

Vernonia City News...

At the October 21, 2013 City Council Meeting

Council Authorizes Agreement for Emergency Services- Council authorized the City Administrator to execute a Mutual Aid Agreement with the Oregon Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (ORWARN) ORWARN is a membership group made up of municipal governments and special districts that manage water and wastewater utilities. The purpose of the network is to provide mutual aid and assistance in the form of personnel, equipment and material and other services to utilities that have sustained damage.

Council Authorizes MOU to Complete California Ave.- Council directed staff to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Casey Mitchell and Brad Curtis committing all parties to work towards completion of California Avenue. The City has been working with Mitchell and Curtis for over four years on this roadway improvement project and the City Council has previously approved this plan. Chuck Daughtry from the Columbia County Economic Team spoke in favor of this MOU. The plan calls for improvements from Bridge Street to the turnaround at the wetland. The project would encourage development of industrial property and the relocation of Photo Solutions, Inc. Mayor Josette Mitchell, wife of Casey Mitchell abstained from the vote.

Council Authorizes MOU to Process Materials- Council directed City Staff to draft and sign a Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) committing the City to process stored materials by July 2014. The City of Vernonia has stored brick and asphalt that was salvaged from the demolition of the school campus on private property owned by Casey Mitchell. Mayor Josette Mitchell, wife of Casey Mitchell abstained from the vote.

Council Approves IFA Grant Application- Council approved the application for a grant from the Oregon Business Development Department-Infrastructure Finance Authority for planning for the development of California Avenue. Mayor Josette Mitchell abstained from the vote.

Council Votes to Wait on Biosolid Removal- Council voted 3-2 to wait to begin the removal of biosolids from the wastewater lagoons. Council had the choice of starting the project in late October or waiting until spring of 2014. Councilors Bruce McNair and Donna Webb, along with Mayor Josette Mitchell voted to wait; Councilors Randy Parrow and Kim Tierney voted to go forward.

Council Allows Changes to Police Contract- Council approved changes to the Police Union contract which changed the "Health and Welfare" section of the contract.

At the November 4, 2013 City Council Meeting:

Council Hears Update on Rose Avenue Project- Council heard an update on the progress on the construction of the new Vernonia Health Clinic, Vernonia Senior

Center and Vernonia Cares Food Bank. According to all parties involved, the project is moving forward according to schedule.

Council Supports Housing Rehabilitation Program- Council heard a presentation from Susan Wagner of Community Action Team who asked Council to sign an Agreement in Support of the Northwest Oregon Regional Housing Rehabilitation Program. By signing the agreement residents of Vernonia are eligible to apply for housing rehabilitation revolving loans that assist low income homeowners repair their homes.

Topics From the Floor- Casey Mitchell complained to Council about the dangers of leaving California Avenue open. He asked Council to block access to the road, which he says is being used to dump garbage, for high speed driving and parties. Council instructed staff to implement a plan to block the road at Vernonia Lake and the wetland area within one month.

Biosolids Removal- Council discussed the removal of biosolids from the sewer lagoons. City Administrator Bill Haack brought Council a proposal to begin removal at a cost of \$785,000. Council had previously voted not to begin until spring 2014. Council asked for a workshop with staff and members of the Public Works Committee to look at all the information before they make a final decision about how to move forward.

Council Discusses Several Issues- Council discussed several issues including a proposed dedication for a right-of-way on Alder Street, the extension of the South Columbia County Enterprise Zone to Vernonia, the possibility of logging some trees from a few City properties in order to fund a timber harvest plan for City owned property and the General Fund Budget. Council took no action on any of these issues.

Council Meets in Executive Session- Council recessed to Executive Session and met under ORS 192.660(2) (h) Legal Council. Council did not take any action following the return to Open Session.

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:
Monday, November 18, 2013

City Closures are scheduled for:
Veterans Day
Monday, November 11th
Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, November 28
Staff Day
Friday, November 29

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

Alumni Volleyball
Friday, November 22nd, 7pm
Come watch VHS Alumni take on the 2013 Varsity Volleyball team at the VHS gym. Donations accepted. All proceeds benefit the Zack Rumboltz Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The Public is Invited to
City Parks Master Plan Open House
November 14th, 2013
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC)
939 Bridge Street

Come learn about the updated Master Park Plan for Vernonia. This will include Vernonia Lake, Anderson Park, New Spencer Park, Mill Site Marsh and more. Give your thoughts and ideas about what you would like to see included in this plan for the future of Vernonia's Parks.

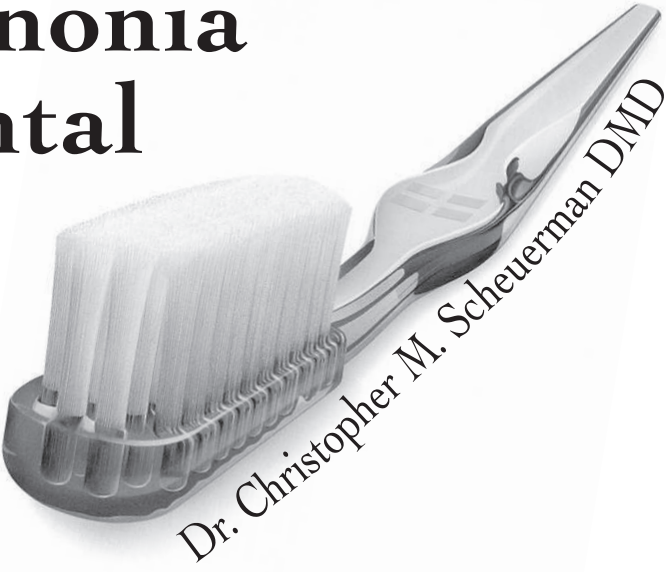
Terry's Gym



JOIN THE TEAM!

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Vernonia Dental



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