

Council learns necessity of code enforcement in all flood areas

Vernonia's City Council approved the 2011-2012 budget at their June 6 meeting, with no comments from the audience during the public hearing portion of the meeting.

At a study session held the same night, the council was told about the importance of enforcement and permitting for any work done in the flood plain. Such work can include fencing and plantings, in addition to such items as new or replacement heat pumps. In raised buildings, the heat pumps and electrical must be above the first floor level in order to be out of the floodway. This applies to all homes in the floodway and some in the flood plain. Both permitting and enforcement are important in order for the community to continue to be able to purchase FEMA issued flood insurance. If

that ability is lost, homes needing flood insurance to comply with mortgages, etc. would be forced to purchase the more expensive private flood insurance. Later in the meeting, the council approved the hiring of a reserve police officer who will do code enforcement. Reserve officers are unpaid volunteers, although it is expected that there will be some kind of pay for code enforcement duties.

The council was told that, as of Friday, June 3, the property known as the Rose Avenue Project has been officially given to the city by the State Parks.

A special meeting was held on June 13 to accept the June 10 Special Election Results and appoint a new Council President, a position that was held by Kevin Hudson before his recall removed him from the council effective June 13.

Councilor Randy Parrow was appointed to the Council President position.

Council also agreed to start taking applications to fill the newly vacant council position. Applications are available online or at City Hall and will be accepted until 1:00 p.m. on Monday, June 20. Interviews are scheduled for June 21 at a Special Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Council then discussed whether to postpone the June 24 City Administrator candidate interviews based on the expectation that two other councilors, Willow Burch and Marilyn Nicks, will face recall elections after July 5 (when they have been in office for six months – the legally required time before they can be recalled). During the discussion about the city administrator candidate interviews, Burch revealed that

there are only two candidates left to interview. The council had, at an earlier meeting, agreed to interview four candidates. After Burch mentioned only two candidates, she was reminded that that fact had not yet been made public.

At both the June 6 and the June 13 meetings, council held executive sessions (closed to the public), but announced no decisions after returning to the regular council meetings. The June 6 executive session was held to "conduct deliberations with persons designated to carry on labor negotiations". The June 13 session was "to consider dismissal or discipline of, or to hear charges or complaints against an officer, employee, staff member or agent, if the individual does not request an open meeting".

In other business, council:

• were told by Jim Johnson that he is still working with the city's attorney on how to handle the new open spaces created by flood demolition.

The next regularly scheduled council meeting will be at City Hall on June 20, at 7:00 p.m., but will start with a 6:00 p.m. workshop to review the applications for the vacant council seat.

Hudson recalled by large margin, vacancy remains

The recall of Vernonia City Councilor Kevin Hudson was accomplished with a landslide vote. Voter turnout was high, with 52.6 percent of registered voters sending in ballots, 86 percent voted "yes" to recall

See Council 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

Organizations and meeting dates not listed may be included by calling 429-9410 or by mail to The INDEPENDENT, 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064.