

Banks council selects timber harvest plan; reviews alarm policy

Timber sales, review of the policy concerning police department response to alarm systems, and a park maintenance agreement with the Arbor Village Homeowner's Association were all part of a lengthy meeting for Banks City Council, March 12.

Council heard presentations from two firms that expressed interest in the city's intent to harvest timber in order to purchase land needed to protect its watershed. Richard Allison, of Greenscape Forest Systems, presented two options to council—first, a land trade and second, a timber sale. Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc. presented a straightforward timber cut management plan. After discussion of the two options Councilor Ryan Birr moved to accept the plan presented by MSG. Birr cited the difficulty in comparing the two proposals and the need to raise funds quickly in order to accomplish

the city's goals within the fiscal year.

Excessive false alarms may result in fines

Councilor Tim Hardie, who is a guidance counselor at Banks High School, had asked for a review of the city ordinance regarding police department response to false alarms from alarm systems. The ordinance, adopted in October of 2000, established fees for excessive false alarms. A property with more than four false alarms in one calendar year can be charged up to \$100 for each response to a false alarm. The police department has discretion in whether or not to impose the fee in any given instance.

Police Chief Daryl Crandall presented the board with information on all of the alarms received since January 2001. The school district had a total of 49 alarms in 2001 and were charged for only nine of the calls. To date, in 2002, the po-

lice department has investigated six alarms at the district. One alarm resulted in citations.

Crandall also told the council about the policy of the Washington County Sheriff's Department. In the county, permits are issued for alarm systems on an annual basis. If more than four calls are received from one location in a permit year the county revokes the permit and will not respond to alarms. The county also places a lower priority on alarm calls than the Banks PD does and may not respond immediately to an alarm call. Hardie thanked the chief for his informative presentation. After discussion the council took no action.

Review Greenway Park maintenance contract

The agreement between the city and Arbor Village Homeowner's Association (AVHA) for the maintenance of Greenway Park will expire in October. According to city attorney Jim Lucas, the agreement was established to give AVHA a voice in how the city manages park maintenance. The cost is in-

cluded in the contract signed by homeowners when they purchase a home in Arbor Village and become part of AVHA. Because four of the city council members are members of the AVHA, Lucas will handle negotiations for the city. Mayor Bob Orlowski suggested that council members submit to Lucas written statements of their opinions.

Orlowski presented a letter from the Banks High School Equestrian Team for sponsorship. Councilor Teri Brandstir expressed concern about setting a precedent by using city funds for this kind of activity, even it is a worthy program. Birr concurred, adding that Banks has an "equestrian culture" and it does tie in to the Linear Park. Hardie informed other council members that the program received no funding from the school but that, as a council member, he was concerned about granting contribution requests. Birr noted that councilors could contribute individually. No action was taken on the request.

The first meeting of the budget committee was held Friday, March 15. Mayor Orlowski said that there are still two openings on the budget committee. Presently, the committee is composed of the mayor, city councilors and community members Jeanette Garnsey, Alan Cathcart, Brian Biehl, Robert Murdoch and Kirk Andrews.

In other business, council:

- Approved a resolution transferring funds from the police department to personal services, which have increased because of the retirement of the previous city recorder.
- Approved a change in payroll services.
- Granted an exclusive franchise for solid waste management to Swatco Sanitary Services, Inc.
- Declared April 1-7 Community Development Week in order to recognize the importance of the Community Development Block Grant program (CDGB). Materials about the program and about projects completed in the city with CDBG funds will be on display during that week.
- Heard a presentation from Brad Sinns on the final report from the Oregon Downtown Development Association.
- Scheduled a discussion on compensation for mayor and councilors for the April meeting.

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