

# Vernonia City News...

## At the January 21, 2014 City Council Meeting:

**Mayor Accepts Brown Resignations-** With the approval of Council, Mayor Josette Mitchell accepted the resignation of Dan Brown from the Planning Commission and the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

**Council Approves Employee Request Forms-** Council approved new internal office forms for city employees to use to request overtime pay and to request time off.

**Council Discusses Health Board Lease-** Council and Brett Costley, representing the Vernonia Health Board, discussed the wording of the pending lease agreement for the construction of the new Health Center. The Health Board is proposing to build the Health Center on land controlled by the City of Vernonia. Council and the Health Board discussed several issues which still need to be resolved in order for agreement on the lease details to be finalized, including: what happens to the land after the city's fifty year agreement with the state is over; language that states the City Council must approve all subleases to providers working in the facility; and how much insurance the facility will be required to carry. The parties agreed that they would meet again on Friday, January 24, with both legal councils present, to hopefully finalize an agreement. Council also proposed a Memorandum of Agreement between the parties.

**Council Hears Parks Master Plan Presentation-** Council heard a presentation from Jim Sandlin, a landscape architect with MacKay Sposito. Sandlin presented Council with the final version of the Master Parks and Trails Plan, which includes options for park expansion projects.

Sandlin provided Council with a written report, gave Council some background on the project, and was available to answer questions. Council was scheduled to hear public comments and consider approval of the plan at their February 3, 2014 meeting.

**Council Receives Quarterly Financial Report-** City Finance Officer Angie Handegard presented Council with a quarterly financial report. Handegard told Council that the intention in all departments is to try to curtail spending as much as possible without decreasing service levels.

## At the February 3, 2014 City Council Meeting:

**Council Extends Pro Tem Agreement-** Council approved an extension of their agreement with Mayor Josette Mitchell to have her continue acting as City Administrator Pro Tem. Council also approved a stipend of \$3.91/hour for up to forty hours per week to pay for Mitchell's childcare expenses while she volunteers to fill the vacant City Administrator position.

**Council Changes Enterprise Zone Boundary-** Council approved Resolution 3-14 which changes the Enterprise Zone boundary and adds the City of Vernonia as a co-sponsor of the South Columbia County Enterprise Zone. The Columbia County Board of Commissioners approved this change of the boundary at their January 22, 2014 meeting. Inclusion in the Enterprise Zone allows for tax exemptions for new development and could increase employment opportunities, raise local incomes, and attract investment.

**Council Approves Parks Master Plan-** After hearing a presentation from

Jim Sandlin of Mackay Sposito at their January 21 meeting, and opening this meeting to public comment, the Council voted to approve Resolution 4-14, approving the Vernonia Parks and Trails Master Plan. The plan was established to guide parks development, help develop budgets and priorities for projects, assist in future grant applications, and establishes goals and objectives for properties within the Vernonia park system.

**Council Approves Volunteer Policies-** Council approved a Volunteer Policy Manual, Acknowledgement Form and Agreement which establishes and explains policies and provides guidance for city staff and volunteers involved in the City Volunteer Program.

**Council Discusses Lease with Health Board-** Negotiations continued between the Vernonia Health Board and the Council concerning the Ground Lease Agreement for construction of the Health Clinic on property owned by the City. An agreement was not finalized.

**City Declares Library Equipment Surplus-** Council approved the declaration of surplus property for computer equipment at the Vernonia Library. The property will be disposed of in the appropriate manner.

**Mayor Appoints Rose to Emergency Preparedness Committee-** With the approval of the Council, Mayor Josette Mitchell appointed Donald Rose to the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Rose is the Engineer and Operations Manager at WOEC and lives in Troutdale.

**School Gravel-** Council approved a request from Dr. Ken Cox from the Vernonia School District, asking to use crushed rock and gravel that the City has stored, in the greenhouse construction project.

**Council Hears Presentation About Billing Software-** Prior to the regular meeting Council heard a presentation concerning a utility billing software package from John Vergey of MuniBilling. The proposed package would allow the City to save money and time on utility billing.

**Council Moves Forward With Severance Agreement-** Council entered into Executive Session under ORS 192.660(2)(b) To consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member. Upon returning to open session it was the consensus of Council to move forward with the General Release of the Severance Agreement.

### 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."

## Co-mingle Recycling has Moved!

from Waste Management Transfer Station  
to D.A.D.'s Recycling  
2024 Mist Drive



Now available  
Tue, Thr, Sat  
10am-5pm

Vernonia's Voice  
is published on  
the 1st and 3rd  
Thursday.  
Our next issue  
will be  
February 20th.

## Cover Oregon Update

Individuals and families are still able to sign up for health insurance through Cover Oregon until March 31. Call Columbia County Public Health at 503-397-4651, extension 2005 to speak with an application assister. Or, go to the Cover Oregon website [www.coveroregon.com](http://www.coveroregon.com) or call the statewide assistance number 1-855-268-3767 for more information.

## Terry's Gym



JOIN  
THE TEAM!

503-901-1705  
16720 Noakes Rd. Vernonia

## Vernonia Dental



Dr. Christopher M. Scheuerman DMD

622 Bridge Street Vernonia, OR 97064  
phone (503) 429-0880 -- fax (503) 429-0881

## Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are  
scheduled for 7 PM:  
Tuesday, February 18, 2014

City Closures are scheduled for:  
Monday, February 17, 2014  
Presidents' Day

*Dates and times subject to change  
due to conflicts of schedules*