

Council approves continuing \$12 fee to start paying sewer loan

Before the regular February 7, Vernonia City Council meeting began at 7:00 p.m., the council met at 6:00 p.m. in a study session, where they weighed the pros and cons of three different options for hiring the next city administrator. The three options discussed were:

- 1) Use the League of Oregon Cities process (which costs money),
- 2) self-manage the process themselves (the process used to hire Bob Young), or
- 3) hire current Interim City Administrator Bill Haack.

After making lists and some discussion, the consensus of council was to consider the options further before making a final decision at the next regular city council meeting.

At the start of the council's regular meeting, Mayor Josette Mitchell presented a certificate

of appreciation to Donna Webb for her many volunteer efforts on behalf of Vernonia (see full story starting on page 1).

Leonard Simmons appeared before the Council with additional information on his concerns about the water flow of Bear Creek. Interim City Administrator Bill Haack told Simmons he had met with Maggie Peyton, from the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council, and with the Watermaster. Haack said his understanding after those meetings was that landowners along the creek would get a letter from the Division of State Lands; Haack suggested that landowners need to get together to discuss what could be done, after getting direction from the state.

The Public Works Committee made a recommendation to council to continue the \$12.00

per month loan repayment fee in the sewer rates. The \$12.00 fee was put in place in 2006 to repay a DEQ loan for phase I of the wastewater project. That loan will be paid off this month or next. However, there is another outstanding DEQ loan, that has been partially used and is accruing interest of \$10,000 per month, though no repayment has begun. The first payment was due in 2008 and was not made. With money already set aside, and the \$12.00 fee continuing for the next 20 years, the loan can be repaid. Council unanimously approved the continuation of the \$12.00 fee. As part of this process Council also approved Resolution 03-11 to authorize the repayment of interfund loans from the General Fund to the Sewer Rehab Fund.

Council went into an execu-

tive session to consider records exempt from disclosure by law. After the session, which was closed to the public and is not reportable, the council returned to open session. City Attorney Alex Sosnkowski then told council members they can come to city hall to review the records discussed.

- In other business, council:
- Approved the appointment of John Cahill to the Vernonia Community Learning Center Committee;
 - heard a proclamation to designate February 2011 as Kiwanis Children's Cancer Cure Month;
 - accepted the donation of a small parcel of land on the bank of Rock Creek behind the Health Clinic building (.06 acre) previously owned by the Margaret Aldrich Living Trust;
 - approved a lease agree-

ment with the school district for Spencer Park, to be in effect until the property actually changes hands;

- approved a property lease for land on Lone Pine Road where the Vernonia Boosters will put in and maintain ball fields that can be used until new fields are built at the existing school site;
- approved Ordinance 872, amending Ord. 582 on gambling, as Ord. 582 did not allow for gaming (such as Texas Hold'em) outside of private homes;
- approved Resolutions 4-11 and 5-11 updating the Vernonia Police Dept. manual.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for March 7, 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 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