

Council approves wastewater option if okayed by DEQ/EPA

A packed house greeted Vernonia's City Council at their November 16 meeting. The room cleared considerably after the previously delayed pinning ceremony for the promotion of Mike Kay from Sergeant to Captain on the Vernonia police force. Kay's grandfather pinned the new badge on him, as his mother and others looked on. Police Chief Frank Grace told Kay, "It's been a long time coming to you, you've worked hard and earned it."

Next on the agenda was a presentation by foreign exchange student, Anisa Mukhtorova from Tajikistan. Mukhtorova made a Powerpoint presentation with slides to show the council what her country was like.

Mayor Sally Harrison read a letter addressed "Attn: Mayor & Chief" from Vernonia resident Virginia Kepner thanking them for all the improvements achieved with this city and

"wishing you all the best this Holiday Season."

Council unanimously approved a proposal presented by previous Interim City Administrator Jim Johnson, on the selection of a wastewater alternative. Johnson has continued to work for the city in a consultant capacity to develop plans for upgrading the city's wastewater treatment system. The city's Public Works Committee had reviewed options, narrowed them to five and sent them, with their recommendation, to council for approval.

The option that was approved calls for eliminating half the current sewer lagoons, raising the remaining lagoon configuration by about two feet, and using the additional space to form wetlands to help 'scrub' the water clean. This was determined to be the simplest, least expensive option with a price tag estimated at \$5.5 million, including operating costs.

Johnson told council that the system would serve the town for the next 20 or more years (based on a population of up to 3,000) and with a 40-year loan would cost the citizens \$25.00 or less per month on their utility bill. A full report on financing options was promised for the December 7 council meeting. The council's approval was contingent on approvals by the regulatory agencies (DEQ and EPA) prior to arranging for financing or construction.

Dennis Weller addressed council, "to bring to your attention a sewer backup and overflow at my residence." Weller said the problem has existed since December 1990 but an October 28 occurrence caused the worst damage to his house. He said that after repairs were started to fix the damage to his home, he learned that the insurance would pay for only \$1,000 for the repairs, which were estimated at over \$3,000.

He also said the city had admitted fault, and he wants the problem taken care of with the city paying the cost of repairs.

After an executive session to discuss litigation, potential or actual, council returned to regular session and a motion was made to pay Weller the remaining \$2,300 for the home repairs on a contract to be drawn up by the city's attorneys saying the City would not be held responsible for future occurrences in the absence of city negligence. The council unanimously approved the motion.

In other business, council;
 • approved Resolution 4-09 amending the Airport fees. Council was told that this was a housekeeping matter intended to correct the fees to the amounts the Airport Committee had recommended.

The next council meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on December 7, at City Hall.

Two complaints filed regarding 47J school bond

In the wake of the passage of Bond Measure 5-197, that allows the Vernonia School District to sell bonds of up to \$13 million to use towards building new schools out of the flood zone, two families have filed complaints with the district's Superintendent Dr. Ken Cox, the Vernonia School Bond Committee, the Oregon Department of Education, and the Department of Revenue. According to Aaron and Kandis Sewell and Lance and Kara Kemper, they filed the complaints November 8 and 9.

The complaints list concerns about how information on the measure was disseminated to area voters and whether an assembly held on November 4 was a political event prohibited by Oregon law.

See Complaints, page 5

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