

Vernonia City News...

At the May 21, 2012 City Council Meeting

Council Recognizes Synda Allen for Service—Mayor Josette Mitchell presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Synda Allen for her dedication and commitment during her many years of service to the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery. The Council took this opportunity to sincerely thank Allen for her loyalty to the City of Vernonia. Allen has retired as the caretaker of the cemetery. A reception in honor of Synda and her husband Ray was held prior to the City Council meeting.

Council Adjusts Park Host and Park Vendor Agreements—Council approved a request from Councilor Donna Webb to revisit the recently approved Park Host and Park Vendor Agreements and modified both to include a termination date for the agreements.

Council Chooses No Change to Traffic Pattern at Anderson Park—Council revisited a request to change the traffic flow pattern at Anderson Park, and again chose to make no changes to the current one-way flow of traffic.

Council Approves Flood Buyout—Council approved the purchase and sale agreement of one additional property and the use of HMGP funds and CDGB funds for this flood acquisition project.

Council Updates Parks Committee Resolution—Council approved Resolution 15-12, which establishes the Parks Committee and prescribes its powers and duties. Council also passed Resolution 881 which revised the Parks Rules and Regulations.

At the June 4, 2012 City Council Meeting

Council Adopts 2012-13 Budget, Amends Fee Schedule—Council approved and adopted the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget, with total funds of 5,082,987. Council also approved a tax levy rate of \$5.8163 per \$1,000 of assessed value of taxable property. The budget takes effect July 1, 2012. Council also approved a Resolution to receive state revenue sharing funds. In a separate move Council also amended the Master Fee Schedule which included an increase in the monthly sewer loan repayment fee from \$12 to \$31 (See full story on front page)

Council Accepts Financing Plan for School SDC's—Council approved a proposal from the Vernonia School District for a financing plan for System Development Charges that the School District must pay the City as part of the development of the new school campus project. The School District and City had previously negotiated a fee assessment of \$139,159, which was an adjustment down from \$261,144—a reduction of \$122,985. The School district has proposed paying the fees over four years at an interest rate of 2.25% which would be three payments of \$35,000 and one final payment of \$34,159. Council accepted this plan.

Council Approves Amendment with ODOT—Council approved an Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement between the City and the Oregon Department of Transportation which was signed in February of 2012. The amendment allows ODOT to reimburse the Vernonia School District for eligible costs incurred associated with engineering and road improvements. \$185,000 in costs are eligible for reimbursement.

Council Authorizes Change to City Hall Hours—Council authorized the

City Administrator to modify the hours of operation for City Hall staff, beginning July 1, 2012. (See full story on this page)

Council Approves New HRA Plan for Employees—Council approved the establishment of a Health Reimbursement Arrangement plan for employees which was agreed to in recent collective bargaining agreements with both employee unions. The plan allows for a tax free contribution account for employees to pay qualified health care expenses. The new plan is expected to save the City over \$30,000 in the next fiscal year.

Council Approves Re-Appropriation of Funds—Council approved the re-appropriation of funds within the Water Fund, from materials and service line items to personnel services. Payroll Expense was over budget in this fund and the re-appropriation was required to remain compliant with local budget law.

Council Approves Insurance Coverage for Volunteers—Council approved providing Workers Compensation insurance coverage to volunteer workers for the City.

Columbia County Expresses Condolences to Warren Family

The Columbia County Commissioners and all County Staff are expressing condolences to the family, friends and co-workers of Jennifer Warren. "Columbia County works closely with the Columbia County Mental Health Department (CCMH) and we were all devastated that this tragic event happened to a dedicated professional", said Commissioner Earl Fisher. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the family, friends and co-workers

of Ms. Warren" was echoed by all of the County Commissioners.

"Jennifer was a beloved, dedicated and respected staff member of CCMH" said Roland Migchielsen, the Agency's Director. "And we are working closely with our staff and our clients to provide support and counsel during this difficult time".

The funeral was held on Sunday, June 3rd at 1:00 PM at the St. Helens High School and

members of CCMH were in attendance along with clients and other community members and friends who worked with Jennifer.

The CCMH would like to thank the community for the calls offering support to the family and friends of the Warren Family. An account has been set up by the family at US Bank, where donations can be made to the

Jennifer Warren Family Account. The compassion this community and the outlying communities have shown as a result of this tragic event has been so positive and greatly appreciated.

For further information regarding donations or other questions, please contact Earl Fisher at 503-397-4322 or Roland Migchielsen at 503-397-5277, ext. 201.

Window Hours to Change at City Hall

The Vernonia City Council has approved a request from City Administrator Bill Haack to modify the hours of operation at the Vernonia City Hall.

Haack made the request at the June 4 City Council meeting. Under the new plan, starting July 1, 2012, the window at City Hall will open for public business starting at 11:00 AM, Monday through Friday. The window is currently open at 9:00 AM. The window will continue to close

at 5:00 PM, although, under the new plan, it will stay open until 6:00 PM on Monday evenings

In his report to Council, Haack noted that he is making the modifications to the hours of operation in order to "increase effectiveness and cost efficiencies" of city staff.

Haack said he intends to review the new plan after it has been in place for six months and make adjustments if needed.



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Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for:
Monday, June 18, 2012
Tuesday, July 2, 2012

City Closures are scheduled for:
Wednesday, July 4, 2012
Monday, September 3, 2012

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules



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