

Banks council officially adopts curfew, public safety ordinance

Banks City Council, at their February 12 meeting, gave final approval to a public safety

Deadline near for Veterans' property tax exemptions

The Oregon Department of Revenue application deadline for the veterans' property tax exemption is April 1. Qualified veterans or their surviving spouses may be entitled to exempt either \$9,570 or \$12,750 of their property's assessed value from property taxes. Applications and information are available by calling the local county assessor's office.

The \$9,570 exemption applies to war veterans with disabilities of 40 percent or more and to war veterans' surviving spouses who have not remarried. The \$12,750 exemption applies to war veterans with service-connected disabilities of 40 percent or more. It also applies to the surviving spouses of war veterans who died because of service-connected illness or injury or who had received at least one year of the maximum exemption.

For more information, contact the local county tax assessor's office or visit the Department of Revenue's website at www.dor.state.or.us under Publications.

ordinance that establishes regulations on damage to property, use of fireworks, disorderly conduct, weapons, loitering and establishing a curfew. Under the ordinance, children under the age of fourteen are subject to curfew after 9:15 p.m. during the school year and 10:15 p.m. during the summer months. High school age children are subject to curfew at 10:15 p.m. on school nights and at midnight on Fridays, Saturdays or prior to legal holidays. Exceptions to curfew requirements are allowed for employment or school activities.

Banks firefighters to host breakfast

The annual breakfast of the Banks Volunteer Firefighter Association will be Sunday, March 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., in the Banks High School Cafeteria. Tickets are available at the door.

Breakfast will include pancakes, ham or sausage, eggs, fruit, coffee, milk or orange juice.

Firefighters will also offer free fire engine rides to children and free blood pressure checks for adults.

For more information, call 503-324-6262.

Jim Long made a short presentation on the city's centennial celebration, which is being dated from Jan. 21, 1902, when the Banks Post Office was officially named, rather than 1921, when the town was incorporated. Council expressed interest in developing events to recognize the centennial.

Moving council meetings to the community room of the Banks Public Library was discussed, as was a request by city recorder Cindy Stanley to change the provider of the city's payroll services. No decisions were made on either topic.

Also discussed was procedure for negotiations regarding the maintenance agreement with Arbor Village Homeowners Association (AVHA). Because four of the six council members are also members of AVHA, renewal of the agreement will be handled by the city's attorney.

Council appointed, or ratified the appointment of the following:

- Ed Ohlman to the Banks Library Commission
- Denise Holmes to the Co-operative Library Advisory Board
- Laurie Schlegel as alternate to the Cooperative Library Advisory Board
- Councilor Ryan Birr to the

Washington County Transportation Advisory Committee.

A presentation by the Oregon Downtown Development

Association, and a discussion of the solid waste management agreement were postponed to the March 12 meeting.

Council approves property purchase for water protection

Banks City Council approved borrowing \$415,000 in order to protect and enhance the city's water supply, by buying the property surrounding the main water intake site.

The council's primary concern is that logging proposed for the property above, and adjacent to, the water intake will harm water quality or damage the spring that supplies most of Banks' water.

The property owner, who postponed the planned logging, is willing to sell and has been working with the City, though the two parties have not agreed on a purchase amount.

According to an appraisal obtained by the City, \$415,000 would be sufficient to purchase the property and pay closing costs. State law prohibits government agencies from paying more than the appraised value for real property.

If the two parties cannot reach agreement, the City has said they will invoke condemnation procedures, rather than jeopardize the City's water supply.

Most of the loan would be repaid by logging some of the proposed acquisition, but not in the same configuration as the originally planned cut.

Volunteers needed for committees

Washington County is seeking volunteers for the following boards and commissions:

- Adult Behavioral Council
- Aging and Veteran's Services Advisory Committee
- Commission on Children and Families
- Developmental Disabilities Council
- Housing Advisory Committee

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Application deadline is March 19, or until all vacancies are filled. Members must be Washington County residents.

Applications and descriptions of all the boards may be obtained by calling 503-846-8685, or online at www.co.washington.or.us/cgi/boards/commis.pl

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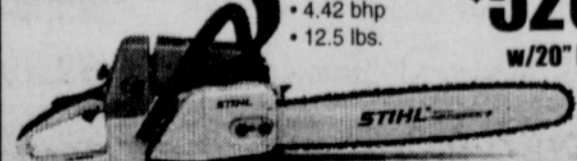
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