

Vernonia City News...

At the November 19, 2018 City Council Meeting:

Council Approves More Trees for Spencer Park – Council approved the purchase of twenty more Memorial Trees for Spencer Park. The request came from the Parks Committee. The purchase will include some evergreen trees. The trees can be purchased by citizens from the City as memorials.

Council Approves Criminal History Check Process – Council approved Ordinance 919, which establishes policies for criminal history checks concerning applicants for potential employees, tow truck drivers, liquor license applicants, and certain volunteers.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell provided the Council with the written Monthly Department Report.

Mitchell told the Council that the bio-domes at the waste water treatment plant are now operating. A tour of the completed facility has been scheduled for the Council on December 29 at 11:00 am.

Mitchell reported the pavers at the Schaumburg Memorial Picnic Shelter in Spencer Park have been installed, and the City has sent in paperwork to Oregon Parks and Recreation for completion of the project.

Mitchell asked the Council to schedule a work session to discuss the sale/repair of the city owned property next to the Memorial Cemetery. The work session will be held after the New Year with the new members of the Council, with the current Council members also invited to attend and share their knowledge of the project.

Mitchell reported that the City has received payment for a code enforcement process on the property at 720 Riverside Drive. The house on the property was damaged by fire over three years ago, and the City had to force the mortgage company that owned it to have it removed. The City reclaimed expenses involved in the code enforcement process as well as court costs.

Mitchell said the City has received a \$2,300 refund from the \$5,000 cost for new carpet at the Library because of problems with the installation.

Mitchell provided the Council with a progress update on the Council's list of priority projects.

Topics From the Floor – Sally Harrison thanked City staff and the Council for their work to get the Senior Center constructed. She asked the community to attend West Oregon Electric Co-op meetings; she said the co-op is starting to listen to the members and the need for reasonable rates. She also discussed the need to replace the Green Bridge. She said ODOT is renovating the bridge, but has no plans to replace it; cost estimates to replace the bridge are \$10-12 million. Harrison asked the Council to have staff work on the replacement of the bridge. Council agreed to add the bridge replacement to their list of priority projects.

Gretchen Lindauer said no one from the City was in court when the City appeared in the case against the Smejals concerning the Nickerson Ridge development. She said it would be nice to see some support from the City. She said the case has been ongoing for three years. City Administrator Josette Mitchell said she could not comment on the case.

At the December 3, 2018 City Council Meeting:

Council Certifies Election Results – Council voted to adopt Resolution 16-

The Vernonia Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday in December 8:00 am - 2:00 pm Returning to regularly scheduled 2nd and 4th Saturdays January - October

**December 15
January 12 & 26**

Dates and times are subject to change due to weather

Vernonia Police Blotter

October 15-31 Reports Taken

- October 24, 2018, Report of Criminal Mischief I and II near Vernonia Lake
- October 30, 2018, Report of Theft I near Riverside Drive

Citation/Arrest/Other

- October 25, 2018, Cited for Driving Uninsured near Rose Avenue

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 10/01/2018 through 10/31/2018 VPD had 194 calls for service.

November 1-30 Reports Taken

- November 3, 2018 Report of Assault IV near Bridge Street
- November 8, 2018 Informational Report taken
- November 10, 2018 Report of Criminal Trespass near State Avenue

- November 15, 2018 Report of Traffic Accident with injury near Bridge Street
- November 19, 2018 Report of Fraud near Jefferson Avenue
- November 19, 2018 Arrest on a Warrant near East Alabama
- November 20, 2018 Report of Hit and Run near 1st Avenue
- November 26, 2018 Report of Medication Theft near A Street

Citations/Arrests/Other

- November 23, 2018 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Bridge Street
- November 24, 2018 Cited for Violation of the Basic Rule 75/55 mph near Timber Road
- November 24, 2018 Cited for Violation of the Basic Rule 71/55 mph near Lone Pine Road

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 11/01/2018 through 11/30/2018 VPD had 146 calls for service.

18, officially adopting the results from the November General Election. The certified results, provided by the Columbia County Elections Division, are as follows:

Vernonia Mayor

Rick Hobart 585
Jill Hult 306
David Sterner 114

Vernonia City Council

Dale Webb 639
JR Allen 593
Richard Traver 281
Mike Seager 216

Council Members Choose Committee Liaison Positions

Two Council members who will remain on the Council following the start of the New Year chose the Citizen Committees they would like to serve as the Liaison to next year. Councilor Bruce McNair will serve as liaison to the Cemetery Committee and Councilor Susan Wagner requested to

serve as liaison to the Parks Committee, although she said she needed some time to make a final decision. Newly elected Councilors Dale Webb and JR Allen, along with Mayor Rick Hobart will make their selections when they take office in January 2019.

Police Report – Police Chief Mike Conner told the Council that new officer Abbie Hanson is scheduled to graduate from Police Academy this week.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell was on vacation; there was no report.

Topics From the Floor – Richard Stein told the Council the Parks Committee will be bringing them a proposal to use revenue generated from the sale of trees in Ora Bolmeier Park to fund an irrigation system for the sports fields at Spencer Park.



VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES:

Volunteers are needed to serve on various City Committees. Participating on a City Committee is a rewarding experience, providing an opportunity to learn and share your skills. It also enables volunteers to become involved in their local government.

VERNONIA BUDGET COMMITTEE

The Budget Committee consists of the members of the local governing body and an equal number of citizens at large. The citizens are appointed by the governing body and serve terms of three years. Questions please contact Angie Handegard, Finance Administrator 503-429-5291 ext. 107

AIRPORT COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 4th Tuesday of the month, As Available
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 3 vacant seats for in-town residents

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 3 vacant seats for in-town residents

PARKS COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 4th Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 1 vacant seat which may be from outside city limits

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm
Location: City Hall, Council Chambers
Open Positions: 3 vacant seats, of which 2 may be from outside city limits

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete an application for Appointment (found on the web page) and return to City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064 or Fax to 502-429-4232. Any questions please call the City Recorder at 503-429-5291 ext. 105.

The City of Vernonia
1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, Oregon 97064 • Phone 503.429.5291 • Fax 503.429.4232 • TTY 1.800.735.2900
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