

Ford Family Group asks Council to approve their pennant project

The Banks City Council meeting on July 8 was held with a bare quorum of Mayor Teri Branstitre and Councilors Deb Deegan, Pete Edison and Craig Stewart.

Branstitre proclaimed the evening of August 5 to be Banks National Night Out and invited the citizens of Banks to join the Greenville City Park Management Committee, the National Association of Town Watch, and TARGET, Inc. to support the 25th Annual National Night Out. National Night Out is a unique nationwide crime, drug and violence prevention program that joins forces with thousands of other communities across the country to promote cooperative police-community crime prevention efforts.

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Tran reported to Council that there were 40 calls for service in May, two arrests, and 56 traffic stops which resulted in 14 citations. In June there were 30 calls for service, four arrests, and 21 traffic stops resulting in two citations. Tran noted that that the traffic count was down because he had a recruit and the focus was on crimes.

City Attorney Jim Lucas submitted a proposed ordinance change regarding social gaming and gambling within the city limits. According to Lucas, the way the current ordinance reads, "You can't play monopoly in your house for money." A local business owner is requesting that his establishment be able to hold Texas Hold'em Tournaments. Bingo and lotto are not considered gambling so long as the provisions of ORS 65.100 (2) are complied with.

West Hills Tract 9, the unde-

veloped land east of Arbor Village has requested that the city lift the performance bond that they have been paying into for the last 10 years. The bond was created to ensure that certain required items would be done in order for them to develop that piece of property. The one remaining item is development of a rail crossing in Tract 9 to allow access in and out of the development. West Hills is proposing that the bond be replaced with an agreement which will be attached to the land deed. Council authorized Lucas and City Manager Jim Hough to draft the documents required to allow West Hills relief from the bond.

After reviewing the city's 2008 Sanitary Survey corrective action plan, the state wrote Banks Public Works that it looks excellent. All but a few items have been corrected. The goal is to have all remaining deficiencies corrected by August 31.

Two citizens appeared to address concerns for consideration by council.

Stephanie Jones concern was the illegal fireworks on July 4. Jones said that she "came to vent to someone who can do something about it" and suggested that maybe the fire department can have volunteers

seize illegal fireworks or write citations. Jones was distressed that illegal fireworks landed in her backyard. Deputy Tran asked if she called to report the incident and Jones replied that she had not. In response, Tran told her that the fire department does not have the training or authority to do what she is asking. Councilor Stewart said that illegal fireworks should be "enforced statewide or make them legal...it is out of control." He also commented that Oregon should be collecting the tax dollars instead of Washington with all the illegal fireworks crossing the state line.

Tina Lyon requested that council make a decision on whether or not she can remove the trees on the planting strip between the sidewalk and the street on her property. In April Lyon sent a letter requesting permission to remove the trees because they are "starting to lift the sidewalk; we have been proactive and we don't want to be responsible for personal damage." City Manager Hough explained that the problem is being worked on with the Tree Board, notwithstanding that tree removal can happen in the fall or early spring. The earliest time the city can do anything is in November.

Paul Pedersen, Director of

9-1-1 Washington County Consolidated Communications Agency gave a power point presentation about the agency. The agency operates under an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between Washington County and surrounding cities, including Banks. WCCCA dispatches all calls for police, fire, or medical assistance to the citizens of those cities. For the 2008-2009 budget year, the agency has approved a 13.7 million dollar budget. Twenty percent of revenue comes from 9-1-1 tax dollars, with the remainder coming from user fees. Last year, Banks' fee for dispatch services was \$6,001. WCCCA handled 1,279 calls for service from Banks.

Jolynn Becker and Christy Greagor proposed a Banks Beautification Project plan to council. The two are participating in the program as part of the Ford Family Group. In their effort to improve the look of the city, they are hoping to display pennants all the way through

the entire city. Currently the chamber displays holiday pennants during the winter holiday season. The plan that Becker and Greagor proposed is to change pennants three times each year. The project through Ford Family Group must be completed within one year. Questions for council to decide are who is going to be in control of changing the pennants, where will they be stored, and who will be in control of the calendar – the city or the chamber? Raymond Deeth said that "on behalf of the chamber, I welcome their enthusiasm."

The next city council meeting will be held August 13, at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.

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