

Vernonia citizens show continued interest in Council meetings

The July 17, Vernonia City Council meeting started with comments from citizens. After an explanation from Mayor Sally Harrison that action cannot be taken on items brought up during this comment period (see related information in the Opinion section on page 2) Cindy Ball commented on the fact that at this meeting, there was no council packet for the audience. Helen Johnston then said, "Since we are being educated, can we know how to get something on the agenda?" Mike Seager then told council it was unacceptable that the public cannot get a packet of information in order to be informed and that it is unacceptable to have to pay \$12.00 for said packet. Interim city administrator Dick Kline told the audience that this is the first community he has been in where council packets were generally avail-

able, due to costs, but that the packet will be available in PDF form online at the city's website the Thursday or Friday before meeting dates. Helen Johnston spoke again to say, "Being as we are going to start running a meeting like it's supposed to be run when is there a question and answer period for citizens, when can an exchange take place?" Mayor Harrison answered that town hall meetings are for information exchange with citizens.

George Tice told the audience that he had met with Mr. Kline and a representative from Kennedy/Jenks (the engineers on the sewer project) and Mr. Kline now has a book in his office, *Everything you want to know about Vernonia Sewer*. Tice went on to say the first meeting of the sewer advisory committee would be held this Wednesday (July 19).

Mayor Harrison reinstated the Airport Advisory Committee that recently met and asked them to continue to meet and advise the council on recommended actions for best use of the airport.

Kline told those in attendance that his door is open, the phone works and he likes to get information where and when he can and likes to give information. He went on to say that the community is to be congratulated on being an active, involved community that has accomplished many things.

After two executive sessions, council came back to unanimously approve, with two changes to the language, the police contracts. On the final agenda item, council voted to pay a 3-day penalty (no additional information on this item was provided) and to re-open the Director of Public Works

position instead of waiting for the regular city administrator to be hired and then to hire for this position.

- In other business, Council:
- re-appointed Don Wallace to the Planning Commission.
 - approved the interim superintendent contract.
 - told the planning commis-

sion to look at drafting an ordinance on "regulated uses," which include gambling, adult book shops and other adult businesses.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be August 7, at 7:00 p.m. at Vernonia City Hall.

Kline keeps "Open door policy"

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to prioritize the other projects the city has going, so decisions can be made about what to do with the available staff and dollars.

When asked about his management style, Kline responded, "I like to work with people, I'm a retailer at heart, I like to be involved with committees and commissions. I'm not a loner. I like to make sure when I'm representing government

that it's appropriate and responsive." He went on to say he is very impressed with the level of motivation and enthusiasm shown by the City Council.

Kline and his wife, Mary, live in Cornelius and have five grown children, four daughters and one son. Look for him around town, or go visit him at City Hall, he has an "open door" policy for the citizens of Vernonia.

Community Calendar

JULY 2006							AUGUST 2006							SEPTEMBER 2006						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29														
30	31																			

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Alcoholics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	627 Adams Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., Leonetti's Grill
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6033
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-8133
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Nehalem Valley Car Club		For Info Call 503-429-4074
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Preschool Story Hour	Mondays	10:30 a.m., City Library
Upper Nehalem C.P.A.C.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Venturing Crew 201	1st & 3rd Thursdays	5:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Learning Center	1st & Last Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Tuesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays	8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Behind VHS
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:00 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.