

Public Works head resigns; council reviews planning, funding

Banks City Council held a public hearing November 8 to consider an amendment to the city's comprehensive plan, updating long term housing and residential land needs. City planner KJ Won explained that a forecasting model had been used with census 2000 data to predict growth and housing needs. Income levels and the age of heads of households were included in the model, along with varying building densities, to determine how much land may be required.

The model predicts that Banks will need an additional 104 acres of residential land by the year 2024. Banks has 13

acres available now, so an additional 91 acres will be required. The amendment is a change in language only; no boundaries are changed. It is one step of the periodic review dictated by the comprehensive plan, and looks at future needs. There was no public input.

Council convened their regular meeting following the public hearing, and had a first reading of the resolution adopting the amendment.

Public Works Superintendent Tim Grossnickle resigned his position effective November 8. Council voted to accept his resignation and is considering how best to fill his position.

Mayor Mike Lyda will bring an updated job description to the next council meeting, when various options will be discussed.

The city's annual audit process, now underway, has revealed that funding for the new public works building was not handled correctly. The city used city streets and roads fund to pay for construction, which the auditor determined is not a valid use of street funds. To pay back the fund, Council transferred \$156,000 from the water reserve fund.

Council also put a hold on additional work on the public works building, pending funding and city hiring decisions. The building can currently be used for storage.

City recorder Jolynn Becker presented information on codification of the city's ordinances. Codification involves reviewing ordinances to make them consistent with each other and with state codes and laws, and helps avoid ordinances that are unenforceable or out of sync with the state. Ideally, ordinances are codified on an annual or semi-annual basis. Banks has not codified its ordinances for years.

Cost estimates for codification services ranged from

\$9000 - \$11,000. Becker will have a recommendation for council at their next meeting.

Library commission member Christine Fore appeared before council to talk about how the city might be able to pursue grants. Fore, who has won many grants for non-profit organizations, explained that the best way to win grants is to develop a clear image of what the community needs. A proposed project needs to be viable and of clear benefit to the community. It is also best if the project will eventually support itself financially. She cited community buildings, youth recreation buildings and swimming pools as examples of projects that are a benefit to their community and can be self-supporting. Fore suggested that a first step for Banks would be to spend a year gathering input from the community and determining what the city's highest needs are. A capacity-building grant could be sought to help with planning expenses.

Council approved a one year deferral of the \$13,000 fine against the Wilkes Street Apartments for nuisance violations, as long as there are no additional nuisance citations. Jean Lepschat, who has taken over

the apartments from her son, appeared before council regarding the fine. Lepschat has undertaken extensive repairs and cleaning, and has paid all abatement costs incurred by the city for the property.

Council adopted the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance after it was read for the second time.

Another ordinance, regarding business licenses, was read for the first time. It provides penalties for violations of the license agreement and also requires that non-profit businesses and organizations get a permit, although the fee will be waived.

In the Service

Leah M. Orlowski

Leah M. Orlowski graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.

The 33 days of training provides professional training and evaluation in the aspects of military life, administration and logistical support. Although continued military training and leadership development is included in the curriculum, the primary focus of the course is

to develop and evaluate each cadet's officer potential as a leader by exercising the cadet's intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and stamina. The cadet command assesses each cadet's performance and progress in officer traits, qualities and professionalism while attending the course.

Orlowski is currently attending the University of Oregon, Eugene. She is the daughter of Robert C. and Pamela A. Orlowski of Banks. She is a 2002 graduate of Banks High School.

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