

VERNONIA FREEDOM

10c

Vol. 2 No. 15

The Newspaper Serving

the Upper Nehalem Valley

Thursday, February 21, 1980



Weather

Date	High	Low	Prec.
12	51	23	0
13	33	27	.19
14	36	27	t
15	45	30	.06
16	47	31	.6
17	51	31	.25
18	52	35	.42

Miller files for school B.

In a last minute filing, Susan Miller of Mist has filed for the Vernonia School Board position 6 to make that position contested between herself and incumbent Gene Weller. Homer Fuller has also filed for reelection to his position no. 5 on the Board but at deadline time Tuesday no challengers had filed for that position. The School Board election will be March 25, along with voting on the School Budget.

In other County races, Melvin R. Johnson of Scappoose, has filed for County Commissioner position 3 as a republican. The only other candidate for position 3 is Dan Sprague of Clatskanie, running as a democrat. Jay Ahlborn is the current Commissioner in position 3 and has not refilled yet. He is a democrat.

Two democrats have filed for County Commissioner position 1; Douglas D. Comstock of St. Helens and Frank Thompson of Clatskanie. Commissioner Hunt, an independent will not be on the ballot for the position in the primary election in May.

One other filing has taken place and that is Philip F. Dewey, County Surveyor, has refilled for his position as a democrat.

There are five county position on the primary ballot; County Commissioners positions one and three, County Treasurer, County Surveyor and Justice of the Peace District 3. The filing deadline for all county positions is March 11.

Bids open on Airport Park timber

As was noted several weeks ago certain timber at Airport Park is to be cut and sold and the City has opened for Bids on this project. (Announcement of the bidding is in the legal notices in this paper.) According to City Recorder Dunaway no bids or queries have been received yet.

The timber to be cut is mostly White Fir and some Douglas Fir.

Fire Dept. won't clean chimneys

The Vernonia Fire Department has a new policy concerning chimney fires. There has been an increasing number of calls for chimney fires in recent months. Due to financial problems it is no longer feasible for the department to take the time to clean chimneys.

In future, when the department is called out on a chimney fire, they will only put the fire out. The homeowner or occupant will be responsible for cleaning the chimney.

Utility truck saves money

There have been several complaints made lately concerning the use of the fire departments utility truck.

The truck was obtained last April for the purpose of saving apparatus time and manpower on calls which could be handled by one or two people.

In the time the truck has been in operation it has responded to 46 calls for a total of 168 1/4 miles. This is compared to 400 miles that would have been driven in a normal response.

In 30 of these calls where Utility 458 rolled alone, it cost the city \$94.00. If the alarm had been sounded for a normal response it would have cost the city \$958.00.

City Council discusses TV Fire Dept. and moves Police

The Vernonia City Council met Monday the 18th with Mayor Atkins, councilmembers Batty, Adams and Johnson present. Councilman Nelson was absent.

In business from the floor Lanny McDonald, fire chief, requested repair work on the radio of the new fire truck which amounted to \$50. This amount was later approved out of the fire budget.

Wayne Welch, a resident of Mist Dr., was present to make a complaint about the condition of a property near his on Mist Dr. He stated that he had contacted the owners and the residents more than once over some length of time. The Council later decided to have Health Officer Terry Godfrey and Councilman Adams look into the situation.

Under committee reports Adams reported that only Missouri Ave. and Riverside Dr. have been torn-up and graveled and that these streets are being watched for damage in the winter weather but that upkeep will be difficult until the weather turns better.

Councilman Batty reported for the Fire dept. Reportedly some complaints have been received concerning the use by Mr. Ziegler, the staff fireman, of the utility vehicle, or quick response vehicle as it is known. Mr. Ziegler had been instructed last year when the vehicle was put on line to keep the vehicle with him at all times and take it home with him at night in order to make quick response to fire calls and if possible to avoid sounding of the alarm for calls that would only require the one man and the small unit. Batty related some statistics on the vehicles use and what it has saved the City in costs which are presented in another article on this page. Batty also reported that the City had missed a class 6 fire rating by a few points at the last inspection and that without the intended use of the utility vehicle the City might drop back to a class 8 fire rating which he said could cost homeowners considerable in insurance premiums.

There was also considerable discussion of the problems with misuse of Memorial Cemetery and the tearing up of the turf by vehicles "hot-rodding". Above is a photo showing some of the damage done. The Council concluded that a gate and fence was authorized to be put up some years ago but that it had never been done and took action that it should be done as soon as possible. There was also discussion of the possibility of having someone available to watch the cemetery over the weekend.

Under communications a letter was received from the local Cable TV service stating that a locally based service man would not be possible and that they felt they could give adequate service—under normal situations be here within two hours. A petition had been received by the Council after the snowstorm in early Jan. requesting improvement of service and the Council had queried the TV service



Photo above taken Feb. 19 shows destruction to unused portion of Cemetery. This was one of several marks left by "hot-rodding" vehicles, some in the section where graves are present. Reports are that beer parties have been held on several recent weekends in the cemetery.

as to such possibility.

Councilman Johnson later read another letter also from the Cable TV service which indicated that the service would no longer serve the Riverside Meadows Mobile Park. Many who had signed the petition were from the mobile park and the TV service said in its letter that such "threats" were not an acceptable way of doing business. Johnson commented that he thought this might be a possible breach of the franchise agreement and the Council decided to have City attorney Frost look into the matter.

Also a letter was received from The Oregon Labor Bureau stating that all contractors working for any City in Oregon must pay the minimum wage as established for the area and type of job.

As the meeting opened for discussion of business a discussion was held on moving the Police Dept. from its present quarters on Madison Ave. to the house on the telephone co. property next to the old Davies Garage on Bridge St. Reportedly the telephone co. has offered this house and plot of land to the City, possibly at no cost other than taxes. There was some discussion of this and Councilman Johnson voiced objection to the plan indicating that he didn't feel the change of buildings would be of any benefit. Councilman Adams said that there was a need to reduce heating costs that the last fuel oil purchased for the present station had cost \$46 a day. Also Adams felt the City should not pass up an opportunity to gain free land.

Johnson Called for a voice vote which ended with Johnson voting nay and Adams and Batty voting aye. Thus the Police Dept. will apparently proceed with the move.

Next discussion turned to working on the City Budget for 1980-81. It was decided to have a special committee meeting on Feb. 25th to go over the Budget. City Recorder Dunaway reported that the initial budget was now prepared and also that he didn't see anyway it would be ready to go on the ballot before the June election date. The remaining

election dates this year before July are March 25th, when the school budget and board positions will be voted on, a date in May which is the Oregon Primary election date and the one in June. Mayor Atkins asked the crowd present if they would be in favor of a public hearing on the budget on a Saturday during the day to which many made a favorable response. A Feb. 26 date was set for a hearing on the Federal Revenue Sharing portion of the Budget.

In other business Councilman Johnson asked when the logs were to be moved out of Anderson Park. Adams said that several of the logs had more nails insulators, etc. than had been expected and would not be a marketable, therefore there will be a delay in their removal.

Tom Ragsdale was appointed as caretaker at Airport Park. Also a resolution was presented and passed transferring funds from various departments to the general operations fund to cover operational and legal expenses. One of these transfers included \$400 from the City Records salary. Mayor Atkins and the Councilmembers expressed appreciation of the job Mr. Dunaway has done since being in office, stating that this is the first time since being on the council that they have been able to know what the City's financial position is.

In other business Batty moved to have a written policy developed for the use of the Fire Dept. quick response vehicle and also a job classification for the salaried fireman.

Batty also moved to have a layoff plan adopted by the City in case funds became too short. All of these motions were passed.

Prior to a executive meeting with the Police Chief on personnel matters the Council questioned Jerry Railton of the Vernonia Insurance Exchange, concerning an insurance program he had presented to the City as requested. After which the Council voted to accept Mr. Railton's insurance offer as the current policies terminate.

Geology Board to hold final hearing on spacing

John L. Schwabe, chairman, Governing Board, State of Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, has called a meeting of the Board for Thursday, Feb. 21, which is to follow a public hearing that will begin at 9 am that day. The hearing will be in Room 108 of the State Office Building in Portland to discuss administrative rules for the mined land reclamation program (ORS 517.750-900) and oil and gas well spacing (ORS 520.005-350).

The meeting following the hearing will be to discuss the adoption of such rules.

At the hearing on Oil and Gas wells the

Board will consider final recommendations to adopt field rules for the Mist Field as developed in a previous hearing.

Also on the agenda are: final adoption of amendments to the existing oil and gas rules, the Attorney General opinion that the Department has authority to set statewide spacing for oil and gas exploration will be explained. New rules include allocation of production, limitation of production and maximum efficient rate of procedures. No changes are proposed in language developed in the Dec. 3 meeting of the Governing Board.

The fiscal impact of the proposed rules may result in additional cost to operators in preparing drill sites or in requiring directional drilling in certain instances. Allocation or limitation of production allowed under the proposed rules should result in fair distribution of the resource and thereby should enhance economic conditions. The rule changes should have no significant fiscal impact on state government according to the Dept. of Geology and Mineral Industries.