

## Council okays small garbage rate increase

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persons either adjacent to, or not adjacent to the lots, as long as the easement holders agree not to install any improvements (flood plain requirements), maintain the lot (cut the grass, for example) and maintain liability insurance on the property. The property still belongs to the city, but allows the easement holder to use the property.

In other business, council:

• Approved a motion that makes the old school site a green space in perpetuity, once the schools move to the new

site;

• approved a budgeted contract with Sean Pickner for GIS services;

• okayed an amendment to the city attorney contract, as Alex Sosnkowski now has a partner, Ruben Cleaveland;

• approved increases in Waste Management charges that are the result of a pass-through from Columbia County raising rates at the transfer station in St. Helens. Most residential customers will see an increase of about \$.25.

• approved a ground lease to allow the school district to continue using the old school site for the time being;

• approved the establishment of a perpetual right-of-way on city-owned property by the airport to allow for the future building of a road on Airport Way;

• accepted a special allotment of \$500,000 from the Department of Transportation that will be used to fix and pave A St. from State Avenue towards OA Hill;

• voted to extend the personal services contract with Jim Johnson and Josette Mitchell to continue as pro tem city administrators through August 31. The contract had been slated to end July 31, but the process to select a new city administrator has not been completed;

• heard the mayor appoint Carol Davis to the Vernonia Community Learning Center Committee, after they had given their consensus to the appointment.

The next regular city council meeting will be held on August 1, starting at 7:00 p.m. in city hall.

## Recall election currently underway

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to the source, Jim Johnson, and he said Haack did not withdraw and had participated in communications interviews. As to the out-of-control spending, unsustainable projects and backroom deals – I would certainly hope no one sitting for the city would do those. That's a given."

Bernal went on to add, "The Council kept Mike Kay on payroll saying he needed his 'due process rights' first on the misconduct allegations. Nicks and Burch were very vocal about that. Both Nicks and Burch have expressed their inability to work with Haack due to communications problems, then both voted to terminate his contract. What I see now is they both listed inflammatory remarks about Haack's performance. Where is the due process for Haack? I'm disap-

pointed by reading the justifications of both of these ladies."

If Burch and Nicks are not recalled in the election, council goes back to trying to choose another councilor and hire a city administrator. If the recall is successful on either or both, the person recalled stops being a councilor immediately upon receiving a letter from the city when the election results have been certified. If both Nicks and Burch are recalled, Councilor Randy Parrow and Mayor Josette Mitchell have said they will use a lottery to select three panels of five citizens each to interview applications for councilor and accept the recommendations of those panels in selecting replacement councilors to complete the rest of those council terms until the next open election in November 2012.

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### Letters

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department. When I asked for information I was told there was nothing to tell. My instincts told me something was seriously wrong with this and it wasn't for me to have private meetings about. I asked for an executive session.

Repeatedly I was denied. Apparently there was nothing to tell Council. Until suddenly we were informed not only is there something to tell but we now find ourselves in need of a very expensive attorney and furthermore we have to hire another investigator. My brain is screaming 'what the \*\*\*\* is going on here.'

On the night of May 2nd I was terrified. I knew the information Mr. Haack wanted to release to the public was in the packet along with his press release. I did not believe all of the information was public. And I believed this action was a violation of a City Employee's Constitutional rights. And just before the meeting I was informed Scott Laird had rallied a large group of people to attend the meeting. I was prepared to ask for executive session to speak with our attorney to discuss the legality of releasing these documents. In my opin-

ion this was totally staged to make it look like the City Council had approved this.

The whole thing blew up before I was able to make a motion for council to discuss this with the attorney. Kevin Hudson moved to remove this from the agenda and I had to support that decision. The crowd became vocal and some became angry. The attorney said she was only aware one document was going into the packet, not all three. I feared Mr. Haack had put the City at great risk. I was backed into a corner. I believed Mr. Haack had behaved in an unprofessional way one too many times. I made the motion to terminate the contract with Colpac. I didn't know what anyone else was going to do but enough was enough for me.

This is where I am going to call it what it is. Mr. Haack lied. He lied to previous council and he lied to the present council. He stepped outside the professional realm of his duties to keep council informed. He misrepresented his authority to DPSST to request an investigation after the DPSST Investigator informed him it had to come from the hiring body.

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