

Council okays K9 lease renewal, dithers on Parks, picks attorney

The item that garnered the most attention at the November 1 Vernonia City Council meeting wasn't on the advance agenda, but was added at the beginning of the meeting.

The attention-getting item was that K9 Officer Krueger was taken off duty last Friday when it was found that his lease contract had expired in June. Council was told the contract had been written for a one-year period with three extensions. The last extension ran out in June and the contract expired without notice.

According to Sergeant Mike Kay, the city leases the use of his dog for \$12.00 per year and the cost of liability insurance. Kay also said the dog has two national certifications, one as a patrol dog. Asked when Krueger could be back to work, Interim City Administrator Bill Haack responded, "I'm perfect-

ly comfortable in entering a contract." Council unanimously approved entering into a new contract as soon as one can be drawn up.

Council discussed a report from the Ad Hoc Budget Committee on how much work would be done by Public Works employees in the city parks from now through next February, based on the cost to the city. It was decided to try to keep the hours to around 20 per month, though Haack said more might be needed to keep the parks safe (such as leaves on walkways). Council agreed to discuss this item further to determine what the budget can handle starting March 1.

During budget planning last spring, both the Budget Committee and the Council approved a Parks Committee proposal to hire a lower paid employee, in March, to work in

parks most of the time, but who would be available during winter to handle ordinary building maintenance, with park hosts and volunteers to handle ordinary tasks now. The Parks budget now pays higher salaried Public Works employees (with water and waste water certifications) to do such things as raking leaves.

A new city attorney was selected when city council directed Haack to negotiate a contract with Alexandra E. Sosnkowski, PC. Councilor Kevin Hudson spoke to say that, based on the cost difference, he thought Sosnkowski should be selected. Sosnkowski charges \$140 per hour and does not charge for travel time. The other applicant, Beery El-sner and Hammond LLP charges \$200 per hour (for the two people most likely to work on the city's business) and

charges for travel time. When council voted, Randy Parrow voted nay and Cindy Ball abstained (giving her absence at the interviews as the reason).

The letter discussed by Community Action Team, at the last meeting, in response to a "finding" about the city's Community Development Block Grant administration, was responded to by the representative of Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA). IFA stated, "We have determined that the information satisfies the requirements and the Finding is now cleared." The letter also said, "I want to commend your efforts to comply with federal and state requirements."

In other business, council:

- Heard Mayor Sally Harrison read a proclamation specifying October 29, 2010, as Banks-Vernonia State Trail Appreciation Day. She previously

read the proclamation at the official trail opening ceremony in Banks;

- was told that the City of Maupin sent \$1,000 for the Vernonia Schools Project. Said amount has been forwarded to the school district;

- approved an amendment to an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security's Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) grant program;

- approved an IGA with Columbia County for solid waste disposal;

- approved two resolutions on specific flood acquisitions so the properties can be purchased using FEMA and grant funds, then buildings can be demolished.

The next council meeting is scheduled for November 15, 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	1t 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	3rd Thursday	6:30 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