

Duckworth appointed to council; police levy will go to voters again

In addition to discussion of the Parks Maintenance Agreement, as reported in the June 19 issue of *The INDEPENDENT*, Banks City Council conducted other business at their meeting June 17. The council is now back to full strength, with the appointment of Heidi Duckworth to fill the council position vacated by Brock Banks (who moved to Idaho).

Mayor Bob Orlowski reported that Washington County Sheriff Ron Gordon approached him last month about the prospect of Banks and North Plains sharing a Washington County deputy as police chief for both cities. Gordon's proposal required both cities to participate because each would pay half of the salary. According to Orlowski, North Plains declined to participate, citing reasons of local control and the importance of the chief's day-to-day presence. Banks council members expressed similar concerns. Since North Plains had already declined to participate, no action was needed from Banks.

Council discussed the failure of the police levy, which received a majority of "yes" votes,

but lost because only 42.8 percent of registered voters cast ballots. To pass, the levy needed a "double majority," with at least 50 percent of registered voters casting at least 50 percent of their ballots in favor of the measure.

Orlowski told council that there is a definite reduction in police service, though officers are trying to meet the city's needs. In addition, city recorder Debbie Deegan is taking care of much of the paperwork. While going door-to-door before the election, Orlowski told the council, he found that most people believed the levy was for an increase in police funding, although it would only continue funding at the current level. Council voted to place the levy on the September ballot.

Councilor Ryan Birr reported that the allocation of the next three years of federal discretionary money is being discussed by the Washington County Coordinating Committee (WCCC). According to Birr, the smaller cities will receive little of these funds, with the bulk of the dollars going to support large projects in the metropolitan area.

After considerable rewording, council accepted an ordinance requiring their approval for the maximum number of hours an employee may work and the benefits package they may receive. During the 2002-2003 fiscal year two library em-

ployees reached the threshold for participation in the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). Orlowski proposed the ordinance as a way to limit "unexpected and uncontrollable expenses." Councilor Kirk Andrews urged the council to meet with all current employees to discuss compensation packages. Future employees will be informed of limitations at the time of employment.

Council member Teri Brandstire told council that, after evaluating different insurance plans, the amount budgeted

appears to be sufficient to offer a modest increase in employee health benefits. Brandstire and Orlowski will meet with the city's insurance broker. A decision on coverage will be made next month.

In other business, council:

- Took no action on a request for funds from Little Guy Football.

- Approved hiring Debby Brown as Water Clerk.

- Approved the sale of a 1993 Ford Crown Victoria and a 32" TV stand as surplus equipment.

- Approved a request to hire two on-call library clerks.

- Reappointed Ed Ohlman to the Library Commission.

- Approved a 5 percent salary increase for the city recorder.

- Continued an abatement determination until a police officer could inform council about compliance.

- Approved application for a special city allotment grant for resurfacing Oak Way.

- Approved a resolution to adopt the budget, make appropriations, and levy taxes for the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Leadership training program is opportunity for Banks

The Ford Family Institute for Community Building has selected Banks as a recipient for their "Ford Community Leadership Program" (FCLP). FCLP is an intensive training that will be conducted over four two-day sessions in Banks, plus a two-day Conference of Communities, which will be held in Central Oregon.

Starting this fall, this will be a wonderful opportunity for around 20 community members, ages 14-74, to increase their skills in communication, conflict management, project management, resource development, volunteer recruitment and more. The training session will be facilitated by Rural Development Initiatives (RDI), which recently co-facilitated the Banks Strategic Planning pro-

cess with Laurel Schweitzer, Banks' R.A.R.E. member.

In addition to an estimated \$5000 worth of free training, Banks will also have the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 from the Ford Family Foundation, for a community project.

An Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from the Banks City Council, Planning Commission, Chamber of Commerce and School District, is currently forming to nominate emerging community leaders. Once they have been invited to apply, the chosen community members will send their applications to the Ford Family Institute, where the final decision will be made on who will be involved. Training will begin in September.

The timing of the leadership training couldn't be more perfect, as a group of about 20 community members just completed a Community Strategic Plan in late June. With goals

such as "Obtain economic growth through environmentally clean industry" and "Enhance lifelong learning opportunities in the Banks Community", the plan also lays out strategies and detailed action plans to reach the goals. Armed with leadership training skills, many of these emerging leaders will be better prepared to carry out the actions in the Plan.

Musicians invited to join new band

The Western Washington County Community Band is starting up in the fall. Weekly rehearsals will be on Monday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the Banks High School band room. The first rehearsal will be Monday, September 22. High school age and older are welcome.

For more information, call Mariana Peters at 503-324-2021 or <tmpeters@teleport.com> by July 1.

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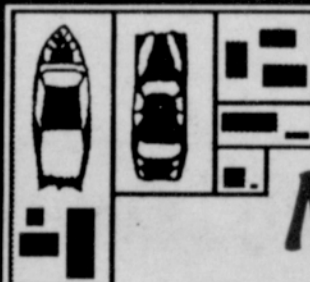
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