

Vernonia City News...

At the September 6, 2016 City Council Meeting:

Airport to Keep Funds from Trailer Sale – After hearing a recommendation from the Airport Committee and holding a discussion with differing opinions, Council voted to allow the funds left over from the sale of a trailer to stay in the Airport Fund. The City received \$10,725 for the trailer, which they received at no cost and which was briefly used as a pilot lounge. The Airport Committee no longer wanted it and it was sold as surplus. After paying back a loan from the General Fund that was used to fix a culvert at the airport, there was \$4,127 left. Council voted to put \$2,700 in a restricted fund and allow the balance, \$1,427 to be used for airport operations as needed. Councilor Mike Seager, who acts as the airport manager, abstained from voting.

Council Approves Travel Trailer Permit – Council approved a request to inhabit a travel trailer for six months from Dean Threet at 1210 N. Mist Drive. Following a discussion, Council scheduled a workshop for October 10 at 6:30 pm to discuss revising the Ordinance that allows this type of temporary habitation.

Council President Appoints Two to Committees – In the absence of Mayor Randy Parrow, Council President Kim Tierney, based on recommendations from the Committees and with approval from the rest of the Council, appointed Mike Smetana to the Airport Committee and Jacob Mandes to the Public Works Committee.

Council Hears Recommendations From Parks Committee – The Parks Committee recommended allowing the Lions Club to place two more benches at the Dewey Pool Swimming area. City staff will work with the Lions on the location of the placement of the benches and to develop a plan for removal and storage at the end of the season.

The Parks Committee, after repeated incidents of loitering and vandalism throughout the parks system, recommended closing parks at dark. Council directed staff, including the Police Department, to work on a proposal, that would take into account campgrounds and walkers at the Lake, to be brought back to Council for approval.

Police Department Report – Police Chief Mike Conner reported on two

recent motor vehicle accidents, one at the Rock Creek bridge that damaged a bench and garbage can, and another that involved a high speed chase that ended in a serious accident and injuries, along with damage to the entrance to Vernonia Lake and a private residence.

Conner reported that he is taking applications for the Reserve Officer program.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell updated the Council on the Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project and told the Council the City is moving forward with add alternatives to the project using left over grant funds since the project is under budget. Included will be paving and fencing around the facility, rip rap placed in the interior of the lagoons to prevent wall deterioration, and the installation of ammonia treatment equipment. The Council earlier heard that the Public Works Committee has made a recommendation to accept the proposal from Wastewater Compliance Systems for the placement of 48 biodomes to treat ammonia, at a cost of \$301,500. Mitchell reported that this proposal still needs to be evaluated and designed by the City engineering firm.

Mitchell told the Council the City Engineer is drafting a letter that will outline the steps that need to be taken by the developers at Nickerson Ridge Estates that would allow the City to accept and take responsibility for the streets in the development.

Mitchell told the Council she has asked KLS Surveying to finalize topographic work at Cougar Avenue so plans can be reviewed by ODOT for placement of a cross walk across Rose Avenue. Mitchell said work will need to be done to the sidewalks to make the plan work. Mitchell said she is continuing to discuss funding sources with ODOT.

Topics From the Floor – David Sterner addressed the Council to find out if they had any opposition to his idea of placing a food cart business on city property on Bridge Street across from Spencer Park. The business would be open from April until October. Council had no objections at this time and gave Sterner the OK to work with city staff and continue to explore the idea.

Columbia Humane Society Joins Canaan Dog Project

Columbia Humane Society (CHS) is excited to announce they will be partnering with two great organizations.

Recently, Ric Browde (a board member and head of logistics for Wings of Rescue) and Avital Rosen (the Israeli Rescue Coordinator of The Canaan Dog Project) approached CHS about becoming a rescue partner in The Canaan Dog Project. CHS embraced the opportunity to work with them in the rescue, enrichment, and placing of Canaan dogs from Israel into loving homes in the Pacific Northwest.

Wings of Rescue, a donation based charity, flies large numbers of healthy, at-risk pets across long distances, from high-intake shelters to safe, no-kill shelters throughout the United States and Canada. The flights are piloted by volunteers on their own planes, as well as by a fleet of chartered cargo planes. Since 2009, Wings has flown over 20,000 pets to safety; by the end of 2016, they anticipate that they will have given honorary wings to over 30,000 pets.

The Canaan Dog Project, founded in Israel, seeks to rescue an ancient Middle Eastern breed used for thousands of years as herding dogs. Many times, these dogs are left to fend for themselves by the Bedouin tribes, and will wander into cities, looking for food, where

they are captured and put into the overcrowded Israeli shelters. As Canaan dogs are a medium-to-large-size breed, they are at a high risk for wide-scale euthanasia in a small country where many families live in apartments.

The Canaan dogs are an independent, self-reliant breed, requiring exercise and mental stimulation. They need ample opportunities to vent their energy and to use their intellects, by way of extensive exposure to people and novelty. They are very versatile working dogs, capable of learning a great deal, and excelling at the highest levels of competition. Consistency is key to teaching them.

CHS is excited about their new venture, and look forward to welcoming the first group of dogs into the shelter. When they are available for adoption, they will be posted on their facebook page www.facebook.com/columbiahumane, along with their website www.columbiahumane.org.

As always, the support from the community, their volunteers, and adopters is what keeps CHS going. If you would like to make a donation, please visit their web page and click on the Donate Now button, or come to the shelter in person. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call (503) 397-4353, or email info@columbiahumane.org.

Police Blotter September 1-12, 2016

REPORTS TAKEN

- September 1, 2016 Report of Reckless Endangerment near Bridge St.
- September 3, 2016 Report of DUII, Reckless Endangering, Assault, and Criminal Mischief near Jefferson Ave.
- September 10, 2016 Arrest for Criminal Trespass near Bridge St.

CITATIONS / OTHER

- September 3, 2016 Citation for Using a Mobile Device While Operating a Vehicle

- near Bridge St. and Grant Ave.
- September 5, 2016 Citation for Speeding 74/55 on Nehalem HWY South
- September 9, 2016 Citation for No Operator's License near State St. and C St.

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 09/01/2016 through 09/12/2016 VPD had 103 calls for service.

Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday. Our next issue will be out October 6th.

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Monday, September 19, 2016
Monday, October 3, 2016

City Closure is scheduled for:
Friday, November 11, 2016
Veteran's Day

Dates and times subject to change due to conflicts of schedules

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

**September 24
October 8 & 22
November 12**

Dates are subject to change due to weather



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**10-6 Tue-Sat
12-4 Sun**