

Vernonia City News...

At the July 5, 2016 City Council Meeting:

City Gets Agreement to Fix Issues at Nickerson Ridge Estates – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told Council that she and City Planner Ryan Crater met with David Smejkal, Douglas Wolf, and a civil engineer and have received an agreement to a plan for the developers of Nickerson Ridge Estates to install storm water catch basins and complete necessary sidewalk repairs. Mitchell said that once the developers submit a Surety Bond in the amount to complete the project, they could then begin to sell lots in the development again. If the developers fail to complete the repairs the City would use the Surety Bond to complete the necessary upgrades.

Council Discusses Downtown Tree Removal Plan – Council continued their ongoing discussion about adopting a plan for removal of trees in the downtown corridor. There is concern that the trees that are currently in place are not an appropriate species and will grow too large. Some trees have already caused damage to sidewalks and blocked business signage. Council was provided with a detailed map of the downtown area which identifies the first group of 21 trees to be removed, as well as the results from a survey of 24 downtown business owners asking what they would like to see happen with the trees. 8% (2) of business owners said they would like the trees to remain as they are now; 45.8% (11) said they would like the trees replaced with an appropriate species; 25% (6) said they would like the trees replaced with a planter container; 20.8% (5) said they would like the trees removed and not replaced. Council gave consensus to begin removing some trees after Jamboree this year. They have not settled on a plan on what to do once the

trees are removed.

City to Replace Water Line on Noakes Road – Council gave the go ahead for city staff to move forward with plans to replace a vastly undersized water line serving the Noakes Road area. According to a staff report, the City has been approached by several property owners and future property owners about getting City water service in the area. The current line is just 3/4" and only serves three properties. The City is currently getting estimates to install a 10" line that would run approximately 2,500 feet up Noakes Road. City staff told the Council Noakes Road would be an ideal location for a new City water reservoir sometime in the future and this line would help with infrastructure. Costs are estimated to be around \$80,000 for the replacement line and funding would come from the Water SDC account.

Tierney Announces Candidacy for Mayor – City Councilor Kim Tierney announced that she will not run for her City Council seat in the November election, but will instead run for Mayor. Current Mayor Randy Parrow has already stated he will not run for the seat.

Council Hears Request from Jamboree Committee for Use of City Property – Ernie Smith, President of the Jamboree Committee, requested the use of numerous city properties for the Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show on August 5-7. The Jamboree Committee requested use of Spencer Park and the parking areas across the street, the old WOEC parking lot on Adams Avenue, Shay Park, the Anderson Park Horse Arena, Hawkins Park, Vernonia Lake, Adams Avenue, Bridge Street from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm on Saturday, and Maple Street from 12:30 to 2:00 pm on Saturday. Council approved all requests. Smith told the Council that be-

cause of the loss of key members of the Committee this year, the request is late and there might be additional requests as other events are finalized in the final weeks.

Council Approves Alcohol License for Jamboree – With approval from Police Chief Mike Conner, Council approved a Temporary Sales License to Miranda Nutting for Hawkins Park for August 5-7. The application stated no distilled spirits will be served. All alcohol sales will be contained in a fenced area and there will be food available for purchase. Chief Connor also asked Council to pre-approve a permit for the All In Pub, which has not been submitted yet, which Council approved.

Council Discusses Legislative Objectives – Council briefly discussed information they received from the League of Oregon Cities concerning the League's proposal to identify and develop a specific legislative action agenda for the upcoming 2017 session. Council was asked to review 29 suggested objectives that span a variety of issues, including Community Development, Energy, Finance and Taxation, General Government, Human Resources, Telecommunication, Transportation and Water/Wastewater. Council members were encouraged to submit their top choices which would be collated by staff and submitted to the League Board of Directors.

Council Receives Update on Clerk Training – City Recorder Stephanie Borst updated the Council on training she attended from June 5-10 at the Northwest Clerks Institute as part of the Certified Municipal Clerk Program. In order to become certified a professional clerk must complete 120 hours of training; Borst received credit for 40 hours after completing a three page Knowledge Transfer Action Plan, which was

available for review by the Council.

Councilor Commends Staff – Councilor Bruce McNair took a moment to praise the entire City staff for the work they are doing to run and improve the City. "It is remarkable to see the changes that are going on in the office and in all the departments," said McNair. "It's really refreshing and I see some really good improvements. I, for one, really appreciate it."

Police Department Report – Police Chief Mike Conner told Council his department is in the planning stages for Jamboree. He told the Council that his newest officer, Cody Pesio, has been working on his own and is doing well. He told Council background checks are almost complete and he expects to have another new officer hired in the next few weeks.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell updated the Council on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project and told the Council that DEQ is going to require the City to install three temperature monitoring wells as an additional part of the project. This comes after all plans that did not include these wells had already been approved and work to install the discharge pipes has already been completed. Mitchell told Council she has asked DEQ who will fund this additional work, as it is not included in the project budget, and said she has not yet received an answer. Councilor Bruce McNair expressed anger at DEQ, noting that these monitoring wells are strictly for the benefit of DEQ to gather data and provide no service to the City. "They are blackmailing us!" said McNair.

Mitchell told Council an easement for the Rose Avenue Project has been secured and recorded and the next step for the project is to put out a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) and secure an architect.

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NOTICE OF POSITIONS OPEN CITY OF VERNONIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Election will be held on the 8th day of November 2016, at which time the legal voters of the City of Vernonia will be entitled to vote for candidates to certain city offices.

OFFICES OPEN FOR ELECTION:

VERNONIA MAYOR TWO YEAR TERM
VERNONIA COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR YEAR TERM
VERNONIA COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR YEAR TERM

Election packets are available at the office of the City Recorder, 1001 Bridge St, Vernonia, OR 97064. Nominating petitions can be filed no sooner than June 1, 2016, and filed no later than Friday, August 26, 2016, by 4:00 pm with the City Recorder. For more information call Stephanie Borst, City Recorder at 503-429-5291 ext. 104.

The City of Vernonia is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

**City Council Meetings
are scheduled for 7:00 pm:**

Monday, July 18, 2016

Monday, August 1, 2016

**City Closures
are scheduled for:**
Monday, September 5, 2016
Labor Day

*Dates and times subject to change
due to conflicts of schedules*

The Vernonia Transfer Station is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday

**July 9 & 23
August 13 & 27
September 10 & 24**

*Dates are subject to change
due to weather*

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The IRS does not endorse any particular individual tax return preparer. For more information on tax return preparers, go to www.IRS.gov.

Vernonia Police Blotter June 14 - July 4, 2016

REPORTS TAKEN

- June 17, 2016 Arrested on a warrant near Bridge St
- June 17, 2016 Arrest near 1st Avenue for potential Domestic Violence and Menacing

CITATIONS/OTHER

- June 14, 2016 Cited for Expired Tags and Failure to Carry Registration/Insurance near Cougar St. and Rose Ave.
- June 15, 2016 Cited for Failure to have

- Insurance near Bridge St and Rose Ave.
- June 15, 2016 Cited for no Operator's License near Bridge St. and Grant Ave.
- June 15, 2016 Cited for Driving While Suspended and Uninsured near Washington Ave. and A Street

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 06/15/2016 through 07/4/2016 VPD had 93 calls for service.