

Vernonia City News...

At the April 7, 2014 City Council Meeting:

Council Repeals Substantial Damage Determination-Council voted to repeal the Substantial Damage Determination for property at 658 Madison Avenue. The property was damaged during the 2007 flood. The repeal was made at the request of John Graham, who is the new property owner.

According to Mayor/City Administrator Josette Mitchell the previous owner fraudulently requested and received a Substantial Damage Determination in 2008. That owner never did the expected repairs after receiving about \$12,000 in flood relief funds. The new owners purchased the property in November of 2013. Mitchell said this is only the second time that anyone nationwide has asked to repeal the determination. The repeal allows the new owners to make repairs and return the home to livable standards.

Council Approves Lease Agreement With Health Board-Council unanimously voted to approve the lease agreement between the City of Vernonia and the Vernonia Health Center Board for use of property at the Rose Avenue Project for construction of the new Health Center.

Spencer Park RFP-Mayor/City Administrator Mitchell told Council that the Vernonia School District (VSD) has moved forward and published an RFP to finish construction work at Spencer Park without an approval from the City Council. Approval of the RFP was on the agenda for the March 17th City Council meeting, but Council did not have a quorum and did not conduct any business at that meeting. Mitchell told Council she met with VSD Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox and discussed changes that were to be made in the RFP before publication, but that she has not received a final version of the RFP. Council took no action since they did not have final version to review.

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."

Council Discusses Ridge Riders-After recessing to Executive Session, Council returned to open session and discussed the Vernonia Ridge Riders. Council determined that City staff needs to meet with Ridge Riders leaders to discuss the fact that a court of law has determined that the lease the Ridge Riders have been operating under is not valid and that a process for how the Ridge Riders use the horse arena, which is located on City owned property, needs to be determined.

Council Presented with Budget Schedule-Council received the schedule for the upcoming budget process for fiscal year 2014-15. The first meeting will be held on Friday, April 18 at 6:00 PM at the VCLC. The committee will receive the budget message and the proposed budget, elect a Chair and Vice Chair and determine meeting protocol. A Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 23 at 6:00 PM and public comment will be taken. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for consecutive Tuesdays, as needed, starting April 29. All meetings will begin at 6:00 PM and take place at the VCLC. Additional meetings may be scheduled as necessary.

Council Discusses Betterment Distribution-Council discussed the need to determine how to issue Betterment Distribution funds. Council decided they will allow community groups to apply to be included in the process. Mayor Mitchell will return to Council with a draft.

Council Approves Pre-Application for Rose Avenue Project-Council approved a pre-application for a Community De-

velopment Block Grant for the Rose Avenue Project. The pre-application will be submitted by Community Action Team on behalf of the Senior Center and the Vernonia Cares Food Bank. Mayor Mitchell and Councilor Kim Tierney both abstained from voting.

Bleacher Repair-Council took no action on a recommendation from the Parks Committee to partner with the Vernonia Logging Show and spend \$1,500 from the Parks budget. The money would be used to repair bleachers that are stored at Hawkins Park and are used by the Logging Show and for local youth sports activities. The Parks Committee proposed that the repaired bleachers could be used at Spencer Park when the new park is completed. Council raised concerns that the bleachers may not be up to current code and could pose a danger to users.

Council Approves Changes to Park Fees-Council approved Resolution 09-14, amending Resolution 14-08, Section 2, 'Parks Fees.' The amendment eliminates the fee for 'Campsite with electric hook-up only' at Anderson Park. Choic-

es for RV campers are now to camp without hook-ups for \$14 or with full hook-ups for \$25. The amendment also changed the charge for an extra vehicle in campsites from \$3 to \$7. Councilor Donna Webb voted against the Resolution.

Council Approves Mitchell's Request to Attend Conference-Council approved a request by Mayor/City Administrator Mitchell to attend a Floodplain Managers Conference from June 1-6 in Seattle WA. Cost to the City is \$884.85 after Mitchell received \$1076.42 in scholarship funds.

Mayor Reads Two Proclamations-Mayor Josette Mitchell read proclamations for Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Paleck Appointed to Planning Commission-With approval from Council, Mayor Mitchell appointed Erika Paleck to the Planning Commission.

Brown Wins Planning Award

Dan Brown will be recognized as a Distinguished Leader as a Community Planner by the Oregon American Planning Association (OAPA).

Brown served on the Vernonia Planning Commission for seventeen years, many of those as the Chair of the Commission. He recently stepped down as a Planning Commissioner.

Brown will be recognized for his contributions at the OAPA annual conference, scheduled May 29-30. The Awards presentation is during a luncheon on Friday May 30 at the Oregon Convention Center.

Police Blotter April 1-13

REPORTS TAKEN

- April 2, 2014 Police responded to suspicious person in Hawkins Park.
- April 06, 2014 Police responded to a Burglary, located in the 100 block of North St. Investigation currently ongoing.
- April 07, 2014 Police responded to a Theft from Vehicle on the 300 block of Louisiana Ave. Investigation currently ongoing.
- April 10, 2014 Police responded to a Theft of Identity in the 1600 block of Heather Lane. Investigation still ongoing.
- April 10, 2014 Police responded to

a Theft of Vehicle on the 100 block of E Street. Investigation is still ongoing.

TRAFFIC/OTHER CITATIONS

- April 09, 2014 Issued a traffic citation for driving while uninsured. Between Bridge St. and Adams Ave.
- April 09, 2014 Issued a traffic citation for Violation of the Basic Rule (70mph in a posted 55mph speed zone). On Nehalem Highway South at mile post 64.

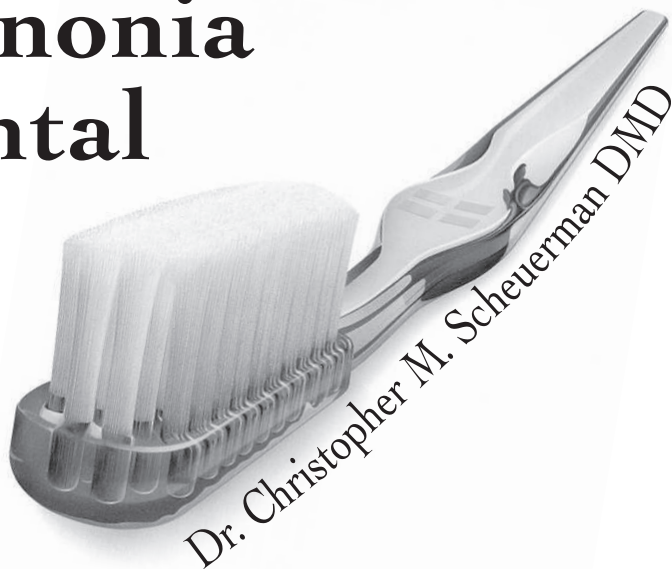
Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:
Monday, April 21, 2014
Monday, May 5, 2014

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, May 26, 2014
Memorial Day

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

Vernonia Dental



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

Friends of the Vernonia Public Library

Membership Dues:

Family: \$10.00 Individual: \$5.00
Minimum: \$1.00 plus 2 hours minimum of work in the library

Make checks payable to: Friends of the Vernonia Public Library
Mailing Address: 701 Weed Avenue, Vernonia, OR 97064

Name			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Phone			
Date	Amount Enclosed \$		

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