

# Banks Council agrees with Planning Comm. on Sellers Rd. change

A public hearing was held before council at the May 13 Banks City Council meeting. The hearing was held to hear an appeal of the Banks Planning Commission's decision on March 4, 2008, to approve a proposed realignment of NW Sellers Road on property at 42425 NW Banks Road in the General Industrial Zone.

Shell M. Sheldon, of Sheldon Oil Company, who was appealing the decision, was represented by attorney Dean Altman. Washington County, which proposed the alignment, was represented by County Counsel Lorrie Skurdahl, Project Planner Matt Meier, and Rob Saxton, County Surveying/Engineer Design.

In addition to oral arguments and exhibits, citizen testimony was offered. Matt Pihl, who owns and operates Pihl Excavating, commended Washington County for making accommodations to the realignment project after he brought some concerns to them. Pihl, "[I] don't see our vehicles being able to use Sheldon Fuel Station," Pihl testified, because the low-boy truck cannot make the sharp turn without the extra access point that is available at the Shell station on NW Banks Road. Tom Maller, truck driver for Pihl Excavating, added that the current outlet is tight with a dump truck.

Sheldon commented that commercial use averages 48 accounts daily for log trucks, agricultural trucks, dump trucks, etc. Sheldon said his concerns are twofold – safety for truck drivers making sharp turns and that, without the access onto NW Banks Road, the loss of commercial accounts to his station.

Marion Stinebach, a long time resident of Banks, who said she observes many large vehicles using the filling station during her night-time walks, noted that citizens complain about how horrible the intersection is at NW Banks Road/Sellers Road and Hwy 47 but, excluding the one recent accident, there have not been accidents at that "horrible intersection; I can't imagine what it will be like with the realignment."

Depending on the city's decision, said Joe Younkins, Washington County Project Delivery,

if the access management plan is not upheld and ODOT takes over, the city and Washington County will lose all control. Alternatively, council can uphold the Planning Commission's decision and Washington County will work with the city to develop workable ideas.

At the conclusion of the hearing, the packed city hall room remained quiet as the audience listened and waited patiently for council to carefully deliberate all aspects of "public convenience and safety." After much consideration, Council President Pete Edison moved to uphold the Planning Commission's decision with a strong recommendation that ODOT consider using lights for the railroad crossing, instead of installing gates. The motion carried, with Councilor Craig Stewart in opposition.

Deborah Deegan was sworn in as a city councilor. City Recorder Jolynn Becker administered the oath.

Mayor Teri Branstitre proclaimed the week of May 18-24 as Emergency Medical Services Week. Branstitre encouraged the community to recognize those who provide lifesaving care and medical services to those in need 24 hours a day – seven days a week. She noted that quality emergency care improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury, and spoke of the thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education of

physicians, emergency nurses, technicians, paramedics, firefighters, educators, administrators, and others involved in emergency medical care.

JD Fuiten, General Manager of Metro West Ambulance and Metro West Paramedic Spencer Oliver presented a certificate of appreciation to Mayor Branstitre for the City of Banks.

Deputy Tran reported that Washington County received 31 calls for service in Banks, there were four arrests and 36 traffic stops resulted in 12 citations. Tran commented that crime in the city seems to occur between 12:00 midnight and 4:00 a.m. so he will be adjusting his schedule in an effort to provide wider coverage.

Tran said that three burglaries are under investigation. Two of them, he believes, are youth related (stolen X-Box 360 and Lap Top Computer in one of them; a break-in and theft of \$850 worth of pop and candy in the other); the third burglary involved theft of power tools. He added that detectives have some leads.

Other incidents included distribution of controlled substances, an assault at Banks

High School, graffiti at the Shell Station, and shoplifting at Jim's Thriftway.

Banks Administrative Assistant Angie Lanter outlined work on a plan to improve parking, distributed a packet of photos with information on signage and painting, and recommendations for council consideration. Lanter has been working on the project with Fred Evers of Banks Public Works and has been using the project as a "community awareness" issue with residents.

City Manager Jim Hough commented to council that "we want to show you how proud we are – are we heading in the right direction?" Edison cautioned to "not be overzealous but I charge you to enhance community and not take away." Council expressed approval with the work Lanter and Evers have done so far.

Former city councilor Jason Short was appointed to the Greenville City Park Management Committee.

The next council meeting will be June 10 at 7:30 p.m.



Deborah Deegan took the oath of office to become a Banks City Councilor at the May 13 council meeting.

**June 15 will be the last day this year for backyard burning in Banks. Public notice will be given when burning can be resumed, sometime in the fall.**

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