

Vernonia City News...

At the January 7, 2013 City Council Meeting

Council Members Are Sworn In- Mayor Josette Mitchell, along with City Councilors Randy Parrow and Kim Tierney all took the oath of office at the January 7, 2013 Vernonia City Council meeting. Tierney had been appointed to fill a vacant seat and was elected to her seat in the November elections; Mitchell and Parrow were re-elected to their seats. All three ran unopposed. Parrow was later elected by the Council to serve as Council President.



Mayor Josette Mitchell is sworn into office by City Recorder Joann Glass as City Councilor Randy Parrow looks on.

Problem with Wastewater Facility Revealed- City Administrator Bill Haack informed Council that he recently discovered that the wastewater headworks was constructed improperly and does not meet DEQ standards. Haack told Council that the headworks was originally designed for a nine inch flume but was constructed with a six inch flume and therefore has difficulty handling the amount of storm water generated during peak flows. Haack said he was unable to find any documentation that could explain why the facility was not constructed as designed. He noted that the problem would need to be corrected before plans for the wastewater facility

upgrade could move forward. Haack said he is working with the city engineer to create a plan to modify the headworks and fix the problem. He estimated that the modification would cost \$200,000 to \$300,000.

City Gets Approval to Use Grant Funds for New Park Development-

City Administrator Bill Haack informed Council that the City has received approval from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for an application the City made to repurpose grant funds. The funds are from the previously approved application for the Vernonia Bicycle Skills Park project. The City will use \$46,874 of those funds to complete a Parks Master Plan and will contract with MacKay & Sposito for those services. The balance of the funds, \$175,432, will be used to purchase and install a restroom facility and covered picnic shelter at the Spencer Park replacement park at the old school site. Council voted to approve both these uses.

Council Discusses Bicycle Rack and Bike Parking-

Council heard a request from the management of the Blue House Cafe to place a bicycle rack in the courtyard of the Vernonia Community Learning Center. The courtyard is adjacent to the Blue House Cafe property. Several citizens spoke against placing the rack in the courtyard. Several alternative ideas were discussed

including the need for an overall bicycle parking plan for the City. Council chose to make no decision. They requested that the issue be sent to the planning commission for review.

Council Approves Franchise Agreement With LightSpeed Networks-

Council approved a request from LightSpeed Networks, Inc. (LSN) for a franchise to construct, operate and maintain a telecommunications network within the City of Vernonia. The term of the franchise agreement is for ten years. LSN proposed to serve the new Vernonia Health Center as well as provide improved bandwidth, internet and network access for businesses, schools, government and local residents and visitors.

Topics from the Floor-George Bellingham, representing the Ridge Riders, provided Council with some history of the relationship between the City and his group. Marie Krahn spoke on behalf of

the Vernonia Health Board and informed the Council on progress her group is making to relocate the Health Clinic to the Rose Avenue site. Ron Wright informed the Council that he continues to be concerned about safety and speeding on Bridge Street as it goes up towards the top of Cory Hill and suggested speed bumps be installed.

Council informed of Financing for Street Paving-

Council was informed by memo that \$6,000 for a street paving project on A Street will come from the Operations Materials line item, which has an available balance of \$10,230. Council had previously approved the expenditure but had asked for more details about that line item in the budget.

Council Appoints Haack as Budget Officer-

As part of the City's required budget process, Council voted to appoint City Administrator Bill Haack as the budget officer for the City.

Vernonia Transfer Station Announcement

In order for Waste Management to continue providing Transfer Station services to the community of Vernonia, please note the following changes to the site operations:

EFFECTIVE March 9, 2013

- 30 yard Drop Box's will be removed and replaced with multiple 6.0 yard containers for household waste.
- Material exceeding 48" in length will no longer be accepted.
- Oversized or bulky waste will no

longer be accepted.

- The list of prohibited materials by type and quantity are posted at the entrance to the

Transfer Station and remain unchanged.

- Drop Off for recyclable items at no charge and items that require a fee remain unchanged.

Thank you,
WM of Columbia County

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:
Tuesday, January 22
Monday, February 4
Tuesday, February 19

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, February 18

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules



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City Information and Updates Available by Email

Citizens who wish to receive meeting information and updates can request to be placed on an email list at City Hall. Please contact Joann Glass at joann@vernonia-or.gov and asked to be placed on the "Citizen Notification List."

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