

Banks City Council sets UGB expansion meeting for December 15

Mayor John Kinsky, at the November 9 Banks City Council meeting, read a proclamation declaring December 10 as Human Rights Day in the City of Banks. Human Rights Day is rooted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was signed December 10, 1948, when all member nations of the United Nations, regardless of different political, economic and social systems, unanimously agreed on the fundamental rights that all people share solely on the basis of their common humanity.

Mayor Kinsky encouraged citizens to study and promote

the ideas contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Disregard for human rights has resulted in acts which have offended the conscience of mankind. The Universal Declaration is referred to as the primary definition of human rights standards, and is increasingly referred to as customary international law, by which all countries must abide.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Deborah Deegan for her support of the City of Banks by serving on the Banks Budget Committee. She was thanked for her public service.

Deputy Patrick Chertude reported that there were 140 police-related incidents during October, including two Police Officer Holds made for disturbances within the city, one arrest for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, one arrest for menacing, and one arrest for driving while suspended – misdemeanor. There were 37 traffic stops which resulted in ten written citations.

City Manager Jim Hough report included the following:

- The city is working with the eTec firm to pursue installation of an Electric Vehicle Charging Station in Banks under a federal grant. In the past, the city attempted to have the grant provide for a station at the Banks trailhead of Banks-Vernonia State Trail; the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department elected to forego that option. The city may, with an emphasis on “may”, be able to locate one on the south end of Banks. Hough will keep council informed.

- The city needs a more efficient emergency notification program, so staff has been working with a vendor whose program appears to be efficient and cost effective. Because the system involves telephone calling, the city will need to update

its water system telephone and email listings before entering into a contract for services. If it is the consensus of the Council, the city will pursue this project and make a report/recommendation in the next few months.

- Bobby Edwards has been hired as the city’s new Water Utility Worker/Public Services Worker. He began working November 5, and the city is pleased to have a skilled employee in the newly created position.

- The city is advertising for a Water Utility Operator/Public Works Supervisor to replace Fred Evers when he retires. The application deadline is November 19. The city hopes to have the new person by early December so he can overlap with Evers for a couple of months.

- An October 29 ribbon cutting ceremony for the Banks-Vernonia State Trail trailhead went very well. The city has already seen an increase in the number of trail users in Banks and in using the trailhead.

- The city continues to work with Community Development Sustainability Analyst Stevie Freeman-Montes on drafting the Banks Sustainability Strategy (BBS) and anticipates presenting a draft to the Council at a work session on January 11. Hough expects this project to be ready for adoption by the February 8 council meeting.

- The city has completed the sale of the Certificates of Participation (COPs). These funds

will be used for the city’s capital projects in the next year. The city is grateful to Katie Schwab from Wedbush Securities for her support of their process.

- The first evidentiary hearing on the UGB Expansion will be at a special Planning Commission meeting scheduled for December 15 at 7:00 p.m. The city anticipates that the second evidentiary hearing will be at the February meeting of the City Council.

Council unanimously adopted an ordinance revising the Planning Commission Appointment Process. At times, Council experiences difficulty in filling Planning Commission positions. The amendment to the Banks Municipal Code provides the option of reappointing a term-limited Planning Commissioner after a three month gap in service.

A special visitor attended the November 9 Banks City Council meeting, Catherine Helmer, a Vernonia City Councilor. City Manager Jim Hough introduced Helmer to council and commented that it is always nice to have guests from sister cities. Helmer, whose term is about to end, said that she is trying to complete her “bucket list”, which included visiting another small city council meeting. When asked by council what she thought of the meeting, Helmer remarked that the meeting was “inspiring.”

The next Banks City Council meeting will be held on December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

69th Annual Banks Union Point Cemetery Dinner and Bazaar

Saturday, December 4th

Holiday Bazaar 10 am to 7 pm

Turkey Dinner 12 pm to 7 pm

Adults \$10 Seniors (65) \$8

Children (5-12) \$6 4 & under free

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