

Vernonia City News...

At the September 4, 2012 City Council Meeting:

Mayor Reads Proclamation—Mayor Josette Mitchell read a Proclamation from President Barak Obama declaring the month of September to be National Preparedness Month.

Council Discusses Use of Empty Lots—Council had a lengthy discussion about appropriate and allowed uses of empty lots the City owns due to FEMA buyouts. The discussion was precipitated by a request by Jim Neeland, who owns Archers Afield, Mobile Archery Store, to park his trailer in Vernonia for a few days each year and conduct business. Vernonia City Administrator Bill Haack told the council that he was not comfortable charging any fees for use of the property until the City adopted a policy concerning uses of these lots. Councilor Bruce McNair raised concerns about encouraging someone to conduct

the same type of business that already exists in town. McNair expressed he was not against new business, he just wanted a level playing field and wants to protect existing businesses that pay taxes. Several options were discussed. In the end it was agreed that the Council cannot charge for using the lot and cannot currently restrict someone who has purchased a business license from conducting business in town on public property. Council all agreed with staff that adopting a policy for these city owned properties needs to be a priority.

Council Approves Drug Collection/Disposal Program—Council approved a new policy addition to the Vernonia Police Department (VPD) Policy Manual for the collection and disposal of unused medications. The VPD recently acquired a receptacle for citizens to use to turn in medications. The receptacle will be placed in the lobby at City Hall. According to the new policy the box will

be clearly marked, locked and securely mounted. Medications may be placed anonymously in either plastic bags provided or in prescription bottles. Syringes/sharps will not be accepted. The Chief of Police will transport and witness the disposal at an approved incinerator site.

City Administrator Provides Report—City Administrator Bill Haack provided Council with a detailed written report about activities he is currently working on for the City. The report included information about the new school project, including demolition of the old schools, road improvements by ODOT and the Wetland project. He also provided infor-

mation about the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project, Master Capital Plan Update, and FEMA Compliance Planning. He also informed Council about personnel changes in the Public Works Department and at the Vernonia Library. He also informed Council that there exists a need for a discussion about policy changes needed for the Water Department. The report contained several other issues Haack is working on.

Council Approves Flood Acquisition—Council approved the purchase and sale agreement for a single property and approved the use of HMGP funds.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proposed Amendments to the Vernonia Title 9 Land Development Code Section 9-08 Habitation of Travel Trailers

LOCATION: This affects the use and parking of RV's, campers and utility trailers anywhere in the City.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Vernonia File # PAZC12-03 proposes to amend sections of the current travel trailer provisions in Title 9 Section 9-08 as follows:

- Allows for temporary habitation under certain circumstances
- Allows for an extension of time to habitat the trailer
- Clarifies terms and definitions used in this section
- Adds new restrictions for parking RV's on public streets

Additional information about the amendments can be obtained by contacting Joann Glass at City Hall 503-429-5291 ext. 104, or Carole Connell at connellpc@comcast.net.

The Public Hearings will be held on Thursday September 20, 2012 at 6:00 pm by the Planning Commission and on Monday October 1, 2012 by the City Council at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers of City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.

Public testimony is welcome and written statements will also be received before the hearing. Public

Hearings are governed by the Comprehensive Plan Amendment criteria of Title 9 Section 9.01.09-50. A staff report will be available to the public at City Hall one week before the hearings and may be copied for a nominal fee. Failure to raise an issue in a hearing, in person or by letter, or failure to provide statements or evidence sufficient to afford the decision-maker an opportunity to respond to the issue precludes appeal to the Oregon Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue.

Notice to mortgage; lienholder; vendor or seller: the City of Vernonia Title 9 Development Code requires that if you receive this notice it shall be promptly forwarded to the purchaser.

Meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing to the City Recorder at 503-429-5291, ext. 104; TTY 1-800-735-2900 or at City Hall, 1001 Bridge St., Vernonia OR 97064.

The City of Vernonia is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Proposed Amendments to the Vernonia Comprehensive Plan, the Plan/Zone Map and Title 9 Land Development Code

LOCATION: Rezones flood prone properties citywide; expands the mixed-use Downtown Zone to the Rose and Weed Avenue area. Rezones land on California Ave. to Light Industrial.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Vernonia File # PAZC12-02 proposes to amend planning documents as follows:

- Adopts the Vernonia Economic Opportunities Analysis (EOA)
- Modifies and adds economic objectives and policies to the Comprehensive Plan
- Rezones floodway and buy-out parcels, cemeteries and city shops to Institutional Public IP or Park Recreation PR
- Rezones private properties from residential to commercial on Rose and Weed Ave. and from residential to industrial on California Ave. to increase business opportunities
- Adds a use category and use restrictions to the IP Zone for buy-out sites

Additional information about the amendments can be obtained by contacting Joann Glass at City Hall 503-429-5291 ext. 104, or Carole Connell at connellpc@comcast.net and by viewing the packet at <http://vernonia.trianglegis.com/maps/html>

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Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:

Monday, September 17, 2012
Monday, October 1, 2012
Monday, October 15, 2012

City Closures are scheduled for:
November 12, Veteran's Day

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules



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