

Vernonia City News...

At the May 20, 2013 City Council Meeting

EMS Week Presentation-Jeff Mathia, Supervisor from Metro West Ambulance, presented the City Council with a proclamation and plaque proclaiming Emergency Services Week and thanking the City for their support for emergency services.

Topics From the Floor-Ilene Grady expressed concerns that the City is not maintaining the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery and that work is having to be done by volunteers. Grady stated that a permanent solution to maintaining the cemetery needs to be found. Grady also thanked the volunteers that worked there this year.

Brett Costley told Council that he is available and would like to work with City Administrator Bill Haack as a volunteer intern to help with appropriate City projects.

Council Holds Public Hearing on Sewer Rates-Council held a Public Hearing to discuss a sewer rate study conducted by FCS. Council heard a presentation from Doug Gabbard of FCS and will meet again in a workshop to discuss financing options for the upcoming wastewater upgrade project as well as two rate design options. (See story on page 9.)

Council Discusses Clerk of Work Position-City Administrator Bill Haack presented a proposal to create a Limited Term Contract Employee staff position called "Clerk of the Works" to manage the complex construction management and project management functions related to the wastewater upgrade project jointly supervised by the City Engineer and City Administrator. The position would provide support of the project over the next twenty-four months. Based on discussions with the City Attorney, Haack told Council the City has the ability to hire a current City employee under a separate contract to perform this function rather than use current firms the

City already contracts with; this could save the City about 50% for the contract. Council asked for more information to be provided in a workshop about the scope of work and the qualifications of any City employee who would be considered for the job.

Council Accepts Brownfields Site Selection Report-The City has engaged with PBS, under their EPA Brownfield Assessment Cooperative Agreement. PBS completed a preliminary inventory of potential cleanup sites and developed site selection of criteria to help prioritize the selection of sites for cleanup. Acceptance of PBS's work allows the City to move forward to identify the six highest priority projects.

Council Considers Cemetery Committee Recommendations-The Vernonia Cemetery Committee made several recommendations concerning equipment needed for maintenance of the cemetery and also what should be done with the property owned by the City where the former caretaker resided.

Council Approves Police Copier Lease-Council Approved a new lease for the copier used by the Police Department. The old contract cost the City \$429/month; the new contract would cost the City less than \$100/month.

At the June 3, 2013 City Council meeting:

Council Hears Update on Rose Avenue Project-City Council heard an update from Erika Paleck, President of the Vernonia Health Board, who gave a brief history of the Health Board and their work in the community as a non-profit. Paleck also provided a history of the current Health Center Building, owned by the Health Board and paid for with funds raised by the community. Paleck updated the progress of the current campaign to build a new Health Center as part of the Rose Avenue Project. Paleck informed Council that all three

entities involved in the development of the Rose Avenue Project-the Health Board, the Vernonia Senior Center and Vernonia Cares Food Bank-are all working together and will meet regularly to keep each other informed on their progress. Currently the different entities are on different time lines to develop their portion of the project which had previously raised some questions and concerns from some Council members. Council expressed approval of the current status of the project.

Heather Lewis also spoke on behalf of the Health Board and explained the business model the Health Board is using in order to successfully provide health care in a rural community. The Health Board asked Council for help from the City in identifying potential grant funding sources to complete street improvements that are part of the entire project. Council directed City Administrator Bill Haack to explore this possibility.

Council Approves Downtown Parking Plan-Based on recommendations from City Planner Carole Connell, Council approved a Downtown Parking Plan by a 3-2 vote. City staff is attempting to implement new parking provisions in the Downtown Zone. The Planning Commission and Council have discussed the matter in the past. The current ordinance states that all businesses are required to provide off-street parking. Council had considered a complicated plan that would include a fee-in-lieu of being able to provide required parking-funds raised would go into a fund to maintain a City owned parking lot in the Downtown area. Connell, in a written memorandum, recommended that Council delete the requirements for existing businesses, require the fee-in-lieu only for new businesses, consider raising the suggested \$10 fee for each required space a business cannot provide and that the City determine the actual costs to develop and maintain the public lot. Council approved the plan based on the recommendation from the

City Planner, with the exception of not raising the current fee of \$10. Councilors Tierney and McNair and the Mayor voted in favor of the recommendation, Councilors Parrow and Webb voted against it. Council also approved a worksheet presented by Connell to be used by new businesses to determine the number of parking spaces their business requires.

Council Approves Master Capital Program-Council approved Resolution 08-13, adopting the City of Vernonia Master Capital Program. The Master Capital Program was recently updated and provides a road map for future investment in capital assets. It includes a prioritized list of infrastructure projects and other capital spending projects.

Council Approves Creation of Operation Manual-Council authorized the City Administrator to contract with Tetra Tech Engineering and Architecture Services to complete a preliminary Operations and Maintenance Manual for the new Wastewater Treatment facility. City Administrator Haack explained to Council that the early creation of this draft will assist the City in securing approval of the needed environmental assessment of the project from EPA and DEQ. The creation of the manual was already part of the project scope of work. The cost for the draft is \$21,671 and will be paid for with EPA STAG grant funds.

Council Approves Trailer Permit-Council approved an application by Gerrie Reynolds for Inhabiting a Travel Trailer at 810 E. Alabama Ave. from June 15, 2013 to October 5, 2013.

City Administrator Report

By Bill Haack

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT

WWTP COST ESTIMATE

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) facility improvements project cost estimate is within a \$5.25 to \$6.0 million range. For the purposes of planning these estimates will continue to be used.

WWTP FINANCING PLAN

City Council will conduct a works session on June 10, 2013, to review the pros and cons of the various financing options.

WWTP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Pacific Habitat provided DEQ and EPA with an Environmental Assessment & Biological Assessment as well as provided NMFS with a draft of the Biological Assessment. NMFS has yet to determine whether an informal or formal consultation will be required in this process. Current issue is acceptance of language to become a part of the O&M for the finished project.

BIOSOLIDS PLAN

Otak is reviewing planning options for the removal of the biosolids. We are coordinating with DEQ on the Biosolid Plan. We will

develop a bid package, publish a bid, and select a contractor in the near future.

HEADWORKS PARSHALL FLUME & RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

The City contracted with Lyda Excavating of Banks, OR. Lyda has initiated efforts. Otak has four change orders under review potentially for removal of cement blocks from lagoon 2, road improvement from California Avenue to headworks, staging area at lagoon 2, additional aggregate requirement due to deeper cut to attain stable soil and replacement of aggregate with cement in trenching. These change orders add about \$20,000 and 4 calendar days to the contract.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

CDBG PROJECT NO 06021

MONITORING LETTER RECEIVED
The City received a monitoring letter from Infrastructure Finance Authority. There was one Finding and two Concerns. The City's legal counsel has responded to the procurement issue that resulted in a Finding and a Concern. The City will resolve the second concern by closing out the grant by 6-27-13. The City must respond to this letter by June 27, 2013.

SDC FEE SCHEDULE

A proposal will be presented on June 17, 2013.

WATER RATE UPDATE

OAWU will provide recommendations in June or July 2013.

SEWER RATE STUDIES

continued on page 6

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:

Monday, June 17, 2013
Monday, July 1, 2013

City Closures are scheduled for:

Independence Day
Thursday, July 4, 2013

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules



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