

Banks City Council schedules public work session for October 26

Sheila McGonigal appeared before Banks City Council at their meeting October 10 to find out the details of police coverage, to lodge a complaint about vandalism, and to find out how she could help to make the community safer. Mayor Mike Lyda clarified that Banks has rural police coverage, the same coverage that is available to those who live outside of city limits. This means that the sheriff's department will automatically respond in life-threatening situations and if there is an intruder present. Response on other calls is at the discretion of the sergeant on duty.

McGonigal has documented car scratching, sidewalk and fence defacement and other acts of vandalism. She was also hit in the head by a rock. "I believe that we have no safe community at this time," she said. McGonigal is willing to help start a neighborhood watch and campaign door-to-door in support of the levy to help the situation. "I am tenacious," she said. Lyda encouraged her to get the facts about the levy – what it would cost and what it would provide – and spread the word.

McGonigal said she had

heard that the city council did not support the levy. Lyda assured her that the council and the city were in support of the measure but, as elected officials, could not campaign for the levy.

Councilor Teri Branstire reported that police calls were down last month, with a total of 29. The drop in calls is attributed to school being back in session and to people thinking that calling won't do any good. Branstire stressed that citizens should continue to call in police issues so that a record can be kept.

Eva Calcagno of the Washington County Cooperative Library Services gave a presentation to council on measure 34-126, the local option levy to maintain country wide library services. It is a four year levy of \$.17 per \$1000 assessed property value. She explained that if the levy doesn't pass, library hours and other services will have to be cut. Passage of the levy would allow the Banks library to continue current services and programs and also to replace some hours and programs that had been cut. Over the last 10 years, the population of the county has increased 26 percent and library

usage has increased 64 percent, but funding has remained flat since 2000.

Council passed a resolution in support of measure 34-126.

Branstire reported for Pete Edison, who was absent, on the progress toward hiring a city manager. She said that 25 applications had been received. Ten candidates were recommended to the city for review. The hiring committee will narrow these down to four or five for interviews. Branstire noted that only one candidate lives in Banks and only one other lives in the state so the interview process may be more expensive and complicated than originally thought.

Council received a proposal from Dayspring Community Church regarding resurfacing of the parking lot. The church and the city have a shared maintenance agreement which says that the city will pay half of the costs on the 4000 square feet that is shared property. The church had received a bid of \$9782, of which the city responsibility would be \$2049. Lyda said that clarification of the work to be done and the bidding process used would be needed before the city could

commit to the project. Council will revisit the issue next month.

Bids were received for two projects at the library. Deegan Painting and Renovations was awarded a \$7445 contract for interior repairs and painting. Griffith Roofing Co was awarded a contract for \$20,223 for repairs to the roof. This bid is a result of value engineering on their part. The company said

that the roofing material is still good and that repairs could be made instead of completely re-roofing. They bid \$31,199 for a complete roof.

Council will hold a public work session, October 26, to review their projects and priorities list. They will also review the ordinances required for the next step of the codification process.

Banks firefighters honor by State

Three Banks Fire District firefighters were honored at the annual State EMS awards banquet in Portland on September 22. The awards were sponsored by the Oregon Department of Human Services, which annually recognizes outstanding effort and achievement by Oregon emergency medical personnel.

Firefighter/EMT Louisa Partain, was presented the state EMS Educator of the Year award for her efforts and commitment in teaching EMT basic courses at Portland Community College. Partain's professionalism and creative methods of teaching challenging subject matter has produced an unprecedented 100 percent pass rate with her students. She has been an active member of the Banks Fire District for 15 years.

Firefighter/EMT Chris Lanter was honored as Oregon's First Responder of the Year. Lanter has been a member of the

Banks Fire District for three years and is currently working toward a degree in Fire Science. His dedication to quality patient care and participation in a high volume of calls for aid have made him a valuable citizen in his community.

Lieutenant/EMT Scott Arlin was awarded a Life Saving Medal for his off-duty efforts and quick action during a wreck on NW West Union Road involving a car and truck carrying hot tar. He kept three trapped occupants from being seriously burned.

Additional recognition was given in Educational Achievement to Firefighter/EMT Scott Adams, Chief/EMT Brian Coussens, Captain/EMT Levi Eckhardt, Firefighter/FR Dale Evers, Firefighter/EMT Kathleen Duling, Firefighter/EMT Kevin Duling, Captain/Paramedic Mark Hornshue, Firefighter/EMT Jonathan Thurman, and Firefighter/EMT Gerry Veley.

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