

Vernonia City News...

At the February 4, 2013 City Council Meeting:

Council Authorizes Spending for Park Development-Council authorized the City Administrator to sign Agreement LGP0252-1 Spencer Park Development which will allow the City to draw funds from the grant for proposed improvements that will be part of the park replacement project at the former school campus. The agreement for funds is for \$175,432 and will be used to install a restroom facility and picnic shelter in conjunction with the Vernonia School District replacement park construction process.

City Administrator Updates Council on Projects-City Administrator Bill Haack updated Council on several ongoing projects that the City is working on. Haack and Council discussed the options for removal of the biosolids from the wastewater lagoons by Clean Water Services. Haack also spent time explaining the details of the wastewater headworks repair project. Haack also introduced the idea that the Library is running out of storage space and may need to construct a 200 square foot building using grant funds. Haack also discussed that City Building and Grounds Maintenance staff will be completing an assessment of City owned buildings and developing a maintenance plan.

At the January 22, 2013 City Council Meeting:

Public Works Committee Recommends No Rate Increases-The Public Works Committee made a recommendation to City Council that the City Council/Budget Committee refrain from raising water or sewer rates and budgets by holding or lowering operational costs. The recommendation, which was passed by the Committee by majority vote at their December 19, 2012 meeting, was given to Council at the January 22, 2013 meeting.

Council Authorizes Parks Master Plan-Council authorized the City Administrator to sign an agreement with Oregon Parks and Recreation to draw down funds on Agreement LGP0252-2 and allow the City to enter into a contract with Mackay & Sposito for work on the Master Park Plan. The contract is for \$46,874.

Council Authorizes Contract for Environmental Assessment-Council authorized the City Administrator to negotiate a contract with Pacific Habitat Services (PHS) to complete an environmental assessment required by the Oregon DEQ. The assessment is a required element of the approval process for the use of Clean Water State Revolving Funds to finance the City's Waste Water Treatment Plant facility upgrade project. The proposed cost of the work is \$32,962 and will be paid with funds available through EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant.

Council Approves Funds for Design of Repair-Council authorized the City Administrator to fund engineering services with HLB OTAK, to complete the design work for emergency repairs to the Waste Water Treatment Plant Headworks. It was discovered in December of 2012 that the headworks and its discharge piping is unable to handle high flows during winter months. The City now needs to modify the headworks. Total cost is estimated to be \$300,000 and will be paid for through a DEQ CWSRF Loan that is available to the City.

Council Approves Contract for Final Design-Council authorized the City Administrator to negotiate a contract with Tetra Tech Engineering and Architecture Services to complete the Waste Water Improvement Project design engineering. Tetra Tech Engineering was chosen for the project based on a recommendation from the Public Works Committee.

OLCC Renewals Given OK By Chief-Vernonia Police Chief Mike Connor told Council he was giving a favorable recommendation for all OLCC License renewals in Vernonia. License renewals were received from the following businesses: All In Pub & Eatery, Black Bear Coffee Co. & Bear Creek Pub, Blue House Cafe, Bridge Street Mini Mart, Cedar Side Inn, La Cabana Mexican Restaurant, New Hong Kong Restaurant, Vernonia Sentry Market.

Council Hears Update on Rose Avenue Project-Council heard an update from City Administrator Bill Haack on the current status of the Rose Avenue Project. The City has been working with the Vernonia Health Board, Vernonia Cares Food Bank, and Vernonia Senior Center since 2008 to relocate the three entities which were all damaged in the 2007 flood. City Council previously approved an exchange of land with Oregon Parks and Recreation and accepted the land for the proposed site. Haack informed Council that the Health Board is working with an architect and are considering options for construction of a new facility. Haack says he will discuss with the Health Board the layout of the overall property and how much space they will need for their building, how much parking they will need, space needed to allow ambulance access to their building, approaches to Cougar and Weed Avenues and how much sidewalk, curb, gutters and street improvements the project will entail.

A workshop with Council and all the parties involved in the project was scheduled for Friday February 1, 2013.

Mayor Appoints Two Citizens-Mayor Josette Mitchell, with approval of Council, appointed Lynn Fulgham to the Library Board and appointed Kathy Larsen to serve on the Planning Commission.

City Administrator Report

By Bill Haack

The City of Vernonia is currently working on many complicated projects with many moving parts. As the City Administrator I believe it is important to keep our citizens informed about the details of these projects and will be providing these brief reports that will include updates and some specific details on what we are working on. If you have questions about any of the information in these reports please feel free to contact either your City Councilors or myself.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

DEQ APPROVES FINAL PLAN SUBMITTED BY TETRA TECH

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality conditionally approved the wastewater treatment plan facility improvements that will

lead the City to build a hyporheic discharge infiltration model to handle wastewater year round. The project cost estimate is at \$5.5 million, including a modification to the Headworks and the removal of bio solids required due to the elevation of the lagoons dyke system. OTAK, the City Engineer, will value engineering cost estimates and project elements to ensure that we bid the best project that we are able to design.

BIO SOLIDS PLAN

In discussion with OTAK and Tetra Tech, we continue to carry on discussions with Clean Water Services to assess their ability to serve the City as a bio solids contractor to manage dredging and processing two lagoons. The current thinking is to extract the water turning the bio solids into a "cake" which reduces the trucking costs significantly. OTAK is also looking at other options. Our geotechnical engineer (Shannon & Wilson) will review

these proposals. Costs for this project are eligible under the DEQ CWSRF loan. However, if neither of these two options works, we may still have a hefty removal and processing costs if we are moving bio solids as liquids, as a land applied solution is costly. In all cases, the selected scope of work for removal and processing will be late Spring/Summer 2013.

DYKE ROCK & ENGINEERED FILL MATERIALS

The City Engineer had an informal discussion with Trails End Recycling and Custom Excavating, asking them to provide an estimate of the amount of gravel and rock the school demolition site will yield. Shannon & Wilson will conduct an onsite review of the materials to provide a geotechnical assessment of these building materials. If this source of rock and gravel can be used, it should provide a cost

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Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:
Tuesday, February 19
Monday, March 4
Monday, March 18

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, February 18

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

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