

# Vernonia City News...

## At the September 21, 2015 City Council Meeting:

### Council Considers Sewer Rate Change

Council agreed to provide data to FCS to create a new rate structure for the City sewer utility rate. The City previously paid for a rate study but it was discovered after it was complete that incorrect meter sizes were used in the calculations. That led to the "ground truthing" project which looked at every meter in the City system to confirm the meter size. The new rate system would create a fixed charge to cover costs associated with operations, maintenance, and debt service, and a variable rate to cover a customer's usage. The new rate system will be designed to charge more for high volume users who tax the system more and charge low users less based on water consumption. A winter time average is being used to calculate the consumption rate per thousand gallons used.

### Council Considers Additional WWTP Improvements

Council was informed that the engineer for the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project is recommending a change order to the project to include additional treatment for ammonia. (See full story on Page 6.)

### New Police Officer Sworn In

The newest member of the Vernonia Police Force, Cody Pesio, was sworn in by Mayor Randy Parrow. Pesio is from Clatskanie and is 25 years old. He graduated from Clatskanie High School. He has completed Reserve Academy and has about 18 months experience. He will be attending the Oregon Police Academy in the near future. His wife Danica Pesio did the honors of pinning on Pesio's badge.



### Council Discusses Coffee Cart at Rose Avenue

Council discussed a request by Sue Hadley, proprietor of Javalation in St. Helens, for information about placing a temporary to-go coffee business on the Rose Avenue property along Highway 47 near the Vernonia Health Center. Hadley asked about details for a ground lease and what site improvements would be provided and required. Council asked staff to provide some examples of ground leases, current rental rates for unimproved properties in Vernonia and a map and utility map of the property and the cost of bringing utilities to the site for their October 5, 2015 meeting.

### Council Authorizes Resolution Supporting Transportation District

Council approved a request to draft a resolution approving a County Order to form a county-wide Transportation District. The Resolution will be brought back for final approval at the October 5<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. (See full story on page 3.)

### Council Approves Travel Trailer Permit

Council approved a request from Wallace John Pollock to inhabit a travel trailer at 1032 Nehalem Street until January 9, 2015. Council approved the request by a 4-1 vote with Councilor Mike

Seager voting against.

### Council Approves Parks Supplemental Budget

Council approved a change to the Parks Budget to correct an error that occurred during the 2015-16 budget process. Finance Director Angie Handegard told Council that \$15,000 was being held in a restricted fund to reconnect electricity at Spencer Park, and no expense line item for this was included in the budget. A supplemental budget, adding \$12,170 to Cash on Hand, which came in well above what was expected, and \$12,000 to Spencer Park Expense was used to correct the issue.

### Council Approves Workers Comp Coverage Change for Volunteers

Based on advice from the City's insurance agent, Council approved Resolution 13-15, changing coverage for volunteers and placing it under a blanket Accident Policy instead of the City's Workers Compensation coverage. Councilor Bruce McNair voted against.

### City Administrators Report

City Administrator Josette Mitchell reported that Public Works workers are installing water and sewer lines to Spencer Park. The City has accepted a bid for \$49,999 for construction of the restroom facility, not including plumbing and electric, and is waiting for bids for that additional work. City staff is continuing to assist

with the CDBG application for the Senior Center. Mitchell reported that the project was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Meyer Memorial Trust and is still awaiting a request from The Ford Family Foundation.

No "As Built" plans for the Nickerson Ridge Estates subdivision have been received from the Smejkal family. It is believed KLS Surveying has plans which have been requested.

Staff is continuing to work with Terry LaChapelle regarding an ongoing sewer issue. Council discussed the issue and agreed that the City should use their equipment to participate and help uncover the connection where the problem is believed to be.

### Topics From the Floor

Mike Pihl, owner of Nehalem View RV Park asked Council to reduce the number of hookups that the City charges for Water and Sewer service. Pihl told Council he is charged for 28 hookups but only uses 24. Council referred the issue to staff for further investigation.

Scott Laird, representing The Spirit of Christmas in Vernonia, asked Council to consider waiting until after the holiday season to begin removing and replacing trees in the downtown corridor. Council will receive more information from staff at their October 5, 2015 meeting about tree removal and will discuss options at that time.

## Metro West Paramedic and EMT Receive EMS Providers of the Year

Oregon's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system has many outstanding providers, extraordinary acts, and meritorious service that are recognized every year at the Oregon EMS Awards Program held during the Oregon EMS Conference.

On Friday evening, September 25<sup>th</sup>, at the Oregon EMS Awards Banquet in Salem, Metro West Ambulance emergency medical services crewmembers, Flo Lennox, Paramedic, and Kieran Henthorn, Advanced EMT, were recognized as Oregon's EMS Providers of the Year.

First Aid and babysitting safety classes, serves the homeless during the holidays, giving so much of her time to others. In September 2014 Flo was diagnosed with cancer. Undergoing chemo and radiation while still teaching her scouts and volunteering, Flo has won her battle. Back to wearing her Paramedic Uniform, "Mama Flo" as she is lovingly known, has returned to serving the communities she loves. For all she gives to the patients she cares for and the communities she loves, Flo Lennox received the Oregon EMS Paramedic of the Year.

Kieran Henthorn, is an Advanced

EMT and Operations Supervisor for Metro West Ambulance. In addition to his full time duties, Kieran is a part-time Advanced EMT for Pacific West Ambulance, a volunteer responder with the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association and a volunteer responder with the Molalla Fire Department. Kieran



Flo Lennox, is a Senior Paramedic in Washington County for Metro West Ambulance, serves as a preceptor for both college and high school students, is a member of the company's Safety Committee, is a very involved volunteer responder for the Vernonia Volunteer Ambulance Association in Columbia County, and a longtime leader for the Girl Scouts. She teaches CPR,

is driven by strong compassion. He is a shining example of how to perform under pressure while retaining a deep compassion for others-how to care for people in places and in a way that no one else can. For his demeanor, skill and compassion to the patients and the various communities he serves, Kieran Henthorn received the Oregon EMS EMT of the Year.

## Vernonia Police Blotter September 16-28, 2015

### REPORTS TAKEN

- September 17, 2015 Report of Criminal Mischief on Bridge St.
- September 22, 2015 Report in Violation of Court Stalking Order on Bridge St.
- September 24, 2015 Report of Theft II on Cherry St.

- September 22, 2015 Arrest on a Warrant on Nehalem HWY South

**Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 9/15/2015 through 9/28/2015 VPD had 92 calls for service.**

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