

# Banks council hears LOC rep., continues to study city manager position

Banks City Council, continuing to study whether to hire a city manager, received more information at their October 12 meeting, with a presentation from Ken Strobeck of the League of Oregon Cities (LOC).

Strobeck first asked if a decision has been made to pursue a city manager. Councilor Ryan Birr, who, with Pete Edison has researched the question, said the council still has questions about whether Banks would benefit from a manager: Is the

city big enough? Are the needs of department administrators sufficient to dictate a central management? Would a manager have enough to do to justify the salary? Can the city get somebody qualified for what it can offer?

Strobeck assured them that Banks is large enough to benefit from a manager and that several smaller cities are making this transition.

With three council seats and the mayor's position up for election in November, the

council could be very different in January, Birr commented. Because of dedicated work, "and good luck", the city has done very well over the last three or four years, he noted, however, the city needs to look at the future. With growth expected, the city "can't afford not to be ready," Birr said.

Asked for clarification of the salary range being offered, Edison said the range is \$60-\$80,000 annually, and that council has budgeted that amount for a six month period, plus about \$4,000 for recruitment costs, on the assumption that it would take that long to hire a manager. A typical recruitment, according to Strobeck, would take 30-60 days

and, he added, the opportunity to build a city government from the ground up would make the Banks opportunity very attractive in the stated salary range.

Strobeck also introduced the idea of hiring an interim manager and explained that LOC has a list of experienced managers willing to take a temporary position. Councilor Teri Branstitre said she was struggling with the job description for the manager and was interested in the interim possibility as a way to develop a clearer picture of the

position and duties.

Councilor Kirk Andrews said he would like to hire a city manager but, "was afraid to take the plunge." His preference, he said, would be to find someone with the experience and credibility to set up the city government.

Strobeck concluded his presentation by recommending that council members attend the LOC conference, with a main topic of government fundamentals. The discussion will continue next month.



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