

City Administrator Report

By Bill Haack

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT WWTP COST ESTIMATE

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) facility improvements project cost estimate is adjusted up to \$6.3 million. Under Tetra Tech's current contract for construction management the valuation will be revised prior to going out to bid in 2014.

WWTP ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

We received word from DEQ that the EPA review of the environmental assessment is their first priority.

USDA FINANCING

City staff will met with USDA in November 2013, to restart the process of securing funding through their program.

PARKS DEPARTMENT OPRD & DISTRICT IMPROVEMENTS AT THE SPENCER PARK DEVELOPMENT

The VSD 47J District and City representatives will meet on December 4, 2013, to review the plans and specifications for the replacement park, and review any modification proposed based on communications with Pacific Sports Turf based on soils testing recently completed. Work is anticipated to begin again in the Spring 2014.

OTHER BUSINESS COLUMBIA COUNTY JAIL BOND

On November 25, 2013, the Columbia County Board of

Commissioners and the Columbia County Sheriff conducted a stakeholder meeting was attended by members of the countywide court and law enforcement and representatives of municipal government and local elected officials. Also in attendance were over 50 members of the public who came to hear what plans the County had following the defeat of the bond issue at the polls in November 2013. The meeting was information sharing with a focus on capturing questions to assist the County in their decision to potentially pursue a bond next year. The key point that was made is the likelihood that the jail may well close and the impact that will have on the Sheriff, and local police in managing the need for jail beds in the future. Based on last night's meeting, the County will partner with local jurisdiction and others beginning in January 2014 to conduct local town hall meetings.

City Council to Consider Sewer Rate Structure Change

Based on a recommendation from the Vernonia Public Works Committee, the City Council will consider changes to the sewer rate structure.

The Public Works Committee recommended by majority vote that City Council adopt a three year sewer rate increase starting in January 2014. This rate structure change and increase was recommended in the FCS Group sewer rate study completed this past year.

The new sewer rate structure is similar to the change that was made to billing for water usage last year and will be tied to average water use.

The Public Works Committee had previously made this same recommendation in April of 2013, but it was never brought forward to Council.

The change in rate structure recommended by the committee calls for replacing the \$53 per month base charge with a fixed charge of \$36.59 per meter equivalent in the first year, with a variable charge of \$4.13 per 1,000 gallons of average monthly water consumption during winter months for residential customers.

The City Council is scheduled to discuss the proposed change at their December 16, 2013 meeting.

Oregon State Police 2013 Thanksgiving Holiday Statistics

Preliminary information indicates two people died in Oregon in fatal traffic crashes during the 2013 Thanksgiving Holiday reporting period between 6:00 p.m., November 27, and 11:59 p.m., December 1. Oregon State Police (OSP) troopers partnered with Washington State Patrol (WSP) and California Highway Patrol (CHP) over the holiday period during an enhanced joint traffic safety effort called the "I-5 Challenge" to promote driving safety and prevent fatal crashes on Interstate 5 (I-5). Neither fatal crash in Oregon occurred on I-5.

According to ODOT's Fatality Analysis & Reporting System (FARS), the following two fatal crashes were confirmed during the holiday

reporting period:
• On Thursday, November 28, at approximately 1:00 AM., a 25-year old woman died in a two-vehicle collision on Highway 20 south of Lebanon in Linn County. OSP is the lead investigating agency and alcohol is being investigated as a contributing factor.
• On Sunday, December 1, at approximately 7:09 AM, a 26-year old woman died in a two-vehicle collision on SE Orient Drive near SE Salquist Road in Gresham in Multnomah County. Gresham Police Department is the lead investigating agency.

Last year, two people died in 2 separate fatal traffic crashes in Oregon

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PUBLIC NOTICE SEWER RATE FEE CHANGE

WHEN: Please plan to attend Monday, December 16, 2013 7:00 pm

WHERE: City Hall Council Chambers

WHY: To review and accept the recommendation from the Public Works Committee to adopt a three year sewer rate increase starting in December/January 2014, 2015 and 2016 as recommended in the FCS Sewer Rate Study. The Committee feels that the need to start the increase is now since the WWTF project will be moving forward in the coming year.

City Council invites the public to attend the meeting to voice their questions and concerns before making a sewer rate change to the master fee schedule Resolution No. 14-08:

\$36.59 per meter equivalent and \$4.13 per 1,000 gallons of average

monthly water consumption

A rate structure that reflects both usage (per thousand charge) and demand for service (meter multiplier) equitably charges our customers and brings fairness between users.

The full FCS Group report is on the City Web Page and a copy at City Hall for your review.

*****AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE*****
Please contact the City Recorder, Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064 (Phone No. 503-429-5291) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you need an accommodation. TCC users please call Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.

Vernonia Police Blotter - Nov. 17-30, 2013

ARRESTS/CRIMINAL CITATIONS/INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 11/19/2013
Incident Type: Death Investigation
Summary: Officers responded to the 500 block of Madison Ave. in response to an unattended death. Ongoing investigation.

TRAFFIC/OTHER VIOLATIONS

Date: 11/22/2013
Violations: Violation of posted speed limit
Summary: Police performed a traffic stop near milepost 63 on Nehalem HWY South. Issued a citation for Violation of Speed

Limit.

Date: 11/23/2013
Violations: Violation of Basic Rule
Summary: Police performed a traffic stop on HWY 47 near milepost 65. Issued a citation for Violation of the Basic Rule.

Date: 11/24/2013
Violations: Driving while suspended and driving while uninsured
Summary: Police performed a traffic stop on Bridge St. near East Ave. Issued citations for Driving While Suspended and Driving Uninsured.



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