

Vernonia mayor named as pro tem with assistance from Johnson

Since the May 2 Vernonia City Council meeting where Councilor Willow Burch started the process that led to the council, in a 3-2 split, voting to terminate Interim City Administrator Bill Haack's contract, the council has held three special meetings and one regular meeting. Haack's last day was May 17. The community's response to Haack's firing was to start a recall election for Councilor Kevin Hudson (see full article on page 1). Community members have also stated they will start recalls on Councilors Marilyn Nicks and Willow Burch in July. Recalls cannot commence until six months after a person takes office.

Two of the special meetings, on May 6 and May 9, led to the decision made on May 16 to appoint Mayor Josette Mitchell as Pro Tem City Administrator

(with no compensation) and to contract with Jim Johnson to be a co-Pro Tem City Administrator at an hourly wage, to help Mitchell and the city during this unexpected time of transition. The contracts outlined the duties and responsibilities of each in acting as "place-holders" until the, already begun, hiring process for a new city administrator can be completed.

Haack's contract would have run out June 30 in any event, though it could probably have been renewed to allow for continuity in the hiring process.

Council held two executive sessions to review and discuss city administrator candidates and timing for interviews, with Jennie Messmer of the League of Oregon Cities. At the second session, on May 17, council came out of executive session to announce the unanimous de-

cision to move ahead with interviews of six candidates. First, there will be phone interviews by Messmer and Jim Johnson, followed by an executive session on May 31 to hear about those interviews. Council agreed they want to have three interview panels; one of council, one of staff members and one made up of community members. Those face-to-face interviews have tentatively been set for June 23 and 24, to allow time between the phone interviews and the live ones for background checks to be completed on the final candidates. No information about who the candidates are has been released yet.

Community members stood up at both the May 9 special meeting and the May 16 regular meeting to tell council of their disapproval of the firing of

Haack and their intent to recall Hudson now and Burch and Nicks later. On May 9, Joe Kim spoke from the floor and specifically asked each council member to answer the question, "Did you use family or friends in an attempt to evade ORS 192.610 (9)," which states that the public's business must be done in the public eye. Burch, Hudson, Parrow, and Mitchell all responded, "No," while Nicks looked at the City Attorney Sosnkowski in apparent panic without saying anything. Sosnkowski told her she is not required to answer and Nicks then refused to answer Kim's question.

Councilor Randy Parrow then asked councilor Burch, Hudson and Nicks to reconsider their vote to fire Haack. All three declined.

The May 19 meeting was

held in front of a standing room only crowd. Scott Laird spoke from the floor to apologize for his actions on May 2 (apparently in reference to spreading the Kay investigation information around the community) then went on to say, "You tried to hide and ignore that DPSST investigation...I have a list of questionable actions" of Nicks, Burch and Hudson. He finished with, "What you are doing is anything but honorable. I respectfully request you resign before you bring more shame on this community. Step down now before you waste any more city money on recalls." He also declared that Burch and Nicks would be recalled in early July.

Sharon Bernal, chief petitioner in the Hudson recall, spoke up to ask Hudson, Burch

See Work on page 5

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 Tuesday	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 Tuesdays	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