

Vernonia City News...

At the June 1, 2015 City Council Meeting:

Council Approves 2015-16 Budget – Council held a Budget Hearing for the adoption of the 2015-16 budget; there was no public testimony. Later in the meeting Council approved Resolution 08-15 and adopted the budget. They also approved Resolution 09-15 declaring the City's election to receive state revenue sharing.

Council Does Not Restrict Marijuana Dispensaries – Council took no action to further restrict where medical marijuana dispensaries can be sited in the City of Vernonia, agreeing to follow state statues on the issue which prohibits them from being within 1000 feet of a school facility. They also cannot be located within 1,000 feet of each other. Council was considering options to further ban placement around city parks, municipal facilities and churches. Councilor Mike Seager requested a workshop to discuss the issue. Councilor Jill Hult stated she would be comfortable following state statues; Councilor Kim Tierney and Mayor Randy Parrow agreed with Hult. Council instructed staff to adjust the City Business License which currently restricts businesses which violate federal law, and to allow medical marijuana dispensaries in areas of the City zoned General Commercial, Downtown and Light Industrial. The City had previously placed a moratorium on any medical marijuana dispensaries, which had expired on May 1, 2015. Council is waiting for state government to set guidelines for retail marijuana establishments. Marijuana will become legal in Oregon on July 1, 2015.

Council Approves WWTP Bid – Council directed staff to proceed with

a Notice of Intent to Award the contract for construction of the Waste Water treatment Project to R&G Excavating in the amount of \$3,966,653.

Council Approves Adjustment to Sewer Rate – Based on a recommendation from the Public Works Committee, Council approved an amendment to the Master Fee Schedule adjusting the wording to read "Sewer Loan Repayment fee of \$40 per equivalent dwelling unit or commercial unit." When the City implemented the new MuniBilling System the words "equivalent dwelling unit or commercial unit" was dropped from the description. This reduced the monthly amount being charged to eleven utility customers with multiple sewer hookups, and reduced City revenue by a total of approximately \$2,300 per month. The City identified the mistake eight months ago, but was in the process of implementing a sewer rate study that would provide an additional rate change. City staff and the Council agreed to make both adjustments at the same time, but the City has failed to complete the rate study, which was expected to be finished in July of 2014. The Public Works Committee urged the Council to take immediate action to reinstate the verbiage and begin collecting the full rate from the eleven customers which Council agreed to do.

Council Approves H Street Vacation – Council adopted Ordinance 904, vacating a portion of H Street. Resident Steve Weller had requested the vacation. Council had previously tabled a decision and requested information from staff about the potential of harvesting timber from the site prior to the vacation. City Attorney Rubin Cleavland counseled against this, and Council went ahead and approved the request from Weller.

Following the approval, Weller publicly apologized to City Recorder Josette Mitchell for expressing his frustration at her following the Council's tabling of the decision.

Council Approves Utility Billing Change – Council approved Ordinance 905, amending Ordinances 895 and 898, and changed the way the City notifies customers about a utility shut off. Previously the City posted a notice forty-eight hours prior to the shut off taking place. The City will no longer provide this final notice and will now give notice once service has been discontinued and provide information about the process to reconnect service.

Council Approves Trailer Permit – Council approved a request from Jim Gardner to place a trailer on City owned properties for the purpose of sales. The Council awarded Gardner eight days of use each year. The City is currently in the process of establishing a comprehensive Transient Business License that would cover this type of business and use.

Council Discusses DAD's Recycling – Council discussed the impending closure of DAD's Recycling which has managed a co-mingled recycling container used by the community, and especially by businesses. The property where DAD's is currently located has been sold and they need to leave the property immediately and were looking for a place to relocate the recycling container. Council suggested that staff review their vendor contract with Waste Management and explore additional recycling options for the community.

Council Approves Resident Inspector – Council approved the selection of Dan Ayers as the Resident Inspector for the

Waste Water Treatment Project. Ayers is a Project Civil Engineer with Otak and will act as a third party between the City and the construction team to identify and relay information concerning the project.

Mayor Appoints Daughtry to Cemetery Committee – Mayor Randy Parrow, with the consent of the Council, appointed Shirlee Daughtry to the Cemetery Committee.

Topics From the Floor – Mike Buffum asked Council to not limit placement of medical marijuana dispensaries.

Steve Weller asked Council to approve his request for a vacation of a portion of H Street.

CITY COUNCIL VACANCY

The City Council will be accepting applications from citizens interested in serving on the Vernonia City Council.

The Council term will run until December 30, 2016. The deadline to apply is June 30th, 2015 at 5:00pm.

Applications can be found on the City website or picked up in person at City Hall during regular business hours.

Please return completed applications to City Recorder Josette Mitchell at City Hall or via email at jmitchell@vernonia-or.gov.

Vernonia's Voice is published on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Our next issue will be out on June 18th.

Vernonia Police Blotter May 18-31, 2015

REPORTS TAKEN

- May 18, 2015 Report of a Stolen Vehicle at the Vernonia Mill Pond
- May 26, 2015 Report of Criminal Trespass in the 800 Block of Jefferson Ave.
- May 27, 2015 Report of Burglary and Theft in the 1000 Block of Columbia St.
- May 28, 2015 Arrest on a Warrant in the 1000 Block of Bridge St.
- May 31, 2015 Non Emergency Vehicle Accident on East Bridge St. near Spencer Ave.

CITATIONS/ OTHER VIOLATIONS

- May 31, 2015 Citation for Violation of the Basic Rule 104 MPH in a 55 MPH zone on HWY 47 South

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation.
5/15/2015 through 5/31/2015 VPD had a total of 115 calls for service.

Need Help?

Call for meeting times and locations

Columbia Community Mental Health
Call 503-397-5211 -or- 1-800-294-5211

For after hours Crisis call:
1-866-866-1426

<http://ccmh1.com/crisis.html>

Narcotics Anonymous NW Region
503-345-9839
<http://portlandna.com/>

Alcohol Anonymous NW Region
503-366-0667
<http://www.pdxaa.com/>

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:
Monday, June 15, 2015
Monday, July 6, 2015

City Closures are scheduled for:
Friday, July 3, 2015
Independence Day (Observed)

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

STORAGE. TOP
Need more room?



See us for the lowest prices
GUARANTEED!
Debit/Credit now accepted

Authorized
U-Haul Dealer
Boxes and Supplies Available

5x10 \$39 10x10 \$69 10x20 \$99
RV Storage \$149
Outside storage available
Totally fenced and gated
Padlocks Available

We can make your reservation
Pick up here or anywhere

58605 Nehalem Hwy South • P.O. Box 292
Vernonia, Oregon 97064
(503) 429-7867

10-6 Tue-Sat
12-4 Sun

Terry's Gym



JOIN THE TEAM!

503-901-1705
16720 Noakes Rd. Vernonia