

Council meeting leaves Interim Police Chief red in the face

Vernonia's City Council, at their July 6 meeting, approved a new ordinance establishing a non-smoking area within the swimming area at Hawkins Park. This ordinance went into effect on July 7 and signage was expected to be in place that same week.

Most of the rest of the meeting was dedicated to various police issues. Two citizens, Helen Hudson and Phyllis Krieger, spoke up to thank the police. Hudson said the police did a good job on the 4th of July. Krieger said she had, "been reading articles and other stuff in the paper. I don't know if the letters and stuff are correct but I know they have been responsive to me. Anytime I or anybody I know has needed them, they've been there (flood, snow, whatever)."

Interim Police Chief Mike Kay provided council with a

copy of the department's new Service Level Goals, which include a goal to respond to high priority calls in less than 5 minutes (on average) and respond to at least 75 percent of calls immediately. Another goal is to have a high profile/high visibility police patrol: Kay said, "That's why we took the time to get all the cars painted the same and marked the same."

Kay told council that the city needs a School Resource Officer, but that position will be filled only if a three-year stimulus grant is received. "I believe our schools ought to be the safest place on earth for our kids," Kay said. He also told council that the Vernonia Police Dept. had 200 police calls for service at the Vernonia schools between September 1 and June 15 of this school year.

Using an agenda item listed as "Rumors", Kay went on a bit

of a tirade, at one point red in the face, voice raised and glaring at recent police critic Ed Johnson, who was in the back of the room, while saying "Another rumor is that our officers aren't committed to this community. That's not true, that's wrong, our officers are dedicated. My question to the community is 'Do you want us to go, if so, what are you going to do when we're gone?'" apparently referring to a letter to the editor saying that officers should live in Vernonia. Before that Kay said, "Regarding the article about an unjust beating in the paper...one author said he's never called for police, we have responded there 16 times and have 11 police reports on the person we tasered; drug abuse, runaway. I think the citizens should know the facts. Another article in the paper that was rumor was that the subject

who called for service has had over 130 calls from that one household, one involving her son and a gun. The subject is also under a stalking order, she's the stalker." Council appeared to appreciate Kay's comments, giving him a standing ovation when he finished speaking.

After that, the new City Administrator, Bob Young, handed out a letter to the editor (See page 3 for the version of the letter that was submitted for publication) regarding the police and their handling of a recent arrest.

In other business, the council:

- approved the second reading of Ordinance 859, repealing Ordinances 123, 618, 633, 669, 695, 795, 709, 710, 711, 721, 798, 804, 833, and 851. Ordinance 859 now incorporates all of those previous ordinances

into one land use and development code,

- heard Mayor Harrison appoint Janelle Cedergreen to fill a vacancy on the Vernonia Community Learning Center Committee,

- were told that the Airport Committee has approved Mike Seager's request to build a new hangar at Vernonia Airport and that new lease papers will be drawn up for this hangar,

- approved a declaration of surplus on miscellaneous playground equipment and a 500 gallon heating fuel storage tank,

- heard that the city has a new Emergency Preparedness Committee and that members are being sought. The deadline for applications for the committee is today.

The next City Council meeting is scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall on July 20.

Community Calendar

VERNONIA

Alcoholics Anonymous	Mondays	6:30 p.m., 410 North Street
Alcoholics Anonymous	Thursdays (Big Book Study)	7:00 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
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
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 429-0869	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.