

Vernonia City News...

At the February 18, 2020 City Council Meeting:

Staff Removes Parking Fees From Agenda – Staff removed Council’s continued discussion from their January 21, 2020 meeting on the plan to charge new businesses a fee if they cannot provide parking on the footprint of their property. According to a memo, staff recently learned that Council previously adopted Ordinance 886 in 2012 that implemented a parking fee for all businesses based on the completion of a study; that study was never conducted and the fee was never implemented. After a long discussion Council voted to schedule a workshop on March 2 to discuss the issue further.

Council Approves Airport Committee Member – Council approved a request from Georgiana Seager to renew and serve an ad-

ditional term on the Airport Committee.

City Administrator Report – City Administrator Josette Mitchell told Council the plaintiffs and defendants in the Nickerson Ridge Estate lawsuit are required to attend a second court mandated Settlement Conference on February 21, 2020, and said Council should expect a report in an Executive Session at their March 2, 2020 meeting.

Mitchell told the Council that staff is working with the School District to connect with the architect who designed the covered Play Shed at Spencer Park, so contractors bidding to repair the roof can see the original plans. Mitchell said she will bring back a contract for repairs after all bids have been received.

Mitchell updated Council on the City’s plans to assist citizens in completing the 2020 Census.

The Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday January - October

**February 22
March 14 & 28**

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 2, 2020
Monday, March 16, 2020

City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, May 25, 2020
Memorial Day Holiday

Dates and times subject to change

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

The Columbia County Republican Central Committee urges the Oregon Legislature to halt the legislation to create a cap and trade scheme. Since the beginning with HB 2020 this legislation has been fraught with fatal flaws, seeming to be more about a political win than an attempt to create prudent environmental policy. In such instances, you can be reasonably assured that foreseen consequences are underestimated, and more critically, that there will be unforeseen consequences resulting in grave impact to small business, critical industries, and vulnerable populations.

Carbon Markets - Secondary trading of carbon credits will certainly occur if carbon markets are accessible through SB 1530. These complex markets are sparsely regulated and at risk of “pump and dump” schemes as well as the use of exotic derivatives to influence or exploit the markets by speculators or even nations like China or Russia who have no real stake in the local carbon market. All one has to do is look back at the mortgage crisis which nearly took down our entire economy. There was also widespread bipartisan concern with HB 2020 of a new bureaucracy formed in the state with an independent cap and trade commission. Putting it under the umbrella of the DEQ does not assuage this problem as a new, large bureaucracy would have to be created within that agency itself.

Fuel Costs - The current legislation dubbed SB 1530 is purported to deal with the issue of unduly burdening rural areas with increased fuel costs by only

charging higher taxes or fees on fuels in metropolitan areas. Even the bill sponsor is uncertain of how this can accurately be accounted for.

There is also no discussion that we are aware of regarding the effect of increased fuel costs on goods shipped from metropolitan areas of Oregon to rural areas but common sense dictates that higher fuel costs will lead to higher prices.

Carveouts - Any legislation that requires an inordinate amount of carveouts to garner support is just bad business. The considerable concessions that are necessary to make this legislation viable primarily benefit either big business with no stake in the local carbon market or those with the highest carbon output. The lifeblood and backbone of Oregon is small and medium business and this legislation would put an undue burden on many family-owned enterprises with already thin margins in the form of increased supply costs as well as operating costs.

In the end, cap and trade is bad policy and far too risky to Oregon businesses and working people. It will create an undue burden on vulnerable populations, the middle class, and small business throughout the State of Oregon. We urge any and all to phone and write your legislators requesting that they stop any and all work on this bad legislation.

Traci Brumbles
Chair Columbia County
Republican Central Committee

Citizen of the Month



Mayor Rick Hobart honored Sandy Welch as Citizen of the Month. Sandy is a lifelong resident of Vernonia, and has served as the Executive Director of Vernonia Cares since 2001, and has been the Secretary for the Senior Center for 10 years.

Police Blotter February 1-15, 2020

Arrests/Reports Taken

• February 5, 2020 Detained on a Parole Violation near Rose Avenue

Citation/Other

• February 5, 2020 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Bridge Street
• February 12, 2020 Cited for Failure to Carry Proof of Insurance near

Missouri Avenue

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 02/01/2020 through 02/15/2020 VPD had 103 calls for service.

NOTICE OF SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET HEARING

• Use for supplemental budget proposing a change in any fund's expenditures by more than 10 percent.

A public hearing on a proposed supplemental budget for City of Vernonia, for the current fiscal year, will be held at 1001 Bridge St

(Location)

The hearing will take place on March 2, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. p.m. The purpose

of the hearing is to discuss the supplemental budget with interested persons.

A copy of the supplemental budget document may be inspected or obtained on or after February 18, 2020 at

1001 Bridge St, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. p.m. and 5:00 a.m. p.m.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGES

AMOUNTS SHOWN ARE REVISED TOTALS IN THOSE FUNDS BEING MODIFIED

FUND: Memorial Cemetery Reserve

Resource	Amount	Expenditure-Indicate Org. unit / Prog. & Activity, and Object class.	Amount
1. 1488-00 Misc Income	\$ 131,660.00	1. 1615-00 Bldg/Grounds	\$ 20,000.00
2. 1401-00 Cash on Hand	\$ 7,667.00	2. 1645-00 Contract Services	\$ 20,000.00
3. 9467-99 Transfer In	\$ 12,900.00	3. 9998-00 - Contingency	\$ 112,227.00
Revised Total Fund Resources	\$ 152,227.00	Revised Total Fund Requirements	\$ 152,227.00

Explanation of changes:

House owned the City for previous cemetery caretaker was sold after budget for current fiscal year was adopted. Change is revenue from sale of house and expenditures are construction of equipment shed, fence and columbarium.

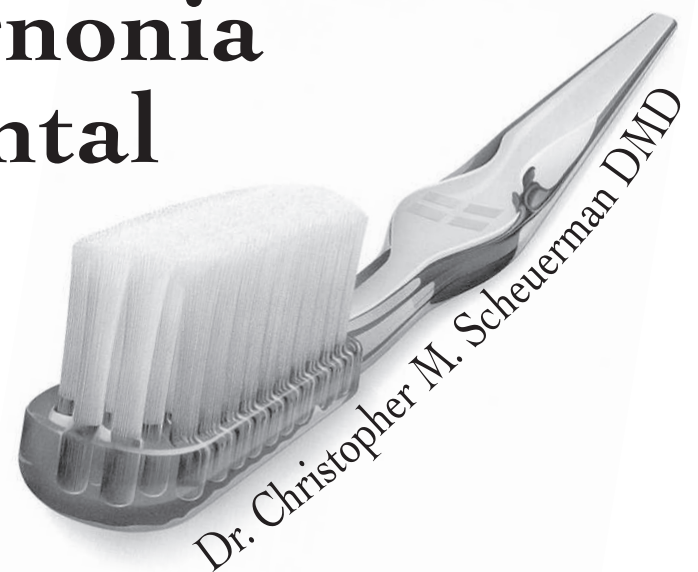
FUND: Streets

Resource	Amount	Expenditure-Indicate Org. unit / Prog. & Activity, and Object class.	Amount
1. 1482-45 ODOT Grant	\$ 100,000.00	1. 1645-00 Contract Services	\$ 125,000.00
2.		2.	
3.		3.	
Revised Total Fund Resources	\$ 289,647.00	Revised Total Fund Requirements	\$ 289,647.00

Explanation of changes:

Grant was awarded after adoption of 2019-2020 budget

Vernonia Dental



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