

## Nuisance code enforcement, Sunset Speedway are council topics

Banks City Council addressed numerous issues and heard reports on several subjects at their July 12 meeting. Mayor Mike Lyda and council members Brian Biehl, Teri Branstire and Pete Edison attended. Council member Kirk Andrews was absent.

Marshall Decker, Washington County Code Enforcement Officer updated the council on actions taken to abate the public nuisance at the Wilkes and Parmley apartments. Decker cited and fined owner Thomas Lepshat for one day. Lepshat paid the \$494 fine, but the building remained unsecured and problems continued. Decker then cited the owner for 10 consecutive days of code violations; arraignment for that citation is scheduled for July 27. Decker explained that, in other cases, fining owners for multiple days has been successful in motivating them to correct the problem. "I have no mechanism to compel him to abate the nuisance. I can only make him uncomfortable," Decker said.

A neighbor of the apartments said that people were continuing to access the vacant apartment at night and that there was garbage on the premises. Council directed the public works department to securely

board the windows and doors of the open apartment. The city will also ensure that garbage pick up continues. Attorney Jim Lucas is pursuing a lien against the property to pay for prior abatements.

Council continues to work toward adopting a chronic nuisance ordinance which would grant the city more power to enforcing abatements. Councilor Branstire expects to present a draft at the next meeting. Mayor Lyda said "I don't know if we have the cure...It's a slow process. That's why we are working toward a chronic nuisance ordinance."

Mayor Lyda reported that Sunset Speedway's temporary business license had expired June 30. No application for extension had been received by the city and no one represented the speedway at the council meeting. He reported that the speedway had been diligent in attempting to comply with issues that have put their operation in question. They have been ending races by the required time, are attempting to measure noise levels, and are in the process of addressing land use concerns with Banks city planner KJ Won. The speedway has hired a civil and an environmental engineer to look at land use issues.

Lyda felt that Sunset Park needed to be apprised of the situation because it affects the park. Sunset Speedway is a part of Sunset Park, so land use issues and business code violations also impact the privately-owned park. Council decided to send a letter to Sunset Speedway and Sunset Park regarding the expired business license and will continue to monitor the situation.

The city is submitting a proposal to repay nearly \$60,000 of federal COPS grant funds over a five year period with no interest, beginning in December. Council will continue to explore the appeals process, however. Congressman David Wu is assisting the city in this appeal. Looking into possible legal issues, Lucas said, "We need to get this straight with them because of future federal funding." The repayment is required because a COPS grant for police services from 1995 to 2001 was disbursed incorrectly. Lyda said, "The money wasn't spent in the wrong places, but it was out of compliance with the terms of the grant."

Jolynn Becker was sworn in as the city's new recorder/treasurer. Her start date will be determined pending termination of employment at her previous

job. Becker will replace Deborah Deegan, but will work full time instead of half time.

Council also swore in Washington County Sheriff's Deputies Jim Berning and Al Roque. The two officers police Banks through an agreement with Washington County. Swearing them in as Banks officers allows them to include enforcement of city ordinances.

Deputy Berning reported that, because Banks was the only area town to have a large fireworks display this year, traffic and safety issues were huge. He was on duty the fourth of July and did what he could to direct traffic and police the park, but received numerous complaints later. Two Washington County deputies happened to be going through town that night and stayed to direct traffic after the show. Congestion was severe. He suggested that Sunset Park needs to have a plan in place when they host big events. Council added that the large turnout had not been expected. On a positive note, Berning noted that Greenville Park was peaceful on the holiday.

Public works supervisor Tim Grossnickle reported that the exterior of the new public works building is complete. He is working on an agreement with DaySpring Christian Church

and Big Horn Logging to address the repair and paving of the driveway and parking lot shared by the church, the library, the public works building and Big Horn Logging. The parking lot does not drain properly, leaving the handicapped spaces under water at times. Also, the cinder block garbage area blocks views of pedestrians. Repair and paving of the lot will be combined with work on Market Street for a cost savings.

Grossnickle also reported that someone broke into Well Number 1 on June 25 and stole about \$2000 worth of Water Department tools and metal. Washington County Sheriff's Department was notified. Two more locks have been installed to prevent future break-ins. Grossnickle added that moving into the new public works building will secure city property better in the future.

The council currently has two vacancies. Applications from interested individuals are being collected. The mayor will review applicants and nominate replacements. Council will then need to approve his appointments. Appointments may be made at the next council meeting.

Council also adopted an ordinance amending the Banks comprehensive plan to update the city's long term commercial and industrial land needs.

## County seeks volunteers to work with Elder Safe

Washington County is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping seniors by working with the Elder Safe Program and the Sheriff's Office.

Elder Safe volunteers provide emotional support and victim assistance to people 65 and older who have been victims of crime. Volunteers are provided a 40-hour training in victim services and the criminal jus-

tice system.

After the training, hours are flexible and will be tailored to volunteers' interests and abilities. Retired bankers, accountants and attorneys are espe-

cially encouraged to consider this opportunity.

Applications are due by Sept. 1 for the next training in October. Call Maxine Leagjeld at 503-846-2773 for a packet.



### BANKS MINI STORAGE

Pay 1 Full Month and get  
1 Full Month FREE\*

**Move in Truck Available**

*Check us out and you'll want to check in!*

*\*Special available for new customers on sizes up to 10 X 10, for a limited time only.*

**Gates Operate Daily 7 AM - 9 PM**

**Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10 AM - 6 PM Sat 8 AM - Noon**

**140 E OAK WAY, BANKS • 503-324-0552**

**Oak Village  
Laundromat**

4 Jumbo  
Washers

*Air-conditioned  
Easy Access with  
Ample Parking*

located next to  
Jim's Market  
at the junction of  
Hwy 47 & Hwy 6  
Main Street, Banks

**SAVINGS**



## 3 DAY SALE

**Jim's  
Thriftway**

FRI 24<sup>th</sup> Sat 25<sup>th</sup> Sun 26<sup>th</sup>

## SPECTACULAR LOW LOW PRICES

Foster Farms  
TURKEY  
BREAST  
\$3.99 LB.

Hot House  
Tomatoes  
69¢ LB



Don't Forget Jim's Famous  
Bar-B Q Fri. & Sat.

**660 So. Main, Banks • 503-324-2171**