

# Vernonia City News...

## At the March 4, 2019 City Council Meeting:

**Council Approves Annexation of Property into Spencer Park** – Following a Public Hearing, Council approved Ordinance 920, approving the annexation of two vacant tax lots adjacent to Spencer Park and California Avenue, totaling .47 acre and a .3 acre right-of-way between the two lots. The annexation reduces jurisdictional confusion and adds the lots, which were already being used as park property, to Spencer Park. At the hearing there was no public testimony. The lots were not included in the School District's property, the originally owner, when plotted due to an administrative error, discovered this year.

**Council Authorizes Sale of Cemetery House** – Following a meeting in Executive Session under ORS 192.660 (2) (e) "To conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions," Council voted to adopt Resolution 02-19, declaring the house and property owned by the City adjacent to the Vernonia Memorial Cemetery as "No Longer needed for public use," and authorized the property to be placed for sale with a minimum bid of \$95,000.

**Council Approves Bike Hub at Anderson Park** – Council approved a partnership with the Washington County Visitors Association (WCVA) to develop a bike hub in Vernonia at Anderson Park adjacent to the previously installed bike fix-it station along the Banks-Vernonia State Trail. WCVA will pay for the materials and installation of a kiosk with Bike Hub identifying sign, a wayfinding map of Vernonia, and panel signs. The City will maintain the kiosk. City Administrator Josette Mitchell told the Council the kiosk addresses a long term goal of the City and the Parks Committee to place directional signage on the bike trail to help direct visitors to downtown businesses and other community amenities.

**Council Reschedules Ethics Training** – Council was told that voluntary Ethics Training provided through the Oregon Government Ethics Commission has been rescheduled for March 18 from 3:30 - 5:00 pm, prior to the regular City Council meeting. A previous training was canceled due to inclement weather.

**Council Schedules Rate Review** – The Annual Rate Review Committee has scheduled to meet on March 12 and March 14 at 4:00 pm to discuss adjustments to the City Utility Rates. The Committee will include City Councilors Dale Webb and J.R. Allen, Public Works Committee members Sam Poetter and Don Normand, and city staff. Because the City has paid off another sewer loan, it is expected that the Rate Review Committee will be recommending a reduction in rates.

**Council Discusses Changes to Airplane Hanger Lease** – Council discussed proposed changes to the hanger lease at the Vernonia Airport, recommended by the Airport Committee. The Committee suggested changing the language of the lease which states that hangers can only be used to store airplanes and "related purposes." The Airport Committee said member Gary Meyer would like to rent a currently unoccupied hanger to store motor vehicles. Council members questioned other wording in the lease concerning the City's responsibility for insurance indemnity and asked staff to investigate. Council voted to table any decision on changing the lease.

**City Administrator Report** – City Administrator Josette Mitchell said revised building plans for the Senior Center/Food Bank building were being completed and sent for review. Once reviewed a construction bid process will be announced.

Mitchell told Council she is waiting for a final bid on fencing for

the Archie Dass Dog Park and hopes to choose a contractor and begin installation by the end of the month. The fencing is being paid for with a grant from Oregon Parks and Recreation. Mitchell told the Council she is also continuing to work on a State Park grant application for a skate park at Spencer Park in conjunction with the Vernonia SK8 group which has been fundraising for the project. The grant application is due April 1 with a presentation to the selection committee in June.

Mitchell said she is finalizing bids for the purchase of trees for Spencer Park, which will be sold to citizens as memorials. Once a vendor is selected a packet will be available for prospective buyers identifying the species of trees for selection, the placement locations available, and the cost.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Rick Hobart said he attended the Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball held at Cedar Ridge and

said he was really impressed with the event. He acknowledged the Intercultural Society of Vernonia for doing a great job hosting the event.

Mayor Hobart said he appreciated the work City employees did trimming trees and brush at the site of the Archie Dass Dog Park in preparation of the upcoming fence installation, tentatively scheduled to begin at the end of March.

**Topics From the Floor** – Janice McGuire updated the Council on the Save the Greenman Field Grandstands project. She said the group is still working to secure adequate insurance coverage, and they are being required to hold a Builders Risk Policy, which has increased costs. She asked for an extension of a March 24 deadline Council had set to have insurance in place, requesting 60 more days. Council gave consensus for the extension and asked staff to bring a formal agreement back to their next meeting for approval.

**The Vernonia Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday January - October**

**March 9 & 23  
April 13 & 27**

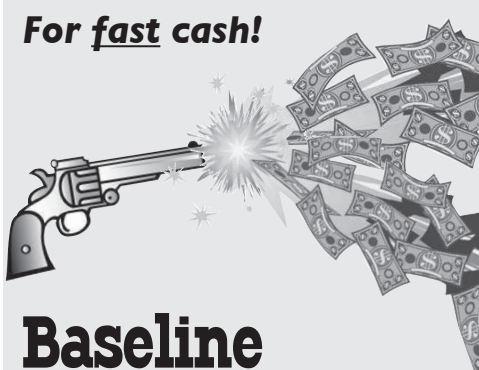
*Dates and times are subject to change due to weather*

**Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures**

**City Council Meetings are scheduled for 7:00 pm:**  
Monday, March 18, 2019  
Monday, April 1, 2019

*Dates and times subject to change*

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## Vernonia Police Blotter February 19 – March 3, 2019

### Reports Taken/Arrests

- February 19, 2019 arrest on a Warrant near McDonald Road
- February 20, 2019 arrest on a Warrant near Rose Avenue
- February 24, 2019 Report of a Non Injury Vehicle Crash near North Mist Drive

- the Urban Speed Limit 57/35 mph near Rose Avenue
- February 26, 2019 citation for Violation of the Basic Rule 52/35 mph near Rose Avenue
- February 28, 2019 citation for Driving Uninsured near Bridge Street

### Citations/Other

- February 25, 2019 citation for Driving While Suspended and Failure to Display Plates near Rose Avenue
- February 25, 2019 citation for No Oregon Drivers License and Violation of

**Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 2/19/2019 through 2/28/2019 VPD had 146 calls for service.**

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