

Council starts administrator hiring; puts old City Hall up for sale

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dent for portraying city hall and employees in a biased fashion and publishing stories filled with inaccuracies and half-truths. Councilor Randy Parrow then handed the city a check for \$160.00 given to him by a citizen to pay Mr. Simmons arrears and get his water turned back on.

Katrina Connor speaking "as a citizen" said she was not pleased with the actions of Howard, adding that council should think seriously about who they hire because, when she comes to city hall, she's seen Howard be "rough and tough" to other citizens and she doesn't like it.

Heather Lewis told council that attendees at a meeting on the potential lease of a strip of city-owned property behind Muffy's and The Buckhorn were told the meeting was being

taped. The next day, upon requesting a copy of the tape, she was told that the tape recording was not available. Lewis said it was unfortunate that council couldn't hear what occurred at that meeting. City Recorder Joann Glass said "There was no need to keep recording so the tape was stopped." Lewis responded that, "We all were told it was being recorded."

Council authorized city staff to contact the League of Oregon Cities to begin the hiring process for a city administrator to replace Howard.

Following a public hearing on proposed changes for Waste Management, council unanimously accepted the proposal. Waste Management's rates will be increased effective July 1, but curbside recycling service will be added on an every-other-week schedule.

Waste Management will send a letter to all customers with the new rates and service options before July 1.

A proposal from the Parks Committee was approved that will change the park host contracts, move Anderson Park host Bill Yeo to Vernonia Lake, and provide for hiring a new park host for Anderson Park.

Council approved two Parks Committee requests: One to use \$500 of their budget to buy fish for stocking Vernonia Lake in late spring, before it is stocked for the KUPL fishing derby; the second to close the lake to fishing two days prior to the event. *[At a study session on April 28 council learned that the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife will not allow the closure of fishing in the lake unless the whole park is closed. Council agreed that they did not want to close Vernonia*

Lake Park altogether.]

After coming out of an April 21 executive session, Old City Hall was declared surplus and council told Howard to list the building with a local realtor for \$150,000 plus or minus roof repairs. *[At the April 28 study session, Howard told council he had listed the property with realtor Sharon Bernal, who also leases the building.]*

In other business, council;
 • appointed Dick Kline as Budget Officer for 2008-2009,
 • heard Harrison accept the resignation of Heather Lewis from the Planning Commission,
 • approved the liquor license renewal for New Hong Kong Restaurant,
 • heard that the next Bridges Planning Group Vernonia 2020 meeting will be May 3, at 10:00 a.m. at Vernonia Community Church,
 • voted (with flood victims

Councilor Parrow and Mayor Harrison abstaining) to apply for a Community Development Block Grant for a flood recovery housing rehabilitation program,
 • received a handout from Jim Tierney regarding services provided to date by the Columbia County Flood Assistance group.

Three executive sessions were held. Because *The Independent* questions the legality of one of the sessions there is a related article in this issue.

At the April 28 study session, Howard told council that the city received \$3,000 from the film company that was here last week and that council can decide how that money should be spent.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be April 5 at City Hall starting at 7:00 p.m.

Community Calendar

VERNONIA			MIST-BIRKENFELD		
Alcoholics Anonymous	Monday	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street	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	BANKS		
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193	Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant	Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Municipal Airport Committee	4th Thursday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Narcotics Anonymous	Saturdays	7:00 p.m., 410 North Street	Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Pioneer Museum		For Info Call 503-429-3713	Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Public Works Committee	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Banks Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Cares Directors		For Info call 503-429-1414	Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia City Council	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
Vernonia Community PTA	3rd Thursday	7:00 p.m., WGS Library	Banks Youth Group	Sundays, Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg.
Vernonia Grange	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., Grange Hall	Chamber of Commerce	1st Thursday	12:30 p.m., Fire District Office
Vernonia Health Center	2nd Monday	6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St.	CPO 14	3rd Monday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Learning Center	1st Wednesday	6:00 p.m., VLC	Friends of the Library	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall	Lions Club	1st & 3rd Mondays	7:00 p.m., Brown Derby
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., City Hall	Sunset Park Assoc.	3rd Wednesday	8:00 p.m., Gun Club
Vernonia Pride	3rd Thursday	1:00 p.m., City Hall	T.O.P.S.	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.
Vernonia Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center			
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station	COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)		
Vernonia School Board	2nd Thursday	6:00 p.m., District Office	Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Vernonia Sr. Center Board	2nd Friday	1:00 p.m., Senior Center	Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Vernonia Transfer Station	2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m.	Behind VHS	Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes
Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	1st Thursday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station	County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fire Station	County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
WOEC Directors	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., WOEC	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.