

Council approves Budget officer, Budget Calendar

A short agenda kept the Vernonia City Council busy for just over an hour on March 1.

Council approved City Administrator Bob Young as Budget Officer for 2010-11 and approved the budget calendar. The first meeting, with public hearing, is scheduled for April 6, 7:00 p.m., at City Hall. Young noted that there are two openings on the budget committee, adding that he will discuss them with council at the March 15 meeting.

Sam Potter spoke from the audience with concerns about keeping sidewalks clear around his 4th Street neighborhood. Problems he mentioned included trucks parked in driveways that also block sidewalks, sidewalks where leaves haven't been cleaned up, bushes that spread into the right-of-way, and dogs allowed to run loose

to do their business in his yard. Police Chief Frank Grace asked Potter to provide addresses so these issues can be brought to the owners' attention.

Council approved Resolution 02-10 transferring some property to Gordon Smith and Chuck Hendrix that was inadvertently left out when the city swapped the land where the FEMA trailers were with the land where City Hall and the Library were built. Councilor Randy Parrow abstained from this vote due to his connection with Smith and Hendrix.

Resolution 03-10 was passed, as requested by Jim Tierney on behalf of flood victims, stating that decks (rather than just stairs) add value to homes being elevated. Tierney said the resolution would help Unmet Needs work through some rule issues with the

CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) that have arisen about the use of CDBG funds for decks.

Councilor Cindy Ball asked what was going on with the project at Staley's Junction to make that intersection safer and easier to get onto Hwy. 26. She was told that ODOT is no longer considering an overpass, but is working toward just making a full center turn lane on Hwy. 26.

Ball then made a statement alleging bad behavior by the person arrested and tased last March by then Interim Chief of Police Mike Kay, as a rebuttal to a letter to the editor in the February 18 issue of *The Independent*.

The next City Council meeting will be on March 15, at City Hall, starting at 7:00 p.m.

ODOT will close tunnel for needed work

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traveling though the tunnel.

ODOT recently completed a constructability review of the project and wants to share the findings with the public. Both the original relining and lighting work and the vertical clearance improvements will require tunnel closures. Relining and lighting improvements must be done next year. A decision needs to be made about whether or not to add vertical clearance to the project. A major factor in making this decision is the type and duration of required tunnel closures. ODOT wants to receive feedback from the public before a final decision is made.

To minimize impacts to the

coast during tourist season, no closures will take place during the summer months or spring break.

ODOT has scheduled two more meetings (one was held March 1) to hear from the public. The next two meetings will be:

- March 10, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Seaside at the Seaside Civic and Convention Center, 415 First Ave.

- March 16, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. in the Banks High School cafeteria, 450 S. Main St.

This \$12.86 million project is currently slated to start construction in 2011 with detours to take place on Hwy 47 and Timber Road which will add about 15 miles to most commutes.



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 Garden Club	2nd Tuesday	1:30 p.m., Vernonia 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	10:00 a.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	Friday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
Alcoholics Anonymous	Wednesday	7:30 p.m., Methodist Church
American Legion Post #90	2nd Tuesday	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	Sunday, Wednesday	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
Everybody's Hometown Band	Tuesdays	7:00 p.m., BHS Music Room
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.	Wednesday	7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg.

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

Board of Commissioners	Wednesday	10:00 a.m., Courthouse
Citizens for Senior Justice	2nd Tuesday	7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church
Columbia Comm Mental Health	1st Tuesday	5:30 p.m., 58646 McNulty Way
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