

Vernonia City News...

At the June 9, 2017 City Council Meeting:

Council Approves Adjustment to Ridge Riders Water Billing – Council approved a recommendation from staff and adjusted the way the Ridge Riders are billed for their water use at the horse arena. Members of the Ridge Riders had addressed the Council at their June 5 meeting about charges they are receiving for turning on and off their water service during the off season, and the amount they were being charged for usage for a 1½ inch water meter. After investigating the issue, staff recommended the Ridge Riders be charged \$29.30 for a 5/8 inch water meter, \$9.50 for the water loan repayment, and \$3.00 for water usage over 2,000 gallons, which Council approved.

Council Declines Utility Bill Adjustment – Council declined to make any adjustment to the utility bill for Larry Collins, who had requested a change following a water shut off by the City for lack of payment. Collins had requested the change due to unfortunate personal circumstances, but staff told the Council that all City procedures had been followed prior to the shut off.

Mitchell Updates Council on Rock Creek Bridge Safety Concerns – City Administrator Josette Mitchell updated the Council on actions the City has taken after Leslie Seibert addressed them at the June 5 meeting. Seibert told the Council she was concerned about the safety of the bridge that crosses Rock Creek on the Webb Way Linear Trail near Anderson Park, after her son slipped on the bridge while riding his bicycle and was badly injured last winter. Mitchell told the Council that new warning signs have been installed and that she is investigating potential cleaning options that are allowed on a bridge over a fish bearing stream.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell updated the Council on several ongoing projects, including the final steps to complete the Wastewater Upgrade Project. Mitchell also discussed replanting along the Webb Way Linear Trail; the trees there were removed for the installation of the Wastewater Project.

Mitchell updated the Council on the Senior Center/Food Bank project and discussed plans for storm water, the ongoing planning review, and the upcoming notice for bids for construction.

Mitchell told the Council there has been no correspondence from the owners of Nickerson Ridge Estates.

Mitchell told Council the piers for the picnic shelter at Spencer Park are almost complete and that volunteers are being recruited to do the full construction of the shelter, and updated them on the memorial tree program that will be planted around the shelter.

Mitchell updated the Council on some work at the Airport to replace a culvert and thanked Councilor Mike Seager, and Doug Davenport and the Airport Committee for their work. Mitchell also told the Council that the City worked with neighbors at the Airport to re-gravel a portion of the road.

Mitchell told the Council that the City received 19 applications for the open City Clerk position and screened them for experience, narrowing the field to seven individuals, who were invited to be interviewed for the position by a panel that included the City Administrator, the Human Resources Director and a City Councilor. Mitchell later said the City is conducting a background check on the top candidate.

Council holds Workshop on Streets – Following the completion of their regular meeting, Council held a workshop on the condition of streets

within the City limits. Council received a very detailed data report, including maps from staff member Ben Fousek, which provided an inventory of the surface condition of all streets, and an analysis to aid the Council and staff in prioritizing street repairs in the future. (See full story on front page.)

Topics From the Floor – Tim Anderson, a member of the City Parks Committee, expressed concern about erosion to the stream bank at Airport Park on the Nehalem River and asked Council to make this issue a priority.

David Sterner asked if the Council had any response to the Oregon

Government Ethics Commissions (OGEC) report stating that they will be investigating a complaint of a conflict of interest ethics violation by Vernonia Mayor Mario Leonetti. Council declined to respond, but City Administrator Josette Mitchell did address the question stating that City staff and Council have been advised by their legal counsel not to discuss the issue with Sterner until the OGEC has completed their investigation. Sterner stated that it could take up to 180 days for completion of the investigation and asked the City to stop listening to their attorney and have an open discussion with him about his allegations.

Vernonia Police Blotter • June 13-30, 2017

Reports Taken/Arrests

- June 17, 2017 Report of Theft III near Jefferson Avenue
- June 22, 2017 Report of an animal complaint on Bridge Street
- June 24, 2017 Arrest for Driving While Suspended/Uninsured/Failure to Register near Cougar Street
- June 28, 2017 Arrest for Violation of a Restraining Order near North Street

Citations/Other

- June 13, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed 54 mph in a 35 mph near North Mist Drive
- June 13, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed 53 mph in a 35 mph near North Mist Drive
- June 13, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed 70 mph in a 55 mph near Nehalem Highway South
- June 13, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed 70 mph in a 55 mph

- near Nehalem Highway South
- June 22, 2017 Cited for No Oregon Drivers License near Alder Street
- June 23, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended and Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance near Rose Avenue
- June 24, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed 53 mph in a 35 mph near Nehalem Highway South
- June 27, 2017 Cited for Driving While Suspended and No Insurance near Bridge Street
- June 29, 2017 Cited for Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance and Violation of the Posted Speed 70 mph in a 55 mph near Nehalem Highway South
- June 29, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed 73 mph in a 55 mph near Nehalem Highway South
- June 30, 2017 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed 76 mph in a 55 mph near Nehalem Highway South

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 06/01/2017 through 06/30/2017 VPD had 287 calls for service.

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

**July 8 & 22
August 12 & 26**

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, July 17, 2017
Monday, August 7, 2017

City Closures are scheduled for:
Noon on Friday, August 4, 2017
Vernonia Friendship Jamboree

Dates and times subject to change

Reserve Police Officer Job Announcement

The Vernonia Police Department has openings for Reserve Police Officers. Interested citizens can obtain an application and complete job description in person at the Vernonia Police Department. Minimum qualifications include, but not limited to: must have a high school diploma or GED; must be at least 21 years of age and be a U.S. Citizen; have a valid Oregon driver's license; be able to pass a criminal background investigation; and pass medical and psychological evaluations. Questions regarding the position should be directed to Chief Michael Conner (503) 429-7335 ext. 110.

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