

Vernonia City News...

At the March 20, 2017 City Council Meeting:

Topics From the Floor – Michal Smith, owner of Creatures Pet Store, and Holly Vaughn told Council they would like to help the City create a Dog Park and said they would fundraise to organize and pay for the effort, as well as maintain the facility once it is in operation. They asked for the City to consider potential options for a location. Council later discussed the issue and agreed staff should work on the issue with the organizers.

Council Agrees to Cemetery Fee Adjustments – After reviewing a site plan for a new cremation urn plot at the Vernonia Cemetery, Council agreed with a staff recommendation to adjust cemetery fees by removing the open/close fee.

Vendor Withdraws Proposal – Council received a letter from David Sterner and Richard Traver stating they are withdrawing their proposal to place a temporary ice cream cart on City property.

Mayor Appoints Webb to Budget Committee – With approval from the rest of Council, Mayor Mario Leonetti appointed Dale Webb to the Budget

Committee.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council that ammonia readings at the wastewater plant lead her to believe DEQ will allow the City to install a smaller number of bio dome units than previously recommended.

Mitchell told the Council the architect's cost estimates for the Senior Center/Food Bank are higher than was budgeted, so items that were deemed unnecessary are being eliminated.

Mitchell said she has received a permit for work to be done in Bear Creek for an emergency repair to firm up the stream bank. Mitchell added that she has not heard from DSL or ODFW regarding the illegal culvert replacement upstream that appears to be causing flooding issues.

City Receives Inquiry About Sale of Courtyard – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council the City had received a letter of inquiry from Sam and Eleonora Semerjian, owners of the Blue House Café, asking whether the City is interested in selling the courtyard property that sits between their restaurant and the Community Learning Center building, currently leased to the

Vernonia Senior Center for use as a thrift store. After a discussion, the consensus of Council was to have staff inform the Semerjians that the City is not interested in selling the property at this time.

At the April 3, 2017 City Council Meeting:

Council Moves Forward with Vendor Site Preparation – Council discussed the costs associated with development at the site of the old Health Center building at the corner of Bridge Street and Grant Avenue. The site is being considered as a spot to allow food vendor carts to set up and operate during a portion of the year. City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council that the cost to plane and smooth the concrete would be about \$600, the cost to place an electric pole would be \$1,421, and the cost to install an electric meter would be close to \$5,000. Mitchell said the City already has one vendor who would like to operate in the location who does not need electricity, one other vendor who has expressed interest, and one who removed their proposal after extensive discussions. After a discussion, Council agreed to prep and smooth the site and install the power pole, but wait to install the electric meter until they have more interest from vendors.

Dog Park Moves Forward – Council agreed with the site between Heather Lane and Ivy Street chosen by a group of citizens interested in developing a Dog Park on City property. Council asked staff to inform neighbors and look into flood plain regulations for the site.

City to Evaluate Water Rate Variables – City staff asked Council to

authorize an evaluation of two variables which are at the core of the City's water rates, the meter multiplier and the water allowance. Staff said there have been questions about these two pieces and the City now has additional information they would like to consider in developing rates for City utility customers. Council approved the request and asked for a report in six months.

Council Approves Request to Waive Park Fees for Bike Ride – Based on a recommendation from the Parks Committee, Council approved a request from the organizers of the Cycle Columbia County bicycle ride to waive park use fees for their event on June 17, 2017. The group requested use of Spencer Park. The ride is designed to promote the communities in Columbia County and is expected to draw 300 riders. Vernonia will be the starting and ending spot for the one day ride.

Ethics Complaint Unfounded – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told Council that an ethics complaint, filed by David Sterner with the Oregon Government Ethics Commission, was determined to be unfounded. Sterner filed complaints against the Mayor and two City Councilors following a City Council Workshop on March 13 concerning his request to place a food cart on City property. Sterner withdrew his proposal following the Workshop.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council the City Attorney has received correspondence from the owners of the Nickerson Ridge Estates housing development, restating their assertion that the City accepted the streets when

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Vernonia Police Blotter • March 9-31, 2017

REPORTS TAKEN / ARRESTS

- March 9, 2017 Report of Theft and Forgery near Weed Avenue
- March 14, 2017 Arrest on a Warrant near Cougar St. and Madison Avenue
- March 23, 2017 Arrest on a Warrant near Jefferson Avenue
- March 28, 2017 Report of Attempted Burglary and Criminal Trespass II near Cherry Street
- March 28, 2017 Report of Burglary and Criminal Mischief on Adams Avenue
- March 28, 2017 Report of Hit and Run on Jefferson Avenue non injury
- March 28, 2017 Report of Mail Theft on East Bridge Street
- March 31, 2017 Arrest on a Warrant near the Linear Trail

CITATIONS / OTHER

- March 14, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended and No Insurance near Knott Street
- March 14, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Nehalem HWY South
- March 18, 2017 Cited for Violation

- of the Basic Rule driving 55 mph in a posted 35 mph near N Mist Drive
- March 19, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Bridge Street
- March 19, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed near N Mist Drive 54 mph in a posted 35 mph
- March 22, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Nehalem HWY South
- March 25, 2017 Cited for Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device near East Bridge Street
- March 26, 2017 Cited for Driving While Uninsured near North Mist Drive
- March 26, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Bridge Street
- March 31, 2017 Cited for Violating the Speed Limit driving 53 mph in a posted 35 mph near North Mist Drive

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 03/01/2017 through 03/31/2017 VPD had 354 calls for service.

The Vernonia Transfer Station is open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday from 8am-2pm

**April 8 & 22
May 13 & 27**

Dates and times are subject to change due to weather

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Monday, April 17, 2017
Monday, May 1, 2017

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, May 29, 2017
Memorial Day Holiday

Dates and times subject to change

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
Proposed Zoning Code Amendment in the City of Vernonia,
File No. PA 17-01

When: April 17th, 2017 at 7:00 pm

Where: Council Chambers, City of Vernonia, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR

Why: Proposed Zoning Code Amendment to Travel Trailer Provisions

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vernonia City Council, will conduct a public hearing on a request by the City of Vernonia to amend the Zoning Code as it relates to the temporary habitation of travel trailers.

SAID PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Vernonia City Council on Monday, April 17th, 2017, in the Council Chambers of Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR at or after 7:00 pm, at which time proponents and opponents of the proposed Zone Code Amendment will be heard.

A staff report will be available to the public at City Hall one week before the hearing, and may be copied for a nominal fee. Failure to raise an issue in a hearing, in person or by letter or failure to provide statements or evidence sufficient to afford the decision-maker an opportunity to respond to the issue precludes appeal to the board based on that issue. Public testimony is welcome, and written statements will also be received before the hearing.

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing to Stephanie Borst at 503-429-5291 ext. 105, TTY 1-800-735-2900 or at City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064

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