

City council considers widening search criteria for city manager

The recruitment process for a city manager will be renewed, Banks City Council announced at their April 10 meeting. According to the city, Donald Whitman broke the signed contract for the position. The city has invoiced him for the airfare for him and his family.

Councilor Pete Edison presented some ideas on filling the city manager position, noting that the first time around, the city attracted only experienced city managers. He suggested that the city consider department heads from bigger cities to get a better cross section of applicants. "The last applicant pool was not complete enough. Salary ranges are an issue — bigger cities have bigger salaries," Edison said, "...we should not settle for a lesser candidate." The council was unanimous in deciding to use the same consultant company used in the prior recruitment process.

Mayor Teri Branstire announced that the interview date for the city engineer position is April 27, and encouraged council members to attend and participate in the interview process. Three of the four applicants for the position have been contacted.

The Banks-Vernonia Trail Project should resume, council heard, with an agreement between Washington County, the Oregon Park & Recreation Department, and the Evers family. Details of the agreement were not discussed. Mayor Branstire will ask for a representative from the project to update the council at a future meeting.

Banks resident Marion Steinbach appeared to commend Deputy Tran, of the Washington County Sheriff's Office, for good work in controlling traffic speed on Banks Road, a rural, hilly road that enters the city's residential area on a blind hill. The speed limit

transitions from 55 mph to 25 mph and, according to Steinbach, there is a notable difference in speed since Deputy Tran has been patrolling that speed zone.

Deputy Tran reported a very busy month of March, including an MIP party where eight juveniles were cited and one adult was taken to jail, and a prowler on Banks Road that turned out to be a raccoon.

An ordinance amending a Banks ordinance regarding begging, was approved unanimously after the second reading. The change was needed to conform to state regulations.

A proposed ordinance regulating the possession of replica firearms in public places was discussed. With strong opinions for and against the ordinance, Councilor Brian Keller supported it for public safety reasons; Councilor Craig Stewart opposes the ordinance. Deputy Tran proposed some changes. City Attorney Jim Lucas will review the changes and bring them back for the council to review in May.

No action was taken on amending the city charter. Mayor Branstire asked the council to wait and discuss the amendments at the next city council meeting, when all councilors are present and can participate in the discussion. The city has until September to put any charter amendment on the ballot.

Council approved Jim Branstire for the park committee.

Emergency training for council and staff has been moved up on the priority list. Councilor Stewart said that it was his understanding that government agencies may not be eligible for grants without such training. The emergency training class is a 16-hour training course; it will be provided by the Banks Fire Department.

Banks will go live with new

CUSI utility billing software on May 1. The existing software will run parallel with the new software to ensure all bugs are worked out of the system.

Council deferred action on the water rights recommendation from Schroeder Law Offices, PC, that the city employ a hydrologist to explore additional ground water resources. The cost of a hydrologist should be considered for next year's budget.

The Cross-Connection Ordinance, Backflow Devices, Emergency Water Plan will be discussed at a future meeting. Mayor Branstire hopes to have a knowledgeable speaker from BMI present information to the board regarding water protection and water awareness, who can provide the city with ways to insure city protection regarding back flow issues.

The Public Records Request Policy regarding fees was approved by council. The fee schedule pursuant to ORS 192.440(3), will be available to the public with the parameters of fees and time lines for production for record requests.

Changing the city recorder from a non-exempt position to an exempt position was tabled until next month's meeting.

Council approved Councilor Ron Kemper for the Library Commission, and Councilor Pete Edison for the Transportation Advisory Committee; other councilors volunteered to be al-

ternates. The city now has all of its official committee positions filled, and appointments approved by the board. A letter to the organizations with attendees and alternates will be sent.

Work is continuing on policies regarding email, vacation,

sick time, and compensatory time. The city is waiting for an estimate on the cost of an employee handbook to go with the policy. Attorney Lucas will work with Nick Fish to present a draft to council at the May meeting.

The next council meeting will be May 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Tillamook Forest Center programs

Tillamook Forest Center Programs occur on most weekends at 11:00 a.m. and repeat again at 1:00 p.m. Spring hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, the center will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. seven days a week.

Upcoming programs at Tillamook Forest Center:

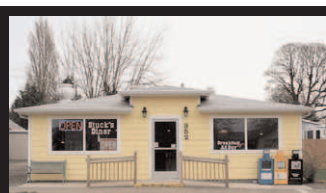
April 21 & 22, Green by Design — In the heart of the Tillamook State Forest lies the Tillamook Forest Center, a hallmark of sustainable design and operation. Join us in celebrating Earth Day and explore recycled glass walls, natural linoleum, a pond with a purpose, boilers that burn wood "waste" and much more.

May 5, Fabulous Frogs — What goes "knee-deep, knee-deep, sings in the night and hops through the forest? That's right...FROGS! We will take a

look at some of the best hiding spots for these moist creatures and how to identify frogs and some of their other amphibian relatives.

May 6, Bluegrass Open Jam — Our monthly bluegrass jam is a celebration of the settlers who lived in the hills and mountains and composed music about their day to day life experiences. The Tillamook Forest has had its share of settlers and homesteaders and we certainly have our share of mountains. Bring your mandolins, fiddles, guitars and banjos and join in the fun. All ages and abilities are welcome. An open jam will occur the first Sunday of each month.

Tillamook Forest Center is located at 45500 Wilson River Highway (Hwy. 6), east of Tillamook. For more information, call 503-815-6803 or go to www.tillamookforestcenter.org.



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