

Vernonia City News...

At the May 18, 2015 City Council Meeting:

Council Passes Resolution Opposing LNG - Council unanimously approved Resolution 07-15, declaring the City's concerns and opposition to the Oregon LNG and Oregon Pipeline Projects. The resolution stated that the City supports economic growth that does not jeopardize the environment or citizen's health or safety; opposes construction of the LNG terminal and pipeline and calls on all county state and federal agencies to reject the proposed project because it is in conflict with public safety and public interest; and requests that Oregon LNG notify citizens of all risks, meet periodically with local citizens to address regional concerns, mitigate potential environmental health and safety hazards, and submit an emergency environmental cleanup plan.

Council Approves Water Billing Change - Council approved a request from staff to eliminate the practice of using door hangers to notify utility customers forty-eight hours prior to their water being shut off for lack of payment. According to the staff report, the process is time consuming and customers have complained the practice is embarrassing. Council directed staff to return with an Ordinance amending the current "Payment of Bills" section.

The current City Ordinance states that bills are mailed each month and customers have twenty days to pay before a 6% penalty is added. Accounts are shut off at thirty days.

Councilor Jill Hult said she did not believe this is enough time and is not fair. Council held a lengthy discussion about changing the length of time for payment and/or the length of time before shut off, but took no action.

Council Holds Public Hearing on Street Vaccation - Based on an application from Steve Weller, Council considered a request to vacate a portion of H Street. Weller is one of eight property owners adjacent to the proposed section to be vacated. The reason for the request is to resolve an issue with improper setbacks

of structures on adjoining properties that infringe on the public right-of-way, which would be allowed to stay. Weller would also like to construct a storage shed in the current right of way.

Bruce McNair, who has been helping the City assess timber on City owned property told Council that there is merchantable timber in the right-of-way. Council approved the request to vacate with the condition that they be allowed to cut the timber first and set a timeline of sixty days to take that action. Council later tabled the approval of Ordinance 904 which would have officially vacated the section of H Street, until they can determine if they have the rights to harvest the timber on the property.

Council Approves MOU for Courtyard - Council approved a letter of consent allowing the Vernonia Senior Center to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Blue House Café. The MOU provides for use of a portion of the courtyard attached to the Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC). The Senior Center is currently leasing the VCLC from the City. The MOU allows the Blue House Café to place tables, chairs, benches and flower pots on one-third of the courtyard. Any of the three parties can terminate the MOU at any time, for any reason.

Council to Explore Smoke-Free Parks

Council directed staff to move forward with drafting a proposal to ban all smoking in City Parks. According to the staff report on the issue, over 500 cities and towns nationwide and sixty-four cities and counties in Oregon have laws mandating smoke-free parks.

Council Approves New Application

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Council Receives Information About Computer Backup - Council received three options presented by ISOsource to upgrade the City and Library computer systems to provide needed back up and recovery capabilities. The three options range in cost from \$1,686 to \$6,775. Council questioned staff on where in the budget the funding would come from, what would be the ongoing maintenance costs for the back up system and whether the City could implement a portion of the project now and then add on to it later. Council tabled a decision until they have more information.

Council Extends Contract With OTAK - Council extended their contract for one year with OTAK who is currently serving as the City engineering firm.

Council Approves Support for CCRider - Council approved a letter of support for CCRider's Transportation Growth Management grant application

to be used to update their Community Wide Transit Plan and US 30 Transit Access Plan.

Police Report Squatters Have Been Removed - Police Chief Mike Conner reported that an ongoing issue with squatters occupying an abandoned home at 158 A Street has been resolved.

Mayor Accepts Committee Resignation, Appoints Members - Mayor Randy Parrow, with consent from Council, accepted the resignation of Sally Harrison from the Public Works Committee and appointed Harrison, Ilene Grady and Lila Harrison to the Cemetery Committee.

Topics from the Floor - Sally Harrison provided the Council with some suggestions for beautifying the cemetery and said as a new Cemetery Committee member she would begin working on these ideas.

Steve Calhoun thanked the Council for their action in officially opposing the Oregon LNG and Oregon Pipeline projects.

FORM LB-1		NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING	
A public meeting of the Vernonia City Council will be held on June 1, 2015 at 7:00 pm at 1001 Bridge St Vernonia, Oregon. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 as approved by the City of Vernonia Budget Committee. A summary of the budget is presented below. A copy of the budget may be inspected or obtained at 1001 Bridge St Vernonia, Oregon between the hours of 9am and 5pm. This budget is for an annual budget period. This budget was prepared on a basis of accounting this is the same as used the preceding year. If different, the major changes and their effect on the budget are:			
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FINANCIAL SUMMARY - RESOURCES			
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	Actual Amount 2013-2014	Adopted Budget This Year 2014-2015	Approved Budget Next Year 2015-2016
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital	972,092	1,235,927	1,730,458
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges	1,797,286	223,178	1,952,216
Federal, State and all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations	335,158	125,921	115,215
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt	248,174	3,000,000	2,700,000
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service Reimbursements	394,670	107,174	330,246
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes	252,033	1,729,771	173,500
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received	543,986	580,000	630,000
Total Resources	4,543,399	7,001,971	7,631,635

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
Personnel Services	959,106	973,909	1,137,361
Materials and Services	1,407,140	3,946,485	3,779,743
Capital Outlay	0	0	0
Debt Service	561,672	581,589	717,573
Interfund Transfers	394,670	107,174	330,246
Contingencies	0	538,629	567,998
Special Payments	0	0	0
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	0	854,185	1,098,714
Total Requirements	3,322,588	7,001,971	7,631,635

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for that unit or program		
General Administrative	551,742	398,022	476,781
FTE 1.8	1.4	1.8	3.2
Library	79,725	91,909	97,267
FTE 1.4	1.3	1.4	1.4
Police	370,856	417,449	510,150
FTE 3.5	3.0	3.5	4.5
Airport	3,708	4,459	9,253
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Building	28,130	0	0
FTE 0	0.2	0.0	0.0
Cemetery	16,387	24,641	21,860
FTE .2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Vernonia Community Learning Center	8,125	7,240	0
FTE .03	0.0	0.0	0.0
Parks	134,319	265,311	250,895
FTE .3	0.8	0.3	1.2
Water	490,478	430,681	552,635
FTE 2.8	3.2	2.8	2.1
Sewer	478,725	386,355	565,853
FTE 2	2.8	2.0	1.6
Streets	84,135	172,369	183,807
FTE .4	0.7	0.4	1.5
Parks SDC	0	10,931	19,931
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Water SDC	0	110,880	131,301
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sewer SDC	0	122,844	155,371
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sewer Rehab	475,276	3,068,240	2,717,935
FTE .35	0.0	0.4	0.4
Storm SDC	0	36,006	48,066
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Street SDC	0	18,859	26,581
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Reserve Fund	0	138,000	229,500
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Debt Service Fund	124,366.0	1,297,775	1,634,448
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
CDBG Fund	0	0	0
FTE 0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Vernonia Prevention Coalition	32,744	0	0
FTE 0	0.4	0.0	0.0
Not Allocated to Organizational Unit or Program			
FTE			
Total Requirements			
Total FTE 16			

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *			

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2013-2014	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2014-2015	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2014-2015
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit 5.8163 per \$1,000)	5.8163	5.8163	5.8163
Local Option Levy			
Levy For General Obligation Bonds			

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS			
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1,	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1	
General Obligation Bonds			
Other Bonds	\$2,300,537		\$5,300,000
Other Borrowings	\$4,618,927		\$0
Total	\$6,919,464		\$5,300,000

City Department Updates: May 4 - 15, 2015

Administration/Utility Billing

As of May 15, 2015 the outstanding balances on active accounts were: 90 days \$17.59, 60 days \$88.95, 30 days \$650.03

Shut offs will on May 28, 2015
3 electrical permits and 1 building permit were issued, 1 new water/sewer accounts, and 3 electrical reconnect permits were issued.

Police Department/ VPD

The total number of calls for service and officer initiated activity in April 2015 was 221.

April 30th, 2015 – May 13th, 2015 – The total number of Calls for Service and Officer initiated activity was 108.

Stop Kids Impaired Driving (SKID): VPD participated in the SKID event on May 06, 2015. SKID is a traffic safety and underage drinking prevention program used to educate young people about the tragic consequences of teen drinking and driving. SKID is a very graphic and realistic dramatization involving wrecked vehicles and injured "victims" who are portrayed by students

from the host school.

Finance

Finance Director will be calling for bids on the removal of some or all of the trees along Bridge St. The trees have begun to do damage to the sidewalk and need to be removed. At this point we are only researching the cost of removal and potential replacement.

The Budget committee approved the budget for fiscal year 2015-2016 and have recommended it to Council for Adoption. A public hearing is scheduled for June 1st at City Hall and will be held as part of the Council Meeting to adopt the budget.

Staff attended a pre-bid meeting on Tuesday for the WWTP project. It was a full house and we are optimistic that we will get many competitive bids for the project.

Finance Director reviewed plans for another new house on Nickerson Loop. There have been several new homes built already this year. This is good news for Vernonia's economy.