

Vernonia City News...

At the July 20, 2020 City Council Meeting:

Council Moves Forward With Zoning Change – After holding a public hearing on a proposed Zoning Code Amendment at which there was no testimony either in favor or against, the Council voted unanimously to have staff bring back a Resolution for approval.

The applicant for the proposed change was Troy Thomas, who owns a commercial property at 669 Mist Drive, site of the former New Hong Kong Restaurant. In trying to sell the restaurant, there have been challenges with the code requirement that all residential uses in the City’s General Commercial (GC) Zones be located only above the primary commercial use.

The revision would still list residential uses as a conditional use, and would still require a permitted commercial use within the structure; however, the proposal would change the requirement that the residential use must be located only above the commercial use, and have a separate, dedicated entry. The proposed change is not specific to the applicant’s property on Mist Drive but would change the entire General Commercial Zone, thus affecting all properties in that zone City wide; it would not apply to the separate Downtown Zone. City Administrator Josette Mitchell did note during discussion that the majority of General Commercial properties are currently used as residences.

Council approved the zoning

change in Ordinance 924 at their August 3 meeting by a 4-0 vote. The Ordinance takes effect in 30 days.

Council Agrees to Meet for Discussion for Racial Injustice Resolution – Council agreed to appoint two members to a subcommittee to meet with members of Vernonians for Racial Justice & Equality, who have requested the City Council pass a resolution that addresses racial injustice. “This request is like discussions and requests across the country currently. The topic of racism and equality will require thoughtful discussion... that acknowledges those in our community who are or could be victims of discrimination and identifies what we want for our community going forward,” said City Administrator Josette Mitchell in her staff report on the issue. Mitchell said she, along with Police Chief Conner and City Recorder Borst, will represent staff at the meeting. Councilors Susan Wagner and Dale Webb were appointed to represent the Council for the meeting, which took place on August 4.

Council Approves Agreement for Electronic Records Management Services – Council adopted Resolution 2020-08, approving an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Oregon for electronic records management services for the City.

Council Approves Policy on Water Service Outside of City Boundaries – Council voted unanimously to adopt Resolution 2020-09 which limits the extension of water service outside City boundaries. According to the Resolution, customers outside City limits who are currently purchasing water from the Vernonia water system will be permitted to continue to do so. Any new connections to City water mains outside the City limits or Urban Growth Boundary shall be done only for those that the City is contractually obligated to provide with a connection. The Resolution also sets limits on water service that will be

granted to properties within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Council Approves Grant Application for Street Repairs – Council unanimously voted to adopt Resolution 2020-10 which allows the City to apply for Small City Allotment Grant for street repairs to Spencer Avenue, Alabama Avenue from Riverside Drive to Locker Road, and Weed Avenue from Cougar Street to Umatilla Street. Councilor Dale Webb declared a potential conflict of interest as he lives off one of the streets proposed.

Council Identifies Legislative Priorities – Council responded to a request from the League of Oregon Cities, and by consensus, identified the following items as their top legislative priorities for the City of Vernonia: Broadband infrastructure and technical assistance funding; Low-income energy efficiency and affordability programs; Mental health service delivery; Water utility rate and fund assistance.

Council Agrees on Work Session – After a discussion, Council agreed to hold a work session to discuss how City meeting minutes are formatted.

At the August 3, 2020 City Council Meeting:

Council Approves Lease Agreement for Senior Center/Cares New Building – By a vote of 4-0 Council adopted Resolution 2020-10, authorizing a lease agreement between the City and the Vernonia Senior Center and Vernonia Cares for use of their new building. Councilor Bruce McNair was absent from the meeting.

Hobart Appoints Goodman to Planning Commission – Based on approval from the rest of Council, Mayor Rick Hobart honored a request from Jeff Goodman to serve another four-year term on the Planning Commission.

Vernonia Police Blotter July 14-31, 2020

Reports Taken/Arrests

- July 14, 2020 Report of Vehicle Impound near HWY 47
- July 16, 2020 Report of Unlawful Use of a Weapon near Rose Avenue
- July 21, 2020 Informational Report Taken
- July 24, 2020 Report of Arson II, Burglary II, Criminal Trespass II and Criminal Mischief II near Bridge Street
- July 29, 2020 Report of Fraud near State Avenue

- July 29, 2020 Report of DUI and Vehicle Crash near HWY 47

Citation/Other

- July 15, 2020 Cited for Violation of the Posted Speed 75/55 mph near HWY 47
- July 21, 2020 Cited for Driving While Suspended near Rose Avenue

Vernonia Police Department responds to calls that do not always end in Arrest, Report, or Citation. 07/01/2020 through 07/31/2020 VPD had 190 calls for service.

The Transfer Station
is scheduled to be
open on the
2nd and 4th Saturday
January - October
August 8 & 22

**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, August 17, 2020
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
www.vernonia-or.gov**

**City Closures are scheduled for:
Monday, September 7, 2020
*Labor Day Holiday***

Dates and times subject to change

NOTICE OF POSITIONS OPEN CITY OF VERNONIA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the General Election will be held on the 3rd day of November 2020, at which time the legal voters of the City of Vernonia will be entitled to vote for candidates to certain city offices.

OFFICES OPEN FOR ELECTION:

- VERNONIA MAYOR TWO YEAR TERM
- VERNONIA COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR YEAR TERM
- VERNONIA COUNCIL MEMBER FOUR YEAR TERM

Election packets will be available May 27, 2020 at the office of the City Recorder, 1001 Bridge St., Vernonia, OR 97064. Nominating petitions can be filed no sooner than June 1, 2020, and filed no later than Friday, August 21, 2020, by 4:00 p.m. with the City Recorder. For more information call Stephanie Borst, City Recorder at 503-429-5291 ext. 105.

*The City of Vernonia is an Equal Opportunity
Provider and Employer.*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE PLANNING COMMISSION

**Consideration of a Conditional Use Permit for
Residential use of the historic Lincoln School
File No. CUP 20-01**

When: August 20, 2020 at 7 PM

Where: Council Chambers, City of Vernonia, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064

Why: To consider a request to use the Historic Lincoln School as a residential use.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vernonia Planning Commission, will conduct a public hearing regarding File No. CUP 20-01.

SAID PUBLIC HEARING will be held before the Vernonia Planning Commission on Thursday, August 20, 2020, in the Council Chambers of Vernonia City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR at or after 7:00 pm, at which time proponents and opponents of the proposed Conditional Use Permit will be heard.

A staff report will be available to the public at City Hall one week before the hearing and may be copied for a nominal fee. Failure to raise an issue in a hearing, in person or by letter or failure to provide statements or evidence sufficient to afford the decision-maker an opportunity to respond to the issue precludes appeal to the State Land Use Board of Appeals based on that issue. Public testimony is welcome, and written statements will also be received before the hearing.

*** AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE ***

The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities should be made at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing to Stephanie Borst at (503) 429-5291 ext. 105, TTY 1 + (800) 735-2900, or at City Hall, 1001 Bride Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.

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