

Jason Short, Craig Stewart fill Banks City Council vacancies

City councilor Teri Branstitre presided over the Banks City Council meeting July 12 as Mayor Mike Lyda was absent due to illness. Councilor Brian Biehl was also absent.

Branstitre rearranged the agenda so the two applicants for vacant council seats could be interviewed first. Jason Short and Craig Stewart answered the council's questions. Council voted to appoint them to the vacant seats and they were sworn in and participated in the rest of the meeting.

Short has lived in Banks for one year and brings his experiences with the Cornelius planning commission and the Banks Parks Committee to the position. Stewart is a life-long resident of Banks with many years of service as a volunteer firefighter. His parents also served on city council and the planning commission. Both applicants expressed interest in helping Banks through council service.

Branstitre discussed the schedule for the November election. She pointed out that if the city is to put forth a levy in that election a decision will need to be made at the next council meeting because the deadline for publishing is August 20.

Council discussed putting a levy for police services on the ballot. The levy would be to pay for contracting with Washington County Sheriff's Department, as was done for the last fiscal year. Due to lack of funding, the contract was terminated June 30. Branstitre pointed out that if the levy were to pass in November, police services could be reinstated in July 2007. "As a councilor and a representative of the safety of the city I feel like I need to do everything possible," she said. Pete Edison said that he feels council needs to look at what is best for the city. Short expressed concern that having police services on the ballot for Banks may hurt the chances for the Washington County Sheriff's levy which will also be on the ballot. The November election will not be subject to the double majority rule.

The Mayor's position, as well as three city council seats, will also be up for election in November. Positions held by Dan Keller, Jason Short and Pete Edison will be on the November ballot. August 29 is the last day to file nominating papers. For more information contact Banks City Hall.

Council heard a presentation on the Banks/Sellers Road realignment project from Wash-

ington County Project Manager Barry Hennelly. He said that the project is currently in the stage of acquiring right-of-ways. The project is scheduled to go out to bid in April of next year. Construction will start in May and be completed by the end of next summer.

Hennelly said that the realignment will serve two purposes: Increasing vehicular safety at the railway crossing and accommodating the trailhead for the Banks/Vernonia Linear Trail. To accomplish this, Sellers Road will be rerouted to the east and intersect Banks Road at what is now the parking lot of the Antiques Building. The building will have to be either demolished or moved to make way for the road.

Representatives of the Banks Historical Society asked how the building could be preserved. Hennelly said that the building now belongs to the Oregon Parks and Recreation District. He added that the building had been modified too many times to still have historical value. It is possible that the façade of the building could be removed and saved or incorporated into the trailhead parking area.

Council also heard from Dave Monson, engineer with

LDC Design Group, who reported on the progress made toward developing a Park Master Plan. So far, he has completed the inventory and assessment of what park facilities are currently available to Banks residents, and has started an assessment of the community's future needs. Monson said he will have a completed master plan available by the next council meeting.

Edison, who has been appointed to start the hiring process for the new city manager, brought a proposal from the League of Oregon Cities to facilitate the hiring process. For approximately \$3000, they would draft and place advertisements, work with council to develop a job profile, perform background checks and send out rejection letters to the unsuccessful finalists. Council would be responsible for screening and interviewing candidates. Council agreed that such assistance would be beneficial to the city. Edison will bring a contract to be approved at a future meeting.

The Banks Planning Commission wrote a letter to the council regarding traffic blockages at the railroad crossing on Banks and Sellers Roads. The commission noted that Oregon

Administrative Rules (OARs) limit rail car traffic from blocking a public road to no more than ten continuous minutes between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10 p.m. and to no more than fifteen continuous minutes between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. The commission was told during a public hearing that overlong blockages are a common occurrence, disrupting school bus traffic as well as regular traffic.

Council directed City Attorney Jim Lucas to contact the railway companies, and possibly include letters from Shafer's Bus Service and the fire department, about safety issues involved with the blockages.

**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

Banks Car Show

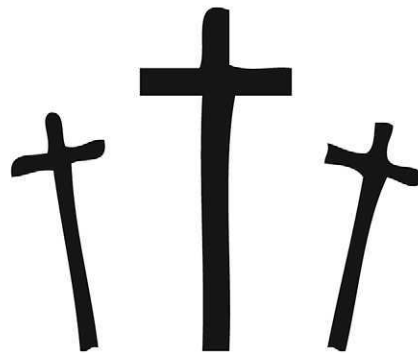


August 19th Sunset Park



BANKS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Jesus makes the difference!



- CHRIST CENTERED EDUCATION
- SMALL CLASSES (PRE-8)
- CARING INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION
- AFFIRMING TEACHERS AND STAFF
- FIELD TRIPS/LABS/MUSIC/ART
- PEACEFUL RURAL SETTING

Phone: 503-324-4500

www.bankschristianacademy.org

25 years - building young lives