

City Begins Budget Process *continued from front page*

year reduction of the term. Sewer Debt consists of DEQ loan R93643 that was used for the bio-solids project, which will be paid off in 2032 and the new USDA loan which will be paid off in 2056. All required loan reserves have been set aside.

In Water Debt Service, a plan to refinance the current water bond was due to take place in March 2020. The COVID-19 crisis has delayed that as interest rates continue to fluctuate. Once the economy has recovered, the City will continue with the process.

The Streets Fund continues to meet the maintenance requirements of the City's streets while maintaining a conservative budget. There is a large paving project planned for this year using funds received from ODOT's grant program. The City applied for and was awarded \$100,000 for the 2020 cycle. This will be used to pave Umatilla and River Streets, and Arkansas Avenue this fall.

The System Development Charges (SDC) income in the proposed budget is based on four new homes being built. SDC funds can be used for new development to expand capacity in the Parks, Water, Sewer, Storm Water, and Streets Departments. In the proposed budget, there are funds budgeted in the Parks SDC fund for a new pay station at Spencer Park.

Parks revenues are forecasted to come in considerably over budget. This is due to the closure of campgrounds ordered by the Governor which opened more sites for extended stay; the City currently has 15 sites rented through the end of the fiscal year. There is an 8% increase in payroll in the proposed budget, which includes a full-time parks maintenance

person. Formerly this was a part-time position with other Public Works staff filling in as needed. A dedicated staff person will allow for better maintenance of the parks facilities and in turn increase revenues.

In the Airport Fund, hangar revenue has increased slightly as all hangers are now occupied. A new hanger will be built sometime this year, but it is not included in the proposed budget. \$4,000 was spent this year on the new equipment shed at the host site. This cost was split with Parks.

Cemetery revenue was down almost 80% this fiscal year. It was necessary to forego the budgeted transfer out to the reserve fund in order to have enough carry forward for a budget for next year. The City is hopeful that the niche wall will be constructed this summer and generate revenue for the fund.

The City has created a new Timber Fund to track revenue from past timber cutting and any that will be done in the future. An Abatement Fund was created to set aside money collected from fines associated with nuisance violations. It will be used to abate properties when necessary.

The City has a number of Reserve Funds which are restricted for specified maintenance or projects which may differ for each of the funds. Policy will be created to ensure that no inappropriate use of funds occurs. It is intended that the funds set aside be used for major maintenance projects or repairs that cannot be covered in the operating budget. Any request for use of these funds will require a project plan and council approval. The General Fund Facilities Reserve was created to set aside money to maintain/re-

pair City Hall, Library and VCLC. The Water Facilities Reserve was created to set aside funds to maintain/repair the water plant, public works shop, infrastructure, and any other buildings deemed appropriate. The Sewer Facilities Reserve was created to set aside funds in order to maintain the facility and help eliminate the possible need to assume any new debt in the future. The Parks Maintenance Reserve was created to set aside money for projects or repairs at the City's parks. The Memorial and Pioneer Cemetery Reserve Funds were created when money previously held by the Cemetery Beautification Committee was given to the City for management. These funds will be used to track donations to each cemetery. Funds will be used by approval from City Council.

The City also has two Operating Reserve Funds. A Water Operating Reserve fund was created during the 2016-17 budget process. This fund was created to set aside money each year in order to create a comfortable operating reserve in case of an emergency. An operating reserve is also beneficial in the event that the City would need to seek private financing in the future. The goal is to reach a fund balance that matches the cost of operations for three months. The Sewer Operating Reserve fund was created during the 2018-19 budget process. It will also be used to set aside money equivalent to three months operating costs for the Sewer department.

The Budget Committee will continue to meet on Tuesdays until the process is complete. Council is expected to adopt the final budget at their June 15 meeting.

Vernonia City News...

Council Approves Agreement Following Executive Session – The Vernonia City Council met in a special Executive Session on Wednesday, April 22, 2020 under ORS 192.660 (2) (h) "To consult with counsel concerning the legal rights and duties of a public body with a regard to current litigation or litigation likely to be filed." Upon returning to Open Session, the Council took no further action.

On Wednesday, April 29, the Council again met in Executive Session under the same ORS. After returning to Open Session the Council voted 4-0 "To present the agreement, as reviewed, to the opposing counsel." Mayor Rick Hobart declared a conflict of interest and did not vote.

At the May 4, 2020 City Council Meeting, held by phone conference:

Council Tables Decision to Reduce Speed Limits – Council voted to table a vote on Resolution 923 which would reduce speed limits on selected non-arterial streets that are located in a residential district, currently designated as 25 miles per hour, to 20 miles per hour. Council decided to table the Resolution until the Council meets in person so the community would have a chance to comment on it.

Mayor Appoints Hollenbeck to Airport Committee – With approval from the rest of the Council, Mayor Rick Hobart appointed Richard Hollenbeck to the Airport Committee.

City Begins Contract for Records Management – City Administrator Josette Mitchell informed the Council that the City has started the process of contracting with Chavez Consulting and the Oregon State Archives for ORMS Software for records

continued on page 11

Vernonia Police Blotter April 1-30, 2020

Arrests/Reports Taken

- April 1, 2020 Arrest for Attempt to Elude, Reckless Driving, and Reckless Endangering near Nehalem Hwy North
- April 15, 2020 Arrest on a Warrant near Scappoose Vernonia Hwy
- April 17, 2020 Arrest for Driving Under the Influence near Nehalem Hwy South
- April 18, 2020 Arrest for Driving Under the Influence, Reckless Driving near Riverside Drive
- April 27, 2020 Report of a Stolen Vehicle

near Madison Avenue

- April 29, 2020 Report of Forgery 1 and Theft 1 near Jefferson Avenue, 3 arrested and additional charges pending.

Citation/Other

- April 22, 2020 Citation for Driving While Suspended near Washington Avenue

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation 04/01/2020 through 04/30/2020 VPD had 146 calls for service.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN FOR THE FOLLOWING CITY 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 PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission shall control the subdivision of and may make recommendations to the City Council, to the public officials, and to individuals regarding land use; location of thoroughfares, public buildings, parks and other public facilities; and, regarding any other matter relating to the planning and development of the City and the surrounding area. The commission may authorize and supervise studies, hold hearings, and prepare reports and recommendations on its own initiative or at the request of the City Council

Meeting Day and Time: 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers

Open Positions: 1 vacant seat for an in-town or out of town resident

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 7:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers

Open Positions: 2 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: 2 vacant seats for in-town residents

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Meeting Day and Time: 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm

Location: City Hall, Council Chambers

Open Positions: 1 vacant seat which may be from outside city limits & 2 vacant seats for in-town residents

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT AND QUALIFICATIONS

General duties and responsibilities of committees include:

*Act in an advisory capacity to the City Council.

*Promote the general welfare and economic benefit of the city and its citizens.

*Participate in studies, and prepare reports and recommendations on their own or at the request of the City Council

HOW TO APPLY

Please complete an application for Appointment (www.vernonia-or.gov) and return to City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064, Fax to 502-429-4232 or email to sborst@vernonia-or.gov. Any questions please call the City Recorder at 503-429-5291 ext. 105.

The Transfer Station is scheduled to be open on the 2nd and 4th Saturday January - October
May 9 & 23

Currently not accepting oversized items (mattresses, couches, etc.) and limiting the number of vehicles in the yard at one time.

Dates are subject to change

Vernonia City Council Meetings and Closures

Please check the City's website for details on upcoming City Council Meetings

scheduled for 7:00 pm:
Monday, May 18, 2020

Monday, June 1, 2020

www.vernonia-or.gov

City Closures are scheduled for:

Monday, May 25, 2020

Memorial Day Holiday

Dates and times subject to change