

Banks Council introduced to new city manager at August meeting

Jim Hough was introduced as the new city manager for the City of Banks, at the city council meeting August 14. He will officially start on August 15.

Hough addressed the council and citizens after being sworn in, saying that he was excited to be the city manager for Banks; that the city has charm and is an interesting place, "I didn't sleep much last night in anticipation" of this meeting. Hough also commented that he was impressed with the interview process, with council and city staff, "there is a lot of knowledge that sits on that side of the table," he said, "it's impressive." He acknowledged that, although he comes to the city with experience, he is always learning and believes in two-way communication; and

that he does not have telepathy.

Hough concluded his comments, saying he is "just waiting to hear back on an offer that I put on a home." Council President Pete Edison and Mayor Teri Branstitre formally welcomed Hough.

The first reading was heard for Ordinance #2007-08-01, which adopts methodology and procedures to implement systems development charges for parks caused some public discussion. Marion Steinbach, a citizen, questioned, "why is it an emergency?" Mayor Branstitre explained that there is some upcoming building in the works. Councilor Dan Keller expressed several concerns with the ordinance.

Greg Henes, of Five Star

Builder Inc., voiced his concerns over the ordinance. He commented that he has been here 15 years and is developing some land on NW Banks Road which is plotted for six homes. Pursuant to this ordinance he would have to pay \$1,800 per home, approximately \$11,000, which he has not budgeted for. With the ordinance, he will be required not only to pay for park development, but also to build a park in the subdivision, which is quite expensive. Henes said that there is not a piece of land in the city to build on that would warrant this expenditure.

Mayor Branstitre commented that the city is exploring expanding the urban growth boundaries. Henes commented that he has heard this for years; Mayor Branstitre interjected that the city is getting closer. Henes requested that the city get back to him on whether he will have to pay these charges, if the ordinance passes, because of where he is at in the application process. City Attorney Jim Lucas didn't know how it would affect Henes; the city will need to get back to him. Edison remarked that the ordi-

nance needs a second reading.

Washington County Deputy Josh Wilson, who is filling in for Deputy Tran while Tran is on paternity leave, gave the police report for July and early August. Crime is up in the city. Deputy Wilson said that there have been three fraud investigations since the last meeting and that he had a call pending for after the meeting. Deputy Wilson commented, "Leave as much personal information as confidential as you can."

Two juveniles were charged with criminal mischief for the damage in Greenville Park that has been under investigation, Deputy Wilson reported. No names were released. Additionally, an \$1,800 custom bike that was left out at the storage shed was stolen, another bike was taken, some domestic disputes, and some parking issues in the development on the private drive have been issues. The deputy does not have the authority to cite parking violation on private drives, although he has been communicating with the car owners that they are parking in no parking areas. The city may need to contact Marshall Decker with Washington County Land Use to resolve the issue, or the fire department may need to take action. He also reported that a 21 year-old is under investigation for sexually abusing two young females over a four-month period.

Two bicycle deputies will be

joining Wilson during the Banks BBQ, distributing public safety information and assisting with enforcement.

Rod Branyan, Acting Director for Washington County Department of Health and Human Services, Disability, Aging and Veteran Services, along with department supervisor Jeff Hill presented information to council regarding strategic planning for 2007. This is done every five years. New planning is being incorporated with the "baby boomer generation" now becoming part of the equation. In 2005 one in eight Oregonians was 65 or older; 68,000 reached age 85; projections show that by 2030 one in five Oregonians will be 65 or older; by 2025 more than 95,000 Oregonians will be 85 years or older, an increase of almost 40 percent. Information is available on the Washington County Web site. Citizens of Banks can also fill out a survey on the web site. Banks city recorder will check on having the surveys sent out with the water bill.

Council approved the appointment of Lynda Goovaerts to the Library Commission.

Mark Schmidlin, Chairman of Children's Activities for Sunset Park, submitted a request to the city for a donation to help defray costs of the Banks BBQ, offsetting costs of prizes for the frog jump and greased pole climb. Council approved a donation of \$200, on a motion by

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