

Edison, Fowler and Gregg sworn-in for new city council terms

Banks City Council hosted the Banks Chamber of Commerce Holiday Lighting Contest Awards, at their January 11 meeting. The awards were presented by Chamber Executive Director Ray Deeth. Thirteen applications were received for this year's contest, and Deeth noted that more people are participating each year; this is the third year for the lighting contest. The business award for first place went to the Banks Trail Café, which received a \$50 gift certificate to Jim's Thriftway. The Bolle and Copp Families each received a creativity award, and each received a \$50 gift certificate to Jim's Thriftway. The third place award of \$100 in gift certificates to local businesses, was presented to the Renne Family. The Forrest Family and the Waters Family tied for first place; with each family receiving \$125 in gift certificates to local businesses.

Fran Todd, who was unable to attend the meeting due to living in a snow-bound area, requested that City Manager Jim Hough receive, on her behalf, the certificate of appreciation for her service on the Banks Tree Advisory Board. Hough commented that it was a "privilege" as he accepted the certificate from the mayor.

A swearing-in presentation was held for re-elected Councilors Pete Edison, Rob Fowler and Mark Gregg. Edison was

unanimously selected to again serve as Council President.

Deputy Pat Chertude presented the December police report showing 33 calls for service. Reported crimes in the city included a theft, a warrant arrest, and an Identity theft. There were 27 traffic stops with one citation written.

Hough presented his report, which included the following:

- The American Water Works Association issued a public affairs advisory regarding the recent recommendation by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to reduce the standard for fluoridation levels in community drinking water systems. Banks does not use fluoride in their water system, but the city will conducting a one-time check for naturally occurring fluoride and chromium 6. The city does not anticipate finding either element in the water system.

- The city is preparing to draft its first-ever Water Utility Operations & Maintenance Manual. Bobby Edwards has been sent to train and gather information, with the assistance of our "circuit rider" from the Oregon Association of Water Utilities (OAWU). Banks is a member of OAWU. The city anticipates finishing the project next fall with some assistance from Don Cushing Engineering.

- Hough attended webinar training, along with one of the city's interns, on the Americans

with Disabilities Act project Civic Access. The project is a follow up with municipalities on compliance with the ADA. The intern will be preparing documentation for the city. The training was conducted by the US Department of Justice (USDOJ).

- Because the city needs a more efficient emergency notification program, Councilor Gregg requested that the city meet with Larry Hatch at WCC-CA to discuss the new system they are in the process of purchasing. The city has expressed a desire to participate and will continue working with Hatch as the county moves toward implementation in March. At this time there is no plan to charge member cities for the use of the system. The city would need to update phone and email data for all of its water customers, which is a big task, but hopes to be able to participate sometime in the spring.

- The city received an interesting article from the New Yorker magazine regarding energy efficiency and the dilemma it presents. The city has incorporated the concept into the Banks Sustainability Strategy (BSS) that will be presented to council for adoption at the February 8 Banks City Council Meeting.

- The city is working with other members of the PSWCC Operations Team regarding a re-

cent *Oregonian* article about individual residential solar power. This information will also be incorporated into the BSS.

- The second evidentiary hearing on the UGB Expansion will be at the next regularly scheduled council meeting.

- The city is working with the League of Oregon Cities to bring Planning Commission training to Banks as part of their "Training to Go" program. It is hoped that other cities in need of Planning Commission training will join in so the training can be conducted at a lower cost.

- The city is working with two interns on the Sidewalk Inventory and Improvement Plan. Council will be provided with a briefing at their next meeting. Citizens are being notified of problem areas.

- The city has completed the transfer of its Option B streetlights to PGE under Option A. The funds received have been placed into Capital Reserve Fund #13 for future capital expenditures.

- The city has an opening on the Banks Budget Committee, which will convene on March 15.

- Tom Tuski started as the Public Works Supervisor on December 21. Tuski will replace Fred Evers, who is retiring.

- Senator Jeff Merkley will hold his next Washington County Town Hall meeting in Banks on Friday, January 21, at 1:00 p.m. in the Banks Fire District #13 Training Room. Mayor John Kinsky will host the senator.

In other business, Council:

- ✓ Adopted an ordinance revising the Banks Municipal Code, adding food waste to the Solid Waste Collection Franchise with SWATCO. The motion carried by a 5-1 vote.

- ✓ Unanimously adopted the draft City of Banks Council Guidelines and Rules 2010 document

- ✓ Reviewed the council committee assignments. With one modification, council declined to change assignments.

At the December 14 Council Work Session, city staff proposed purchasing a 1985 truck with a Vactor System to share with Cornelius. At this meeting, council authorized city staff to draft an IGA with Cornelius for the purchase and maintenance of the Vactor-truck, and to present the draft to council at its February 8 meeting.

The next City of Banks Council Meeting will be held on February 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Banks School District School Board meeting room, located at 420 South Main.

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