

Chief Grace recommends continuing Justice Court for Vernonia

Before the regular Vernonia City Council meeting, a study session was held to look at options for property acquired by the city through FEMA post-flood buyouts. Buyout properties cannot have buildings on them in the future and council has considered leasing the space to adjacent or other property owners in exchange for an agreement to mow and maintain the properties. They decided to hold another meeting, on this topic, and scheduled a workshop for July 12 at 7:00 p.m.

In the regular meeting, council unanimously approved a contract with ColPac for Bill Haack to serve as Pro-Tem City Administrator. They then held a public hearing on the 2010-11 Fiscal Year Budget and received a revised Budget Message from Haack. Council approved a tax levy of \$5.8163 per \$1,000 of assessed proper-

ty valuation (the same rate as last year), agreed to accept state revenue sharing (a formality) and adopted the 2010-11 Fiscal Year Budget as presented by the budget committee.

In the adopted budget, the estimated income for the General Fund is \$869,979.00, down from the first draft budget amount of \$1.2 million. The new estimate is in line with amounts received in previous years and offers a conservative estimate. Departments dependent on the General Fund all took cuts to bring the budget into balance.

The portion of the meeting set aside for comments from the floor became a community conversation after Sam Semerjian, owner of the Blue House Café, read a letter addressing his concerns with drainage issues from the adjacent Vernonia Community Learning Center

courtyard, along with statements he said had been made by those working on the courtyard. Semerjian told council that the Downtown Association would volunteer to fix the issue at no cost to the city. Members of the Ford Family Foundation class that is working on the courtyard responded that they had the permits and the approvals, and the concrete would be poured on Friday. Mayor Sally Harrison asked Semerjian to wait for completion of the job and see if that takes care of his concerns about drainage.

The next speaker was Sam Waters, who had issues with his father's water being turned off a few months ago and, after reciting the history, said, "I have attorney fees I want to have paid by the city." Council had no response and went on to the next agenda item.

Councilor Brett Costley, who

was attending his final meeting, said "It's been good and it's been bad. It's the worst paying job I've ever had, but it's been very rewarding." He then said thank you to city staff. The Mayor said, "I can't say enough about the quality of his leadership for the last eight years. It's been a real pleasure," and led a round of applause for Costley.

Police Chief Frank Grace handed out summary reports regarding the discussion about whether the current Justice Court or a Municipal Court would better serve the city. At the end of the report Grace's recommendation included the statement, "In my opinion, the Vernonia Justice court offers a level of service that is affordable."

Grace also reported new department protocols, effective June 17, 2010, requiring all violations to be routed to Vernonia Justice Court, and that citations

may not be routed to courts outside Vernonia, without prior approval from the chief of police. Council did not discuss the report at the meeting, or take any action on the court issue.

After an executive session held to discuss real estate transactions and union negotiations, the Mayor said that consensus of council was to go forward with the property sale, and directed the city attorney to work with Haack on budgetary considerations.

In other business, council;

- gave consensus for the Mayor to appoint Jim Tierney to the Public Works Committee, which she then did.

- approved Resolution 29-10, setting forth the city's public records policy and procedures.

The next city council meeting has been rescheduled, due to the 4th of July holiday, and will be held on July 12, starting at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

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., Library
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
Izaak Walton League	3rd Thursday	For location call 503-429-7193
Kiwanis Club	2nd & 4th Wednesday	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong
Lions Club	1st & 3rd Tuesdays	6:30 p.m., New Hong Kong
Municipal Airport Committee	1st Wednesday	6:30 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