

# Banks City Council discusses change to Charter on role of mayor

The Banks City Council meeting held on May 8, commenced with a packed agenda.

A City proclamation recognizing the week of May 20-26, 2007, as Emergency Medical Services Week, followed a presentation by Jan Lee, of Metro West Ambulance. Lee presented a plaque to Mayor Teri Branstitre and Council in recognition of their continued support of Emergency Medical Services personnel in the City of Banks.

A proposed amendment to the city charter was debated among council. The amendment would extend the mayor's term from two years to four years, and allow the mayor to vote on all issues. Councilors were unanimous that the term change is appropriate, but disagreed about routine votes by the mayor instead of the current system, which allows the mayor to vote only in case of a tie. The proposed amendment was carried over from the April meeting so Councilor Dan Keller could voice his opposition to the mayoral vote portion of the amendment. This Charter Amendment is due to go before the voters on the 2007 fall ballot. Keller held strong to his opinion that the mayor should stand silent and exercise a vote only in the event of a tie.

Councilor Pete Edison said the community should be allowed to know the position of the mayor, arguing that the change "...allows mayor to have a stronger opinion; not allowing the mayor to vote is silly." Keller disagreed, saying, "I think the mayor will be stronger by breaking the tie." After tense discussion on the topic, Edison made a motion to approve the proposed amendment as written. Councilor Brian Biehl seconded the motion. Keller then made a motion to amend the proposed amendment to maintain the current vote status of

the mayor and Councilor Jason Short seconded the motion, which passed with a 4-2 vote. City Attorney Jim Lucas will review the changes and return the proposed ballot measure to the council for approval at their next meeting.

Council approved converting the non-exempt City Recorder/Treasurer Position to an exempt position. A non-exempt position is subject to overtime compensation; an exempt position that is compensated with a salary range will assist the city in budget planning. The council determined that the position will hold exempt status with a monthly salary ranging from \$3,000 to \$4,250.

Kathryn 'Kate' Mattimore, Co-President of Backflow Management Inc. (BMI) provided information to council regarding approved backflow mechanical units and the different features the devices offered. Council was briefed on the hazards of thermal expansion, common cross-connections, and why the installation of backflow mechanisms is required. Mattimore stressed the importance of creating a public education program and a system for notifying customers of the potential hazards. This issue was brought before council due to on-going backflow issues that have arisen in the Arbor Development.

The broken waterline on Wilkes Street which occurred the last week of April has been repaired, according to Fred Evers. When asked if the waterline issue is resolved, Evers responded, "No-just bandages."

Banks has been working with Schroeder Law Offices to determine the city's current water right certificates and permit standing. Following the firm's recommendation, council conceded that they need to obtain the services of a hydrologist to provide the documentation

needed to move forward on the water right permit applications; extensions have been filed.

Council approved, by a 5-1 vote, amendments to an ordinance regulating the possession of replica firearms in public places. City Attorney Lucas will write the amendments into the ordinance for next month's meeting.

Interviews were held April 27 for the position of city engineer. Council will ask for draft contract agreements and proposed rate quotes from the top three candidates — KPFF, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, and Landesign Group.

Edison updated council on the hiring process for the City Manager. The advertisement drafted by the League of Oregon Cities went out this month. The application deadline is June 15.

A Municipal Court system was approved by council for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The court budget includes costs for Municipal Court Judge Virginia Petersen, for three hours a month, and interpreter costs, as well as anticipated funds from fees and assessments. An inter-governmental agreement (IGA) will be worked out with Forest Grove and Cornelius.

Short gave an update on the Park Board's work to replace the colorspot beds by the gazebo in Greenville Park. Of the three choices, replacement of the colorspot beds with six

white and coral Flower Carpet Roses was favorable. The commission is also working on a security plan to help eliminate graffiti in the gazebo.

Jim Branstitre presented background on Greenville Park regarding the agreement made between the City of Banks and Westhills Development. According to Branstitre, no homeowners were given an opportunity for third party input into decisions for that agreement; there were no homeowners at the time the original agreements were made. During the past seven years, the homeowners have funded the park at an expense of \$133,000 which has been a savings to the city. Edison noted that homeowners know what they are getting into when they purchase property in the development; in a prior election, voters in Banks declined to fund the park.

The mayor suggested that a work session be set up prior to next month's council meeting to brainstorm and "develop some community bonding" on this issue.

Edison requested the council to approve budgeting \$10,000 in matching funds to be set aside for "park improvements, not maintenance", as a good-faith effort by the city. Council agreed to request the

budget change at a public hearing.

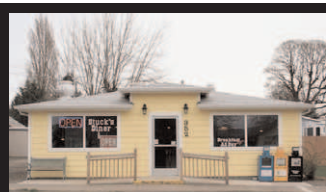
Sunset Park representative Mel Clark reported on Sunset Park compliance and future plans. He said that signs will be posted 'No Pets in Park' after receiving complaints about children having "dog messes" on them. Clark also announced that the Sunset Raceway schedule should now be posted on the park website.

The city is seeking volunteers to fill open Tree Board positions. The tree board will be working with a botanist for future tree planting, and assessment and itemization of trees that currently belong to the city. Interested residents are encouraged to contact Banks City Hall.

Culpepper and Merriweather Circus is due in town, Saturday, May 26. Council commented on the lack of advertisement around the city for this family fun event.

The next City Council Meeting is June 12, at 7:30 p.m. in Banks City Hall.

**Don't miss Culpepper & Merriweather Circus when it comes to town on Saturday, May 26, at 2:00 and 4:30 p.m.**



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| Full Rack Beef Ribs.....        | \$10.00 |
| 1/3 Pork Ribs.....              | \$7.00  |
| Full Rack Pork Ribs.....        | \$21.00 |

**Dinners include: Potato Salad, BBQ Baked Beans & a Dinner Roll.**

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