

Banks City Council passes three new ordinances about vehicles

Councilor Pete Edison presided over the February 12 meeting of Banks City Council in the absence of Mayor Teri Branstitre. Councilors Brian Biehl, Jason Short and Ron Kemper provided the quorum needed to conduct business.

Audrea Fogue, senior associate governmental relations manager for Hometown Voices, made a power point presentation on effective advocacy in your hometown. The mission of Hometown Voices, a grassroots advocacy program started in 2004 by the League of Oregon Cities, is to influence decisions that legislators make about issues that impact our communities.

The council's voice is important, Fogue said, "...we can't tell the stories that you can tell; city officials do not get paid for what they do - you do it because your care very deeply for your community." Fogue suggested that council send copies of city council agendas to our legislators so they are informed about the issues facing the community.

According to Fogue, while millions of dollars are contributed to campaigns, few legislators have served in local elected offices. Just as consumers let legislators know

how they are affected by decisions made by legislators, elected officials need to be the balance. In closing, Fogue commented that council's communication is important. "If you like something your legislators are doing, let them know; if you don't, respectfully agree to disagree."

Jeff Hood, Banks Planning and Public Works Intern, presented an assessment of his just completed sidewalk inventory. The goal of the project is to implement and track progress toward maintenance and accessibility.

The maintenance portion was to evaluate pedestrian accessibility for deficiencies and potential hazards. Hood identified specific features of pedestrian routes that do not meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines. The condition of the sidewalk system was rated by three geographic scales. Features identified as deficiencies are cracking, spalling, displacement, sunken, raised, ponding, missing panel or piece of panel, patch and heaving. Each deficiency presents a risk to pedestrian safety, and was rated for low, medium or high severity, and extent of the hazard.

Hood identified the target ar-

reas as southern Banks Road, the Wilkes Street cul-de-sac, Banks Estates and City Hall.

The aged, highly hazardous sidewalk on rural Banks Road has deteriorated and does not connect with the rest of the pedestrian network, Hood reported. He recommended that it be removed, with replacement scheduled when pedestrian need presents itself. The end of Wilkes Street has a narrow sidewalk with spalling and extensive sunken spots, resulting in displacements at the curb, which create tripping hazards.

Banks Estates (which may be classified by the Department of Justice as new construction), has a two-foot wide, tree-lined planting strip, which is adding to the problem of uplifted sidewalk and driveway aprons, with excessive cross-slope at every lot. The sidewalk at City Hall presents significant hazards and should be remedied first, according to Hood, because the city could be held liable for injuries. In addition, potentially dissenting property owners would be more receptive to a program of sidewalk improvements if the city sets an example.

City Manager Jim Hough thanked Hood for his informa-

tion and told council that "...Jeff has his Masters in mathematics; he started at ground zero (with this sidewalk project)." Hough added that the product Hood developed is "awesome." Edison presented Hood with a certificate from the city and a gift certificate.

Deputy Tran reported that calls for police service in the city were about double from the prior month; 30 calls resulted in 3 arrests; 72 traffic stops resulted in 29 citations. Tran said that an arrest has been made in the robbery at the NAPA Auto Parts store.

A resolution adopting the Swatco rate change passed unanimously. Swatco President Rich Weitzel said that new roller recycling containers should arrive in about eight weeks and the program should start in May, but will not be later than August 1.

The estimate for repairs to Banks City Hall was presented to council. After reviewing the estimate and looking at the budget, council unanimously approved the expenditure and the repairs.

Hough received a late proposal for the Well #2 Interconnect Plan, and was surprised at the cost "...this is really expensive; it sort of chokes us. This is

higher than the ball park figure." Edison, agreed with Hough, saying "This is lots of money. I would like to have the rest of council here." Council tabled the decision for a month.

Three ordinances came before council: An ordinance regarding impoundment of vehicles was passed with Councilor Kemper opposed. An ordinance modifying Ordinance 70.40, about illegally parked vehicles, was adopted unanimously. Also adopted unanimously was an ordinance that makes it an offense to park a vehicle in a fire lane located on privately-owned premises that are open to the public. Fire Chief Brian Coussens was present to answer questions from councilors.

The Banks Library Commission made a recommendation regarding terms of office and presented a draft ordinance, written by librarian Denise Holmes, amending the Code of Banks, Chapter 32. City Attorney Jim Lucas said it is a "wonderful revision; if she (Holmes) wants to go to law school, she's got my name as a recommendation." Council will consider the change next month,

The next city council meeting will be held on March 11, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.

Banks High announces Honor students

From page 12


Zach Evers, Darcy Haboush, Jenny Helm, Tiara Herr*, Tasha Lyda*, Taylor Matyasz, Christy McCarthy, Hank Meeuwse, Kelsee Miller, DeeJay Pickar, Michelle Quirk, Rebecca Renault*, Shaylin Roberts*, Hayden Sahnaw, Jessica Selfaison*, Chris Shaw*, Sierra Sil-

ver*, Todd Vergotis*.

Freshmen - Mark Acosta, Megan Chalupsky, Max Edison*, Samantha Elwood*, Kiciah Gibson*, Sarah Grover*, Cassie Halls*, Allison Hancock, Mack Kellas, Aaron Kemper, Jessica Markham, Chelsea Mathews, Arley Sanchez, Joe Schorn, Colby Seyferth, Koby

Shaddon, Kaitlin Sommerfeld*, Garrett Soper, Felicia Wilson.

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