

Vernonia City News...

At the June 15, 2015 City Council Meeting:

Topics From the Floor - Tony Schrader presented Council with concerns he has about the Knickerson Ridge Estates Subdivision. Schrader's property is adjacent to the development and he told Council he has asked the developer to fix a sidewalk and control surface water run off. Schrader presented Council with a packet of information that included emails dating back to 1998, that he says shows a pattern of non compliance and incomplete improvements during construction by developer Jim Smejkal. Schrader raised concerns that construction had occurred on documented wetlands, that culverts are undersized, that enough fill and compaction was not provided, that fire hydrants may not provide adequate flow and that a creek had been moved without permits. Schrader said that documentation concerning the development appears to be either missing or is non-existent. Schrader asked Council to place a moratorium on all building permits and have the City reinspect and certify that all construction standards have been met. Council instructed staff to investigate the issue.

Council Discusses Livestock/Animals in City Limits - Staff informed Council that they have received numerous complaints from citizens concerning livestock and farm animals within City limits. The current ordinance states, "Livestock or poultry within the City is limited to not more than two small animals and five chickens. Roosters are prohibited in City limits." Council instructed staff to amend the ordinance to clarify the definition of "small animals" and add language similar to the City of Hillsboro ordinance which sets limits based on the size of the property, sets standards for enclosures and would require a permit. Citizens who currently have animals would be allowed to keep

them until they die or property ownership changes.

Council Approves Water/Sewer Billing Change - Council approved Resolution 10-15, Amending the Master Fee Schedule. No change in the total amount most accounts pay has been made. The changes adjust the amount each customer pays in the water base rate from \$36.00 to \$24.50 per month and adds a Water Loan Repayment fee of \$11.50 per month and adds the words "Each residential or commercial account shall pay..." The change also adjusts the sewer fee from \$53.00 to \$36.00 per month and changes the Sewer Loan Repayment Fee from \$40.00 to \$57.00 and adds the words "Each equivalent residential or commercial account shall pay..." Council agreed to a suggestion from staff that a letter go out with the next billing to make customers aware of the change and that the new billing take effect July 1, 2015.

Council Approves Staff Training - In response to recent events, Council approved a recommendation from CIS, the City's insurance carrier, that all staff attend Sexual Harassment Training. The training is free and will take place in Giribaldi, OR. City Hall will be closed on August 18 from 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM, for staff to attend the training.

Council Approves Tractor Purchase - Council approved the purchase of a new John Deere tractor with a mower deck. The purchase is part of the approved 2015-16 budget. Cost will be \$25,753 and will be financed through Wauna Credit Union. Payments will be shared by the Cemetery, Parks, Water and Sewer funds.

Council Approves Computer Upgrade - Council approved a plan to upgrade their IT service for backing up information. The plan includes new hardware, software, set up and a fireproof safe for storage, and will cost approximately

\$4,000.

Council Moves Forward with Cemetery House - Council moved forward with a plan to sell the former caretaker house at the Cemetery that includes a lot line adjustment, and the surplus and demolition of the shed that is on the property so the property can be made ready for sale. Council discussed the placement of a new storage shed and site for a trailer for a caretaker on the cemetery property once the lot line had been adjusted.

Council Approves Timber Harvest Bid - Council directed staff to issue a Notice to Award the Timber Harvest at the old mill site to Northwest Land Designs. The City received two bids for the project.

Council Authorizes CDBG Grant Process - Council authorized staff to complete a Project Notification Intake Form and submit it to CDBG-IFA staff for the Rose Avenue Project. The Intake Form is the first step to notify the intent to apply for funding for the Senior Center/Food Bank project.

Council Denies Travel Trailer Permit - Council denied a request by Gary Self to occupy a travel trailer at 1117 Cougar Street while he helps a family member until they relocate. Self did not have permission or a signature from the property owner on his application.

Council Approves Surplus of VCLC Items - Council approved the surplus

and donation of items previously used and stored at the Vernonia Community Learning Center (VCLC), including several sized tables, metal folding chairs, and pop-up canopies. The items will be donated to the Vernonia Festivals Committee for future use throughout the community.

City Administrator Report - City Administrator Gian Paolo Mammone was on vacation, but Assistant to the City Administrator Josette Mitchell and Finance Director Angie Handegard updated the Council on several projects.

Council was informed that staff is currently researching timed locks for restrooms in City Parks that would automatically lock and unlock restrooms, allowing better access to park users during daylight hours.

Council was informed about several personnel positions. The open Public Works position has been filled. The potential Park Host for Anderson Park has rejected the position; the new Host at Airport Park has started.

Council Enters Executive Session - Council entered into Executive Session under ORS 196.660(2)(d) "Labor Negotiations" and (f) "Exempt Public Records." Upon returning to Open Session, Council instructed staff to move forward with the negotiated contract with the Police Union.

Police Blotter June 1 - 15, 2015

REPORT TAKEN

- June 5, 2015 Report of Violation of a Release Agreement in the 1100 Block of Grove St.
- June 6, 2015 Other Agency Assist.

TRAFFIC / OTHER CITATIONS

- June 2, 2015 Citation for Driving While Suspended and Uninsured near Vernonia

Lake.

- June 7, 2015 Citation for no Operator's License on East Bridge S.

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 6/1/2015 through 6/15/2015 VPD had a 123 calls for service.

City Department Updates: June 1 - 12, 2015

Administration/Utility Billing

- As of June 5, 2015 the outstanding balances on active accounts are as follows: 90 day, \$25.49; 60 day, \$114.85; 30 day, \$1,197.64.
- Door hangers will be on June 29, 2015
- Shut offs will on July 1, 2015
- Updating business license information

Public Works

- The crew worked on the perimeter fence around the New Spencer field. The fence will

be completed Monday, June 8th, 2015. The chain link fence will come down June 9th or 10th, 2015.

- The Public Works crew worked on rebuilding the pieces that make up the Dewey Pool dam. The dam is now up.

Library

- Circulation Statistics: 1,587 items were checked out the month of May 2015. By comparison, 1,566 items were checked out April 2015 and 1,529 items were checked out

in May 2014.

- The library will be closed Saturday, June 27. Please visit the library at the Open Air Market from 10 am – 2 pm for Summer Reading registration, crafts, and books for sale. Proceeds from book sales go to the Friends of the Vernonia Public Library.
- 10 new members joined the library in May 2015. Welcome!
- Free wifi is now available at the Vernonia Public Library! Wifi is being funded through

a generous donation by the Friends of the Library.

City Clerk/Administration

- The assistant to the City Administrator met with prospective logging companies to have the pre-bid meeting for the WWTP Timber Harvest project. The deadline for interested companies to submit bids was Friday, June 12th at 3:00pm.

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7 PM:

Monday, July 6, 2015
Monday, July 20, 2015

City Closures are scheduled for:

Friday, July 3, 2015
Independence Day Holiday

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

Nominations Wanted For "Citizen of the Year"

The Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show Committee is seeking nominations for "Citizen of the Year" to be recognized at the 2015 Jamboree celebration on August 7-9.

If you know someone who deserves recognition for their contributions to the Vernonia community please fill out this nomination form and drop it off in the box at Vernonia City Hall by July 10, 2015.

My nomination for 2015 Jamboree Citizen of the Year is:

FOR TOWING EMERGENCIES IN AND AROUND THE VERNONIA AREA

Make sure you request service from a local provider!

Police and County personnel are required to use a rotation of available providers, **UNLESS YOU SPECIFICALLY ASK** for a service by name.

REQUEST TOWING SERVICE FROM

R & R
Motor Company

(503) 429-9797

Annoying the Upper Nahalem Valley since 1982
Shop Hours: Mon - Fri 9:00 - 6:00