

Police dep't. rumors dispelled; funds coming for housing rehabs

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sewer hookup at all. She asked how we (the city) got so far in debt and asked council to consider basing fees on usage and giving a break for those who don't use as much.

The rates discussed at the hearing would increase water rates by \$7.00 per month, sewer rates by \$16.00 per month, the park fee would go from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per month, and the out-of-city library rate would increase to \$40.00 (from \$30.00) per year. The temporary \$11.50 sewer charge, said Johnson, will come off after the November bills, so there will be a one month overlap (November) if new rates are approved at the next meeting.

Noni Andersen spoke from the floor to bring up a rumor that the interim chief of police (Mike Kay) is being paid more than former chief Mat Workman received and is being paid overtime. Johnson said those

rumors are false. A resolution read later in the meeting, that expressed support for the Vernonia Police Department, was also said to have been drafted to dispel another rumor, that the police department was to be dis-banded. That's also false, said Johnson.

Council approved a contract with the Vernonia Area Chamber of Commerce to handle the city's business license process in return for a portion of the license fees paid. The city will receive the first \$7,000, the chamber will get the next \$2,000, then will get 40 percent of any money collected over the first \$9,000.

The city has been awarded a \$500,000 Oregon Community Development Block Grant and, with a matching Columbia County grant, there will be \$1 million to be used for flood recovery housing rehabilitation. Council unanimously approved the acceptance of these funds.

Johnson told council that the deadline for city administrator applications was now past and 16 applications have been received. He went on to say that, on paper, the applicants appear to be good candidates. The number of applicants will be narrowed to 7-8 and discussed in executive session at the next meeting.

After an executive session to discuss real estate transactions, Council voted to accept an addendum to the sale of the city-owned 20 acres that allows the buyer until June 30, 2009, to pay the purchase price. Johnson said the sale price is \$450,000.

In other business, council;

- approved the appointments of Susan Goodhope to the Library Board, George Tice to the Budget Committee, and Liz White to a second term on the Library Board

- met Seth Lenaerts, a RARE student who will be

working on Vernonia's Master Plan

- saw a new map of Vernonia showing all city-owned property

- approved a second reading

of Ordinance 854, replacing Ordinance 678, establishing the office of city administrator.

The next council meeting will be held at city hall on October 20 starting at 7:00 p.m.

One topic, two ballot measures

Two measures on the Nov. 4 ballot deal with crime and punishment. Measure 57 is a referendum from the state Legislature; Measure 61 is a citizen initiative. If both measures are approved by voters, the one with the most Yes votes will become law.

Both measures specify increased mandatory sentences for manufacturing or dealing methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin or ecstasy, for identity theft, and for property crimes. Measure 57 also increases the penalty for stealing \$10,000 or more from a person aged 65 or older, while Measure 61 adds mandatory sentencing for for-

gery.

Two major differences are: M57 requires mostly longer minimum sentences than M61, but allows drug/alcohol treatment for certain offenders with punishment for failing to successfully complete treatment; provides grants to assist counties with funding jail operations, drug courts, treatment services and supervision of addicted offenders on probation or parole.

M61 requires mandatory sentences in state prison facilities for all first-time offenders; reimburses counties only for pretrial detention costs. It has no treatment component.

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Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Monday	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
American Legion Post #119	2nd Thursday	7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue
Arts & Crafts Society	2nd Thursday	2:00 p.m., City Library
Booster Club	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., VHS Library
Boy Scout Troop 201	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin
Boy Scout Troop 860	Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., LDS Church
Cemetery Beautification Comm.	2nd Thursday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
CERT	4th Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-3018
Chamber of Commerce	2nd Wednesday	For Info Call 503-429-6081
Community Coalition	2nd Monday	12:30 p.m. School District Ofc.
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., 410 North Street
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	2nd Wednesday	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	6:00 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, 3rd & 4th Tuesday	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

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-BRFPD Board Workshop	4th Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Ambulance Drill	1st & 2nd Thursdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Fire Drill	1st & 2nd Wednesdays	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Helping Circle	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B SAR Drill	3rd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
M-B Volunteer Assoc.	1st Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Natal Grange	2nd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall
T.O.P.S.	Mondays	6:00 p.m., Main Fire Station
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-2401	7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station

BANKS

Alcoholics Anonymous	Fridays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesdays	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesdays	7:30 p.m., Main Street Post
Banks City Council	2nd Tuesday	7:30 p.m., City Hall
Banks Fire District #13	2nd Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Station 13
Banks Library Commission	3rd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Library
Banks Planning Commission	Last Tuesday	7:00 p.m., City Hall
Banks School Board	2nd Monday	7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library
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.

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesdays	10 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Soil & Water District	3rd Wednesday	7:30 p.m., NRCS , 2514 Sykes
County Fair Board	2nd Monday	7:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Monday	6:00 p.m., 1054 Oregon St.
Mental Health Advisory Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211
Comm. on Children & Families	3rd Thursday	5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 505 N. Hwy. 30
Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm.	Quarterly	For Info call 503-397-7211

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.