Hearing held on City urban growth expansion for schools siting

The packet of information for the September 8 Vernonia City Council meeting was more than half an inch thick. Most of the paper related to the public hearing on the expansion of the city's urban growth boundary (UGB) to allow for schools to be built on the 'boot site', which includes Spencer Park, plus the land behind and to the right of the park.

Prior City Administrator Jim Johnson presented the information to council for the UGB hearing. For the city's part, the change would be an amendment to the Vernonia Comprehensive Plan that expands the UGB by three tax lots. These three tax lots are not currently inside the city limits and Oregon land use laws require a very complicated process in order for cities to expand. The reports presented gave background, discussed the school district's decision-making process for choosing the site and concluded with, "The proposed plan amendment package complies with applicable Statewide Planning Goals and provisions of the Vernonia Comprehensive Plan."

Testimony in favor of the UGB change included a statement to the council by Vernonia school board chair, Jim Krahn, that if this change doesn't happen, "You won't be here, as there won't be a city…please move this forward with no changes as quickly as possible." School district Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox said that, if the bond was to fail, they will try again to get a bond passed, and he encouraged council to move this item forward.

No one spoke in opposition to the UGB change and the first reading by title of the change was approved. There will be a second reading of the new Ordinance 862 at the next council meeting.

The next step in the process of siting the schools, is that Columbia County must approve the designation of this property as urban, approve the annexation and the zone must be changed.

Later in the meeting, council approved a resolution in support of the $13 million school bond.

Council approved a resolution taking money from contingency funds to back-fill budgeted amounts for police, airport, Vernonia Community Learning Center and streets. These were necessitated by information gained when the audit for the year ending June 30, 2008, was completed. Due to personnel and system changes causing delays, the audit was not completed until August 20, 2009. The correct final ending balances, and thus the new starting balances, were not known until the audit was received.

Police Chief Frank Grace told council that Officer Shawn Carnahan earned the Outstanding Shooter Award during the Basic Police Class he successfully completed on August 21.

DeAnna Pearl, of the Vernonia Prevention Coalition, handed out information about upcoming classes, including one for parents and youth (10-14 years) on strengthening families, that will start October 5 and run for seven sessions. Pre-registration is available by calling Sonia Spackman at 503-429-6540.

In other business, council;

• with their consensus, heard the Mayor appoint DeAnna Pearl as ex-officio member of the Vernonia Community Learning Center committee.

• with their consensus, heard the Mayor appoint Tony Gilbertson to the Public Works Committee.

• approved a resolution updating the Columbia County Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

• approved a resolution making changes to the city's workers compensation program for volunteers.

The next council meeting will be held on September 21, starting at 7:00 p.m. in City Hall.

RECALL: Clatsop Co.

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tifying their actions. If they do not resign, then the recall election must be held by October 27.

More information about the District 1 recall effort is available at www.recallJeffHazen.org or 503-298-3006. For District 5 information, contact www.Did5.org or 503-755-2415.

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.