete additional field exploration work that will support the Wastewater Lagoon

Design. The cost for the additional work will be \$3500 and will be paid for through an EPA STAG grant that the City has already received.

Council Approves Choice for Final Wastewater Design Engineering—Based on a recommendation from the Vernonia Public Works Committee, Council authorized the City Administrator to negotiate a contract with Tetra Tech Engineering and Architecture Services to complete the Design Engineering for the Wastewater Improvement Project. Tetra Tech was one of two firms that provided the City with a response to an issued Request for Qualifications and scored the highest after a review by a seven person city selection committee. The city is currently moving forward with plans to upgrade the current lagoon system with a design that is based on a hyperoic discharge form of exfiltration that has been recommended by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Council Names Haack as 2012-13 Budget Officer—Council Appointed City Administrator Bill Haack as the Budget Officer for the City of Vernonia Fiscal Year 2012-13. Haack will prepare and administer the annual city budget. Haack later explained to Council that he intends to begin the budget process in January, which is a departure from the standard operating procedure when the budget was started in March or April.

Planning Commission Changes Meeting Time—The Vernonia Planning Commission has changed their meeting time to 6:00 PM on the first and third Thursday of the month.

Council Adopts Purchasing Policy—Council approved Resolution 01-12, the City of Vernonia Purchasing Policy, which sets forth administrative guidelines and procedures to be used by City Personnel for purchasing goods.

Medical Clinic to Reopen in Vernonia *continued from front page*

read more about Dr. Miller, and the two Physician Assistants currently working at Verdura you can go to their website at www.verdurafamilywellness.com

Miller says there may be a short transitional period while Verdura finds staff to operate the Vernonia Clinic and provide coverage. "We hope to be staffing locally and hiring a P.A.

(Physicians Assistant) or two to work exclusively from here, because we need our P.A.'s to be working at our other clinic."

Verdura Family Wellness is currently in the process of moving into the Vernonia facility and has begun taking applications for open positions.

Vernonia Certified 2011 Population Estimate

The City of Vernonia has received the certified 2011 Population Estimate from the Population Research Center at Portland State University. According to the report the Certified Population Estimate on

July, 1, 2011 for Vernonia was 2110. That estimate was certified on December 15, 2011. The report also included a revised estimate for July 1, 2010 of 2155. The Certified Census Figure from April 1, 2010 was 2,151.

Upcoming Vernonia City Hall Closures and City Council Meetings

City Hall will be closed:

January 16, 2012 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 20, 2012 President's Day

Upcoming City Council Meetings are scheduled for:

Monday January 23, 2012
Monday February 6, 2012
Tuesday February 21, 2012
Monday March 5, 2012

Dates and Times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

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