

Kline hired as permanent administrator, says he initiated the arrangement

At their September 5 meeting, the Vernonia City Council unanimously approved a proposed contract for Dick Kline as City Administrator. At the prior meeting, August 21, Council approved hiring Kline, also unanimously, but no contract had yet been offered.

During the August 21 meeting, Kline said that this city is in

Council packets available on the web

One of the newest features on the City of Vernonia's website is the addition of Council packets. The main website is <www.vernonia-or.gov>. For the Council packets, go to <www.vernonia-or.gov/government/councilmeet.asp>. The packets will be added on the Friday prior to each council meeting. In addition, a printed copy of the council packet is available the Friday prior to each meeting at the Vernonia Municipal library.

dire straits right now due to the lack of leadership and continuity. "I was hired in July and was signed up with the League of Oregon Cities, who promotes city government and has a referral system. I put my name in on the interim list because I wasn't sure I wanted to stay in City Administration. Not really understanding what was going

Citizens may address the city council at regular meetings on the first and/or third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. The public is invited to speak during the agenda item "Topics from the Floor."

For more information about City Council meetings and how to add an item to the agenda, contact City Recorder Kate Conley at 503-429-5291, or at City Hall, 1001 Bridge St, Vernonia, OR 97064

on but it became really apparent two weeks ago that this city needs a permanent city administrator and I need to keep working a few more years. It was me, Dick Kline, who called [Mayor] Sally Harrison into my office. I will be gone in September, but I am employable and need to get a job. I brought this to your attention. You have a very serious situation here...I am willing to stay here, but I'm not willing to take myself out of the job market for six months," Kline went on to say.

Mayor Sally Harrison said, "We've had an unusual situation by scrutinizing Mr. Kline for the last one and-a-half months, and I really think he's the man for the job and is a good fit for it." Said Councilor Steve Whiteman, "The thing I like about Mr. Kline is he's a little cranky about the budget... He's handled himself well and all of us have been able to 'interview'

him." Councilor Randy Parrow commented, "He's obviously qualified. His professionalism is top notch and he's a leader." Councilor Shirlee Daughtry spoke directly to Kline, saying, "One thing I really, really like about you is the way you handled the Ridge Rider situation with the lawyers and everybody. You have my confidence and I don't give it easily." The council then voted unanimously to hire Kline.

Kline later made a statement as his staff report, "Reflections on my six weeks here – I'm awed that this community is still here after the loss of the mill in the 50s. It's really amazing. There wasn't even federal funds back then to help. A+ for grit and determination, Vernonia. We really need to change the way we do business here. I want to expand community involvement by committees and volunteers. Most of the work

needs to happen in the advisory committees. I want to close by saying I've got an awful lot of input from people who want me to do stuff right away. I can't do anything for you unless it's in an ordinance. I don't have authority to do anything. I work for the City Council and the Council works for the people." Kline then outlined four items needed for the city;

"1. We want strong leadership in council.

2. Re-assess role of committees to enhance their advisory roles.

3. Re-evaluate the roles of staff – to produce efficient and tangible results.

4. Need to improve order and discipline of processes – we have to all behave and work together.

More on Vernonia City Council meetings on page 17

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

VERNONIA

Al-Anon	Fridays	7:00 p.m.	Grange Hall
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
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.