Council's time occupied by variety of considerations

Vernonia's City Council met on April 20 and May 4.

On May 4, a public hearing was held, then council approved Resolution 6-09 that allows release of funds for flooded home buyouts. This makes the 25 percent of the funds available that will be used together with the 75 percent FEMA funds to purchase homes. Those homes will be destroyed and the land will be ineligible for structures, to be used as greenspace only.

Also on May 4, council heard a joint presentation by County Commissioner Tony Hyde and Mark Ellsworth, the Governor's Economic Revitalization Regional Coordinator for our area. They told council that the Governor set up the Oregon Way committee to work on stimulus money issues and that Oregon Way has identified $91 million in stimulus funds they would like to use in Vernonia to build schools, put in infrastructure, put in a self-sustaining electricity system using biomass, move WOEC, and help lift houses affected by the Flood of 2007.

After an executive session held to discuss personnel, council approved candidates to be interviewed for the next round of City Administrator hiring. They set a date for the interviews of Sunday, May 17.

In other business, council;

• approved the vacation of a portion of East Ave. between C and D streets. Since a portion of East Ave. was vacated in the past, council was told that this portion of the street would never be built out,

• approved the usual street closures for Jamboree,

• heard that $536.00 in fees were collected at Vernonia Lake the weekend of April 18-19,

• approved expenditures for items requested by Interim Police Chief Kay that totalled $7,606.50 and included repair of one ICOP camera and installation of two other camera systems. The largest item was $5,083.50 to equip the 04' Ford F250 with emergency equipment,

• approved resolution 7-09 that sets fees for use of the Vernonia Community Learning Center. Rumor had it that the courtyard area would only be available for rent, but council was told that the area will be open to the public though it may be rented for private use (like the covered picnic area at Anderson Park or the gazebo in Hawkins Park),

• agreed to recommend a full liquor license for Black Bear Coffee Company,

• repealed Ordinance 624, that required that anyone holding a garage sale to obtain a permit from City Hall.

Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson told council there will be a public hearing tonight, May 7, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall with the Planning Commission to look at the city's Stormwater Master Plan.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be May 18 at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

Safety seat clinic at Vernonia RFPD

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sites around the county, including the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS), Community Action Team (CAT), OHSU Scappoose Clinic and Columbia Health District/Public Health.

For more information about the child safety seat program, contact ACTS Oregon at 800-772-1315, or Columbia River Fire and Rescue at 503-397-2990.

Planning panel needs members

The Columbia County Board of Commissioners is soliciting applications from county citizens who are willing to serve on local Advisory Boards, Committees and Commissions. These committees help shape public policy for the county.

The County is currently seeking applicants to fill two (2) vacant Alternate positions on the Columbia County Planning Commission. All applicants will be reviewed, considered and interviewed. If you are interested in serving on this committee, contact the Board of Commissioners office at 503-397-4322, or you may obtain an interest form on the website www.co. columbia.or.us.

For detailed information about the Planning Commission, contact Todd Dugdale, LDS Director, at 503-397-1501.

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
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	2nd 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
Upper Nehalem Watershed Council		For Info Call 503-429-0869
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	9:00 a.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	1:00 p.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	6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg.
County Parks Commission	3rd Tuesday	Times vary, 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.