

# Council approves "vague" job description

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The city has said they will contract with him to handle public works, finances, and the budget, although Kline has not been able to provide full 2007-08 first quarter (July through September) expense and resource numbers. This contract will be included in the next council meeting, along with a contract for Aldie Howard to act as Interim City Administrator.

Council discussed a new job description for the city administrator position that Dick Kline wrote. Councilor Steve White-man commented that the qualifications portion seemed vague and Councilor Brett Costly agreed, saying, "Yes, it's kind of just whatever council considers qualified is qualified." Council unanimously approved the new job description.

Acting Interim City Administrator Aldie Howard asked for and received council approval

for a 'recovery committee' to work on grant opportunities to find funds that FEMA doesn't provide to complete the city's flood recovery costs. The committee includes Tony Hyde, Dan Brown, Jim Tierney, Scott Laird, Bill Haack, Jesse Jones, Bud Dow, Aldie Howard, Heather Lewis and Paul Epler.

Council also agreed to let Howard contract with Dale Merrell, of CIDA, Inc. to review the sewer issue. Howard said he expected Merrell's analysis to save the city more money than his services would cost.

Additionally, Howard was given permission to contract with grant writer Bill Haack to write grants for the new recovery committee. Haack has agreed to recover his costs through grants, thereby not costing the city anything for his services.

In the City Administrator's report, Howard got council's

approval to sign a six month agreement with Verizon to keep a temporary cell tower in Vernonia, with the expectation that they will pay to site a tower here on a more permanent basis after that.

In other business, council:

- unanimously repealed Ordinance 820 that prohibited remote controlled or radio controlled airplanes at the Vernonia Municipal Airport,
- heard that the Vernonia Community Learning Center now has leases for office space with Columbia County Rider, Columbia Community Mental Health and Vocational Rehab. that will provide monthly income of \$450.00.

The next meeting of the council is scheduled for January 22 (due to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on Monday, January 21) at 7:00 p.m. at the Scout Cabin, unless FEMA has left city hall by then.

# Flood insurance draws negatives

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"Let's talk about forestry as it relates to weather. In federal forests we are paying dearly for neglect. Woody material on the forest floor causes fires," responded Wyden. County Commissioner Tony Hyde spoke up to say that 99 percent of the trees in Columbia County are not federal forest, but privately owned. Hyde added that Columbia County and FEMA just spent an hour discussing mitigation including raising houses.

On a comment about flood insurance 'lowballing' people, Wyden asked for a show of hands and six people in the crowd responded. When asked how many had good experiences with their insurers, two hands went into the air. Wyden then asked his staff to meet with the people who had problems.

"Many of us have had heaters running since December 5 to try to dry out our

homes. Is there any Federal help for extra heating and energy costs associated with the flood?" asked one person. Wyden responded that, "I'm going to push to up the assistance for low income (heating assistance). I think we'll have support." Commissioner Hyde then spoke up to say that West Oregon Electric Cooperative has said they are going to average out people's bills and not

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## Volunteers needed

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Donations are still being accepted. The greatest current needs are for money and building materials. Building materials needed, according to Tierney, include plywood, underlayment, insulation, insulation and insulation. Please call 1-503-791-9675 if you have items to donate.

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# Community Calendar

VERNONIA			MIST-BIRKENFELD		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays & Thursdays	6:30 p.m., Head Start Bldg.	M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue	M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library	M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library	M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin	M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church	M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	6:30 p.m., City Hall	M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018	Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081	T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.	Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
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			
BANKS			COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church	Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church	Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post	Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall	County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13	County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Banks Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library	Mental Health Advisory Comm.	3rd Tuesday	10 a.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 550 N. Hwy. 30
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library	Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	2nd Tuesday	3:00 p.m., 2nd Floor, Courthouse
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.			

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.