

Banks City Council hears from citizens on Gun Club and UGB

Banks City Council heard from several citizens at their June 9 meeting. David Duyck spoke regarding the temporary closure of the Sunset Park Gun Club's shooting range and concerns about lead that is landing in a neighboring field. According to Duyck, testing on lead in the ground concluded that in the "sweet spot" lead is about six inches deep. Samples were taken at three-inch increments. The club has located a company that will collect the lead for scrap, at little to no cost. Duyck said that the park needs to increase in size.

Dale Evers appeared to comment on the Urban Growth Boundary Expansion (UGB) project. Among several concerns about expanding to the west, were that he did not want the expansion to disrupt or reduce the value of Sunset Park and the standard of living of the people around the park. Additionally, he said that the land west of Hwy. 47 is a flood plain, "the ground is wet and not desirable, with springs all around. I have got my swather stuck out there in the middle of June." Evers also questioned expanding to the east, and whether a new housing development near the already established 15 year-old development might affect the value of those houses.

Another eastside concern regarded safe traffic access into a new development off Main Street, with three schools and a park. "Get to know your developer," Evers told Council. "The developer who owns that land is not a real good neighbor to the city — he is a multi-millionaire who the city could not afford to litigate with — ask North Plains and be smart and cautious about the developer you choose."

Christine Fore, of Banks Ford Family Foundation Leadership, appeared to discuss the Main Street pennant project. Fore asked to be put on the agenda for next month's meeting so council can make some decisions about insurance, volunteer files, scheduling of calendar changes between the city and the chamber, and to establish the organization and transmission of reports with update maintenance for the next five to ten years. Fore also submitted a draft time-line and budget.

Banks is looking for a company to complete work on signage for the city, and received signage samples and a DVD presentation on prison programs and quality of workmanship from a representative for the Oregon Corrections Enterprises "Inside the Wall". The

representative was unable to attend the city council meeting; no decision has yet been made.

Deputy Tran reported on law enforcement activity in the city for the past two months. In April the Sheriff's office received 33 calls for service, made three arrests, initiated 35 traffic stops and wrote 17 citations. In May, there were 42 calls for service, one arrest, 32 traffic stops and 19 citations.

Tran told council that he, Deputy Woods and two reserves will be in the city during the Banks BBQ. The Fourth of July will likely be a busy time in Banks, as well, as Banks was reported to be the only place in Washington County with fireworks this year.

City Manger Jim Hough provided information on several

subjects:

- The Washington County Reserves Coordinating Committee has endorsed scaling down the urban reserves study area, and is beginning to review specific properties for recommendation to the Metro Reserves Steering Committee.

- The City of Banks was notified that its application for an ODOT Small Cities Economic Stimulus Program Grant was

declined.

- Cameron Crop instituted an open records request regarding his past water bill; his water bill has been paid up to date.

- The city is proceeding with upgrades and replacement of parking markings on the south side of Depot Street.

- Washington County Operations and Maintenance Division

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