

Vernonia City News...

At the August 15, 2016 City Council Meeting:

Nickerson Ridge Update – City Administrator Josette Mitchell updated Council and the audience on the development at Nickerson Ridge Estates. Mitchell said the owners of the vacant properties sent a letter to the City requesting they accept the streets in the development. The City engineer did an inspection on August 8 to see if the streets meet city code and is formulating a report outlining issues that he observed that will need to be corrected before the City takes responsibility for the streets.

Council Authorizes Renewal of Planning Contract – Council authorized the renewal of a contract with Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) who has been providing planning services to the City. The current one year contract expired on July 31, 2016. CREST had notified the City that, due to budget needs, they had reduced their staff, resulting in the layoff of Ryan Crater who had been handling several projects for the City of Vernonia. According to CREST, Crater would be replaced by Garrett Phillips. After authorizing the one year renewal of the contract and confirming it contains a 30 day termination clause, Council directed staff to investigate other options for providing planning services.

Council Approves Cemetery Urn Garden Plan – Council approved a recommendation from the Cemetery Committee to begin the process of platting an urn garden at the Memorial Cemetery. The plan is to replat 88 full size plots into 252 urn plots, with two 48 niche columbarium, and pathways. The Committee noted in their recommendation that, due to changes in how families are handling the disposition of human remains, the plan will convert \$88,000 worth of low demand plots into over \$320,000 of potential value for the City. Cost to replat the plots is \$3,900 and will come from the sale of the Cemetery caretaker's house which is no longer in use.

Council Approves Bollard Installation at Cemetery – Council approved a recommendation by the Cemetery Committee to install eleven posts with decorative sleeves at strategic points at corners in the road to prevent vehicles from driving on grave sites. Council approved up to \$1,000 to purchase the bollard materials for the project.

Council Approves Travel Trailer Permit – Council approved a request by Eleanor Thompson to allow a family member to stay in a travel trailer on property she owns on Washington Avenue until October 1, 2016.

Council Approves Letters to Law Enforcement Agencies – Council approved draft versions of letters to the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Oregon State Police in North Plains, requesting enhanced traffic enforcement on Highway 47 following numerous recent vehicle accidents. Council authorized Mayor Randy Parrow to sign the letters on their behalf.

Police Department Report – Chief Mike Conner told Council that Jamboree weekend went smoothly with minimal issues and thanked the Oregon State Police, Columbia County Sheriff's Office and the Columbia City Police Department for their assistance throughout the weekend. Conner noted that there were only two arrests during the weekend and that his Department did handle over 30 calls for service during the celebration.

Conner told the Council his Department assisted with the Intel Picnics at Cedar Ridge during the weekend of August 12-14.

Conner told Council that he is currently accepting applications for Reserve Officers.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell updated Council on the Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project and said the project remains under budget and will have funds left over in the grant

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Readers Lend Their Voices... *continued from page 4*

been quite disconcerted at how high our electric rates are. After all, isn't the Co-op supposed to be the most efficient form of electric utility? Aren't we supposed to have the lowest rates of all other forms, including PUDs and Municipals?

Well, the answer is yes, we should! So why don't we. Well, that's the wrong question too. I don't care about the WHY, I only care about what we need to do to get back in line with all the other Oregon Co-ops. The average Oregon Co-op can provide their members electricity at well less than half what WOEC charges. And, the next least inefficient Oregon Co-op charges their members only a little over half (54%) what WOEC charges us. Really! If we were just the second worst Co-op in the state, the average WOEC residential member would save \$60 every month!

So back to my ennu. What can I do to help change this, that my opponent hasn't already tried? Answer; I don't know. I've had a devil of a time getting him, or any other member of our WOEC Board of Directors to sit down and discuss this subject.

So I really don't know what I

can do any better than what has already been tried. All I know, is that what's been going on doesn't seem to be effective. At the very least I can be the thorn in the side of the other Board members.

My first effort will be to get everyone to admit we have a problem. Then narrow it down; just where is the money going that other Co-ops seem to be able to deal with more effectively. Then study just how those successful Co-ops operate, steal their game plans, and then bring it home to WOEC land. If it were only that simple.

I do truly rue that we will have to lose Bob Paleck as a board member if I am to gain a position on the Board. But I hope Bob will continue to attend Board meetings; they are open to the public. I will surely benefit from his counsel. But for change to take place, change has to be made. I'm willing to play a little less pinochle and put some time in to help

our Board of Directors come up with a better plan.

Nicholas R. Galaday/CANDIDATE FOR WOEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, DISTRICT 5

I offer up my extensive managerial and engineering skills toward our common goal of efficiently providing reliable power for our members, now and into the future. I am a fourth generation electrician, and have developed, owned and operated a number of businesses including electrical and mechanical construction firms.

My degrees and background in the sciences led me through many careers starting with meteorology while in the Air Force, as a commercial pilot, math and science teacher in the Arctic,

and finally serving as the energy management and conservation engineer at Microsoft World Headquarters in Redmond, WA, where I managed a \$16 million/year electric budget.

My wife and I chose to retire to Vernonia ten years ago. I moved to the Portland area in 1979 after having lived in Cleveland, Arizona and Alaska. I spend a lot of my time in the support of fellow veterans and supporting the Oregon Electric Vehicle Association (as well as playing a lot of pinochle!). I look forward to visiting with you. You can contact me at: Nicholas.Galaday@gmail.com

Nicholas Galaday
Vernonia

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

August 27
September 10 & 24
October 8 & 22

Dates are subject to change due to weather

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Tuesday, September 6, 2016
Monday, September 19, 2016

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

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

Police Blotter August 1-15, 2016

REPORTS TAKEN
• August 1, 2016 Assist Other Agency Anderson Park.
• August 2, 2016 Report of possible Theft on Bridge St.
• August 9, 2016 Arrest for a Warrant near North St. and Grant Ave.
• August 16, 2016 Animal complaint near

CITATIONS/OTHER
• August 1, 2016 Citation for Driving While Suspended/Uninsured near Keasey Rd. and Stoney Point Rd.

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 08/01/2016 through 08/15/2016 VPD had 136 calls for service.

NOTICE - CITY OF VERNONIA OPEN POSITIONS

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.

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10-6 Tue-Sat
12-4 Sun