

Council adopts 1997 strategic plan without any recommended modifications

At the May 17 Vernonia City Council meeting, an item that was added to the agenda at the beginning of the meeting caused the most discussion.

A document given to council did not indicate who wrote it, but was read by councilor Kevin Hudson (see related article on page 1). The document suggested a motion that said, "I move that Council direct the City Administrator to investigate an intergovernmental agreement with another city for the purpose of establishing a partnership in a municipal court system, and to present the resulting options and make a recommendation at the next Council meeting on June 7, 2010." The supporting data stated that Vernonia police are not getting a "satisfactory level" of service from the Justice Court. Council unanimously approved the motion.

proved the second reading of Ordinance 866, which officially adopts the city's 1997 strategic plan without any of the modifications recommended from the process held early this spring with consultant Paul Koch. Council members discussed wanting to adopt the plan, then get committee, commission and community input on possible modifications. No time frame was set for that process.

After holding an executive session (closed to the public) to discuss real estate negotiations, council returned to the regular meeting and made the statement that they "...need an evaluation of where utilities are to determine, in an expedient manner, how much property we need or want to buy, and check with the engineers on how the road got built and determine any reason we might want to buy all this property."

Council approved a list of

nine more flood buy-outs (to be demolished) presented by Dan Brown from the Unmet Needs Committee.

City staff, Joann Glass and Public Works Director Bob Ruhl, asked council to allow them to redraft the utility ordinances and evaluate the associated fees. The evaluation will include consideration of making property owners responsible for water payments, rather than renters. Council gave them the go-ahead on this request.

Representatives from the Vernonia Ridge Riders asked for city help with problems at the arena, including a need for gravel, a broken water shut-off valve cover and an increasingly large sink hole. City attorney Jeff Bennett advised the city to send a public works person down to the site, the following day, to take care of any safety concerns before the next arena event to be held this weekend.

In other business, the council:

- heard from the Mayor that the Vernonia Lions Club will celebrate the grand opening of the temporary wheels park, at the old tennis court on school grounds, on the 4th of July. Volunteers and donors can contact

Larry Snethen at 503-819-5636 to help with the project.

- heard from Chief of Police Frank Grace that one of the officers (Jeff Dalrymple) resigned on May 11, and that the department will begin the process of hiring a replacement.

Use of right seat belts saves lives

From page 1

straint use is the number one way to prevent injury or death if you or your children are involved in a crash.

Oregon law requires:

- Infants to ride in rear facing seats until they are one year old and 20 pounds.
- Children over one year old between 20 and 40 pounds must be in a forward facing car seat.
- Children who weigh over 40 pounds must be properly secured in a booster seat until they are 8 years old or 4'9" tall.
- Children who are over 8

years old or 4'9" and all adults must be properly secured using seat belts.

NHTSA recommends that all children under 12 years old ride in the back seat. Research indicates that riding in the rear seating area reduces the risk of injury by 37% for that age group.

Additional information regarding child passenger safety can be found at www.actsoregon.org. The Sheriff's Office is dedicated to promoting and improving traffic safety through education, deterrence and enforcement.

Community Calendar

| VERNONIA | | | MIST-BIRKENFELD | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Mondays | 6:30 p.m., 410 North Street | M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg. | 2nd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Thursdays (Big Book Study) | 7:00 p.m., 410 North Street | M-BRFPD Board Workshop | 4th Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| American Legion Post #119 | 2nd Thursday | 7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue | M-B Ambulance Drill | 1st & 2nd Thursdays | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| Booster Club | 2nd Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., VHS Library | M-B Fire Drill | 1st & 2nd Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| Boy Scout Troop 201 | Tuesdays | 7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin | M-B Helping Circle | 2nd Monday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| Boy Scout Troop 860 | Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m., LDS Church | M-B SAR Drill | 3rd Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| Cemetery Beautification Comm. | 2nd Thursday | 6:30 p.m., City Hall | M-B Volunteer Assoc. | 1st Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| CERT | 4th Wednesday | For Info Call 503-429-3018 | Natal Grange | 2nd Wednesday | 7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall |
| Chamber of Commerce | 2nd Wednesday | For Info Call 503-429-6081 | T.O.P.S. | Mondays | 9:00 a.m., Main Fire Station |
| Community Coalition | 2nd Monday | 12:30 p.m. School District Ofc. | Upr Nehalem Watershed Council | For date call 429-0869 | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| 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 | BANKS | | |
| Izaak Walton League | 3rd Thursday | For location call 503-429-7193 | Alcoholics Anonymous | Friday | 7:30 p.m., Methodist Church |
| Lions Club | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant | Alcoholics Anonymous | Wednesday | 7:30 p.m., Methodist Church |
| Municipal Airport Committee | 4th Thursday | 7:00 p.m., City Hall | American Legion Post #90 | 2nd Tuesday | 7:30 p.m., Main Street Post |
| Pioneer Museum | | For Info Call 503-429-3713 | Banks City Council | 2nd Tuesday | 7:30 p.m., City Hall |
| Public Works Committee | 4th Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., City Hall | Banks Fire District #13 | 2nd Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., Station 13 |
| Vernonia Cares Directors | | For Info call 503-429-1414 | Banks Library Commission | 3rd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., City Library |
| Vernonia City Council | 1st & 3rd Mondays | 7:00 p.m., City Hall | Banks Planning Commission | Last Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., City Hall |
| Vernonia Community PTA | 2nd Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., WGS Library | Banks School Board | 2nd Monday | 7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library |
| Vernonia Garden Club | 2nd Tuesday | 1:30 p.m., Vernonia Library | Banks Youth Group | Sunday, Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg. |
| Vernonia Grange | 3rd Monday | 7:00 p.m., Grange Hall | Chamber of Commerce | 1st Thursday | 12:30 p.m., Fire District Office |
| Vernonia Health Center | 2nd Monday | 6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St. | CPO 14 | 3rd Monday | 7:00 p.m., City Library |
| Vernonia Learning Center | 1st Wednesday | 6:00 p.m., VLC | Everybody's Hometown Band | Tuesdays | 7:00 p.m., BHS Music Room |
| Vernonia Parks Committee | 3rd Wednesday | 6:30 p.m., City Hall | Friends of the Library | 2nd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., City Library |
| Vernonia Planning Comm. | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 7:00 p.m., City Hall | Lions Club | 1st & 3rd Mondays | 7:00 p.m., Brown Derby |
| Vernonia Pride | 2nd Thursday | 1:00 p.m., City Hall | Sunset Park Assoc. | 3rd Wednesday | 8:00 p.m., Gun Club |
| Vernonia Ridge Riders | Last Thursday | 7:00 p.m., Senior Center | T.O.P.S. | Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg. |
| Vernonia RFPD Board | 2nd Tuesday | 6:00 p.m., Fire Station | | | |
| Vernonia School Board | 2nd Thursday | 6:00 p.m., District Office | COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.) | | |
| Vernonia Sr. Center Board | 2nd Friday | 10:00 a.m., Senior Center | Board of Commissioners | Wednesday | 10:00 a.m., Courthouse |
| Vernonia Transfer Station | 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. | Behind VHS | Citizens for Senior Justice | 2nd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church |
| Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc. | 1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Fire Station | Columbia Comm Mental Health | 1st Tuesday | 5:30 p.m., 58646 McNulty Way |
| Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters | 2nd Monday | 7:00 p.m., Fire Station | Columbia Soil & Water District | 3rd Wednesday | 7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes |
| WOEC Directors | 3rd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., WOEC | 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 |