

Banks Council works while enjoying holiday trappings at city hall

The December 11 Banks City Council meeting was held in holiday fashion; a Christmas tree with sparkLing lights, decorations to support the spirit of the holidays, and food boxes covered in wrapping paper to represent the season of giving were displayed in city hall. Mayor Branstitre began the meeting with a reading of the Sonrise Shelter Food Bank non-profit Emergency Food Box program proclamation for the month of December. The mayor invited the generous citizens of Banks to support the food bank with donations of food for the more needy citizens of our fair city.

Doug Walters, an interested citizen, said that the Sunset Speedway had a banquet and encouraged attendees to bring a non-perishable food item to drop off. According to Walters,

the speedway collected 980 pounds of non-perishable food items. Mayor Branstitre and council complemented the speedway for their great contribution.

Walters also requested the support of the city to bring in a big name touring sprint car race on Thursday, July 17, 2008. The race will be held on a day which is not typically a race day, but would be a big event, attracting cars and patrons from Idaho, California and Montana. Walters said, "this will be the biggest title of names that have ever come," to the area; "the group will arrive Thursday day and leave Thursday night." Entry to the event will be more expensive than usual, around \$18 to \$20 per ticket. Council gave their support to the speedway and approved his request unani-

mously.

Ray Deeth, Chamber of Commerce/Historical Society representative for the city, told council that Banks long-time city recorder, Robert "Bob" Prickett, had passed away. Mayor Branstitre thanked Deeth for bringing this to council's attention, saying, "the city will send flowers."

On behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, Deeth encouraged attendance at the Banks Community Christmas Concert on December 15. The chamber also requested that attendees bring a non-perishable canned food item for the Banks Food Bank. Deeth noted that local vocal artist, Alena Sheldon, would perform at the concert. Sheldon's new release, "Loves last stand" is currently playing in Australia.

Mayor Branstitre relayed the city manager's report to council for City Manager Jim Hough, who was unable to attend the council meeting. The city had a lot of activity in the last month. Debi Wyckoff, from Solutions Express Office Furnishing, donated a conference table to the city. The table was displayed in city hall. The city is grateful for her generous donation.

The GameTime playground equipment has been delivered

and is being stored in the Public Works building until it can be assembled at the Greenville City Park playground site. The tentative date for assembling the structure and pouring the cement is April 26, with May 3 for bark installation. The Friends of Greenville Park are seeking grants for about \$14,000 to complete the project.

Mayor Branstitre said the city responded to a request from the Bonneville Power Administration for an emergency donation of water and donated about 3,000 gallons of water to Vernonia to assist with cleaning one of their power substations as part of a relief effort following the devastation suffered in the last storm.

Hough's report included information that the Multnomah/Washington County Rural investment Board selected the Banks well No. 2 Interconnect project as one of 10 high-priority projects on the needs and issues list being forwarded to the state legislative Ways and Means Committee for consideration during the February Special Session. Mayor Branstitre commented that just making it to the list is a big deal.

City Attorney Jim Lucas updated council on the progress of the Banks-Vernonia Trail Project and the Washington County permit process for an easement on the Carsten property. According to Lucas, the Evers family, State Parks and Washington County have

agreed on terms and hope to complete the contract by Christmas. Lucas complemented the Evers family for their participation in the whole process. "The state and county have attorneys on board, the Evers have been paying all of their legal expenses out of their own pocket, they are just local farmers." Lucas also commented that the Evers have had to participate in two legal actions prior to this and noted that they won both times, but at a cost. Lucas also reported, "good news on the Carsten property," saying the county does not need signatures from the owners for the easement. The permit has not been granted but the process is underway.

Deputy Tran reported that 24 calls for service came in from the city this month; he said that there were not any crime arrests and that crime is down but speeding is up. The sheriff's office had time to work Main Street at NW Banks Road and Cedar Canyon; 75 cars were pulled over for speeding.

Tran was excited that the Banks Jr. High School has agreed to let him speak to the students about drug awareness; Tran has been requesting to speak to the Jr. High Students for about a year now.

Tran also wanted to let the city know that he is trying to get the SKID Program presented to high school students prior to

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