

Airport committee suspended, airport property declared surplus

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Noni Andersen told council that, because the trailer for the park host at Anderson Park was put right at the entrance, the first thing people see is blue tarps covering equipment and firewood. Previously, she said, the park host was next to a storage shed which held the necessary items, allowing the entrance signs and landscaping to be the initial focal point. At Vernonia Lake, she said, the city is losing revenue in spite of heavy use, because no one is responsible for collecting parking fees; that is not in the fran-

chise holder's contract. She also noted that there is no contract with the Anderson Park park host.

Though on the agenda, no one was appointed to the Airport Committee. Mayor Sally Harrison announced that committee meetings would be suspended until further notice, noting that the committee had no funds and no business was underway. At the end of the council meeting, following an executive session on real property transactions, the council declared the airport to be surplus property. There are additional steps required before disposal of the property can take place.

Mayor Harrison also proclaimed April as "Make Vernonia Shine Month", and appointed Judy Steffen to the Learning Center Committee.

City Administrator Robyn Bassett told Council that the city has completed the purchase of 35 acres at the lake, with grant finds from the Oregon Department of Economic Development. She also reported that Waste Management is considering local curbside recycling and increased hours for the transfer station. Decisions on these proposals will likely be made within 60 days.

In other business, Council approved:

- a request from Sentry Market to use their Maple Street sidewalk for storage during a 90 day period while they replace their old storage building with a new one.
- liquor license renewals for the Buckhorn Restaurant and

the Cedar Side Inn;

- the first reading of the Pocket Park ordinance;
- a change of wording for two sign ordinances;
- a state-required amendment to the sewer ordinance;
- a request for a letter of support from the Vernonia Drug

Free Coalition;

- renewal of membership in Col-Pac.
- a retreat on Saturday, April 29, at McMenamin's Grand Lodge in Forest Grove. The retreat will include advisory committees and city staff. The meeting is open to the public.

• an ordinance declaring Real Property No Longer Needed;

• two public hearings on April 17 at 7:00 p.m.; one on disposal of property, the other on annexation.

March 20 Vernonia City Council

At the March 20 Vernonia Council meeting, local pilot Mike Seager said he was at the last three airport committee meetings and they were not well attended. He encouraged Mayor Sally Harrison to appoint new members who would be more active on the committee.

That action was on the agenda, but Harrison said she was seeking more information before making her decision. She said she expected to announce the appointment at the next council meeting (April 3, 2006).

The meeting was adjourned early so mayor, council and staff could attend the Drug Free Coalition meeting at the Scout Cabin with special speaker, Gary Cima.



The March 20 Drug-Free Coalition meeting featured Gary Cima, a Deschutes County Deputy Sheriff, talking about Methamphetamine. Cima had been in Vernonia that day to train 50-60 police officers from Oregon and a couple from Washington. About crystal meth, Cima said, "It's like tentacles of an octopus, spreading to rural areas from the cities." Above, Cima, facing front, is being interviewed by KATU crime reporter Anna Song while a cameraman films. The training was held at the Scout Cabin. Expect to see more police training in Vernonia in the future, including school shooting training that will be held at what was Lincoln Grade School.



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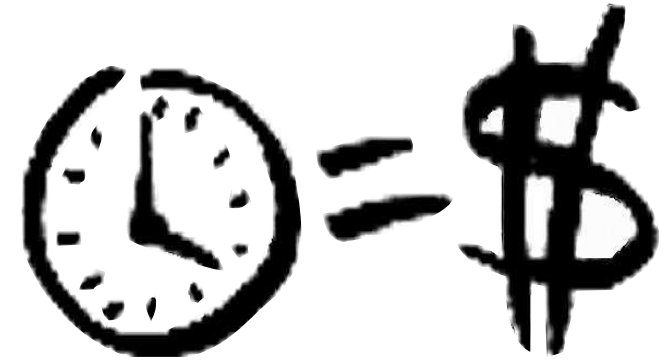
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