

Vernonia City News...

At the December 5, 2016 City Council Meeting:

Council Sets Deadline for Downtown Tree Removal – Council voted to approve the removal of all trees in the downtown corridor along Bridge Street. Council directed staff to remove the trees by April 1, 2017 and install pavers in the empty tree wells by October 31. The vote was unanimous, with Councilors Mike Seager, Bruce McNair and Jill Hult, along with Mayor Randy Parrow all voting in favor, and Councilor Kim Tierney abstaining. The Council has not made a decision about whether to replace the trees.

Council Discusses New MOU with School – Council discussed creating a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City of Vernonia and the Vernonia School District for the leasing of Greenman Field and other ball fields. Following the 2007 flood and the School District's move to a new campus, all the playing fields at what is now called Spencer Fields became the property of the City of Vernonia. The City and the School District created a lease agreement where the School District would continue to use and maintain the Greenman Field Stadium and the baseball and softball fields on the lower half of the property, while the City now controls the newly constructed soccer and softball fields. Following the failure of the community to pass the recent school bond, which would have contained funding to construct a new sports stadium and track at the new campus, the School District is considering options. One option that was discussed was creating a new, long-term agreement for the continued use of the football stadium, returning control of the softball field to the City, and developing a regulation track at Greenman Field, which would remove the current baseball field from use. Council took no action. The possible changes in the lease agreement were referred to the Parks Committee for review.

Council Reviews Public Works Recommendations – Council reviewed and discussed several recommendations from the Public Works Committee related to the water meter replacement program, the annual re-assessing of water and sewer rates, and water loan overpayments. (See full story on front page.)

Council Gives Support to Waste Management Proposal – Council gave their support to a proposal by Waste Management representatives to

implement a plan to provide all residential customers with roll cart garbage cans to replace customer's own garbage cans. (See full story on front page.)

Council Tables Discussion About Marijuana Taxation – Council held a discussion about imposing a 3% tax on locally sold recreational marijuana. Council reviewed a sample ordinance prepared by their legal counsel but made no decision and tabled the discussion. (See full story on front page.)

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell updated the Council on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

Mitchell told the Council the City has received five architectural bid proposals for the Senior Center project. The bids were scheduled to be reviewed and scored on December 8 by representatives of the City Council, Senior Center, Food Bank, City Staff and City Engineer.

Mitchell reported that the City has received a response from David Smejkal concerning the Nickerson Ridge Estates development. According to Mitchell, Smejkal said the engineer they are working with had been out of the office due to health reasons but is back to work and would be completing a preliminary scope of work and cost estimate for repairs to the development in the next few weeks. Once the estimate is prepared the developers will be required to post a performance bond which will guarantee the repairs are made.

Mitchell said she would be signing the paperwork for the acquisition of the Photo Solutions property and that demolition of the building would commence shortly.

Mitchell reminded the Council and community that the Waste Management transfer station will be open on December 17.

Mitchell reminded Council that they have cancelled their December 19th meeting. The next Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

Council Accepts Canvass of Votes from Election – Council voted to adopt Resolution 08-16 and accept the Canvass of Votes for the November 8, 2016 Election for the position of Mayor and two City Councilor positions. The Oath of Office will be administered to the newly

elected officials at the January 3, 2017 meeting. The City of Vernonia received the following certified results from the Columbia County Clerk:

Mayor	
Kim Tierney	481
Mario P. Leonetti	546
Write In	12
Council (Vote for two)	
Susan Wagner	543
Mike Buffum	402
Bruce McNair	559
Write In	18

Council Approves Amendment for Sewer Debt Payment – In a housekeeping move, Council approved an amendment to Resolution 07-16 establishing payments for the debt service for the bond for the wastewater upgrade project.

Council Chooses New Committee Liaison Assignments – The three remaining Council members chose their Committee Liaison assignments for the upcoming year. Councilor Bruce McNair will become the liaison to the Public Works Committee and will remain the liaison to the Cemetery Committee. Councilor Mike Seager will become the liaison to the Parks Committee. Councilor Jill Hult will become the liaison to the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Spots remain open on the Airport Committee, Library Board, and Senior Center which will be filled by incoming Mayor Mario Leonetti and Councilor Susan Wagner.

Mayor Appoints Zichterman to Planning Commission – Based on a recommendation from the Planning Com-

mission and approval from the rest of the Council, Mayor Randy Parrow appointed Brad Zichterman to the Planning Commission.

Topics From the Floor – Brett Costley thanked Mayor Randy Parrow and Councilor Kim Tierney for their service to the community and the City. Both are leaving office and this was their final City Council meeting. Parrow chose not to run for election after 10 years on the Council. Tierney was defeated when she chose to run for Mayor.



Elected Official Training – Newly elected Council members Susan Wagner and Mario Leonetti were encouraged to attend an Elected Officials Training session hosted by the League of Oregon Cities. The training is free and will be held in Cannon Beach on January 12. Councilor elect Wagner said she is already registered and Councilor McNair said he would also be interested in attending.

Police Blotter • December 1-12, 2016

REPORTS/ARRESTS

- December 4, 2016 Arrest for Disorderly Conduct near Bridge St.
- December 5, 2016 Report of Theft near North St. and Washington Ave.
- December 6, 2016 Arrest on a Warrant near HWY 47 South

- the Posted Speed Limit near N Mist Drive and Cherry St.
- December 8, 2016 Cited for Driving While Suspended, No Insurance, and Expired Tags on HWY 47 North

CITATIONS/OTHER

- December 1, 2016 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed Limit on HWY 47 South
- December 2, 2016 Cited for Violation of

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 12/01/2016 through 12/12/2016 VPD had 108 calls for service.

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
(No meeting December 19)
Tuesday, January 3, 2017

City Closures are scheduled for:
Noon on Friday, December 23, 2016
Monday, December 26, 2016
Christmas Holiday
Monday, January 2, 2017
New Year's Day Holiday

Dates and times subject to change

The Vernonia Transfer Station is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in December

December 17

Dates are subject to change

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10-5 Tue-Sat
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