

Council okays new position, discusses roles of Kline and Howard

From page 1
I wish this community well.”
After saying at a prior meeting that she wanted a recommendation from the airport committee on the choice of a new member, Mayor Harrison appointed Bud Dow to the vacancy. The airport committee had recommended Rick Gwin. When Mike Seager asked why she didn't go with the committee's recommendation, Harrison said the choice is hers. She also said she had contacted all the council to be sure they were on the same page with her, and that the decision should not have gone to the airport committee.

Kline. For about \$5,000 LOC will solicit applications, screen them, do background checks and provide final applicants for interviewing.

Kline told Council at the November 19 meeting that, because he couldn't get the printer to work right, financial information would have to wait until after the auditors have visited.

After recessing for an executive session to discuss litigation, the council voted unanimously to contract with R. Brown Consulting with a retainer of \$5,000. Councilor Brett Costley asked Kline to find out if the city's insurer, CCIS, will pay for any of this amount.

At the December 17 meeting, Council unanimously approved a new job title of Administrative & Financial Services Assistant/Human Resources Coordinator and were told that the person filling this position would be the Shannon Gillen-

water, who started as the Customer Service Clerk on December 3. Once her position has been filled, City Hall will be back to three administrative positions.

Also at the December 17 meeting, Kline said, “As I get closer to completing the chart of accounts and audit, it's become abundantly clear that we are facing a financial crisis. We didn't have money before and we don't have any now. The assumption I made is that I will remain until a clear transition. My recommendation is, since Aldie [Howard] has done a good job, that he be appointed interim city administrator and that I do Public Works and Financial until it can be expected that we can get a quality city administrator.”

At one of the town hall meetings following the flood, City Planner Aldie Howard was introduced as the Interim City Ad-

ministrator for the Emergency, as Kline was unavailable. Asked after the meeting where Kline was, Harrison said he flew back east Tuesday (Dec. 4) morning for his son's graduation from boot camp and wouldn't be back this week. Councilor Randy Parrow expressed concern about making a decision on these positions when two councilors (Brett Costley and Steve Whiteman) were not present. It was decided to have a phone conference on December 18.

The December 18 meeting was held at city hall with all councilors present (the phone conference was not necessary), but without Kline or Howard in attendance. The discussion focused on having Kline work part-time on finance, public works, the Triad lawsuit, and the budget with no benefits, and having Howard be Interim City Administrator and

Planner. The suggestion was made that perhaps Kline was 'stringing them along' and that council may have made a mistake in allowing Kline to change the financial software to one only he knows, but that now Kline has them "over a barrel" and they'll have to work with him through February and, perhaps, until July before they can hire a new administrator.

When reporter Rebecca Mc-Gaugh asked what they were going to do about hiring a new administrator, Councilor Shirlee Daughtry rather rudely stated, “You can't talk here.” Then Councilor Parrow asked, “Yes, what will we do?” The council, stating a need to save money, decided, by consensus rather than vote, not to use the League of Oregon Cities but to handle the administrator hiring themselves, as they did with the last two city administrators, Robyn Bassett and Dick Kline.

Community Calendar

JANUARY 2008							FEBRUARY 2008							MARCH 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	31			25	26	27	28				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays & Thursdays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
Cub Scout Pack 201	Scout Cabin	For Info Call 503-429-4250
Friends of the Library	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library
Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2		For Info Call 503-819-0143
Hands On Art Committee	1st & 3rd Thursdays	4:00 p.m., City Hall
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant
Municipal Airport Committee	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Narcotics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., Head Start Bldg.
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713
Public Works Committee	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.
Vernonia Learning Center	1st Wednesday	6:00 p.m., VLC
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby
Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.