

Vernonia City Council told of biomass design grant approval

The Vernonia City Council meeting of October 17 was preceded by the third in what's turned into a series of work sessions with the Public Works Committee, to discuss the water rate study requested by the city and done by the Oregon Association of Water Utilities. The primary question is what the water rate portion of the water/sewer bill should be in order to pay the actual cost of making water, plus infrastructure repair and future replacement. After a discussion that went beyond the allotted hour, council had a list of items for which they want more information. The Public Works Committee was asked to get that information ready for their October 25 meeting, allowing council consideration during council's November 7 meeting.

Alan Deweber of DAD's Recycling updated council on his progress towards meeting the

items listed in a memorandum from the council dated in July. He was to have done certain work on his entry road by October 17. After hearing of the progress, though more work is still needed, council agreed to issue a new memorandum allowing Deweber until April 14, 2012, to get the road in a condition that any vehicle can drive over, as it is still rough at this point.

Council heard a preliminary report from John Forester of OTAK engineering firm on the status of plans for the waste water treatment plant update. The city is waiting for the results of boring under two lagoons to determine the geology (gravel, sand, clay, or other) and whether that geology may support an infiltration system improvement to those lagoons. The city is preparing to choose a design engineer and is working on the makeup of a commit-

tee for that purpose. The project can move forward more quickly when the geology part is determined.

The buy-out of the old West Oregon Electric Cooperative was approved. The city expects to leave that site graveled, similar to the gravel at the old Country Kitchen site, so it can be used for parking. Another buyout, on Mist Dr., was approved. In both cases, council must approve these before Flood Relief can use FEMA, and other, funds for these purposes.

Approval was given to use a \$25,000 grant received by the city for design of conceptual drawings, one for a biomass boiler that might be used at the Rose Ave. Project (or another similar site), and one at the school's Natural Resource Center, that would be a project to test different pellet types. The school will also have a bio-

mass boiler to help heat the buildings, but this is a separate research boiler.

In other business, council:

- approved the first reading of Ordinance 878 establishing the Budget Committee and repealing Ordinance 89, which was the original budget committee ordinance from 1924. The city has been aware of the need to update this and is now doing so;
- approved the first reading

of Ordinance 879 repealing Ordinance 852, which was approved just after the 2007 flood to allow for exceptions to existing ordinances during an emergency period. Specifically, it allowed for the FEMA trailers to be sited on property not designated for temporary trailer use.

The next regular council meeting will be November 7, starting at 7:00 p.m., at city hall.

City of Vernonia hires camp host

The City of Vernonia hired Jason Schumacher as the Winter Park Host at Anderson Park for the period October 1, 2011 to May 30, 2012. Jason has been working, since February, for the City as a Public Works Department Utility Worker trainee under a contract with MTC, the regional job training

organization.

City Administrator Bill Haack reviewed the recommendation made by representatives of the Parks Committee, Public Works Department and the City Recorder in making this selection.

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
Emerg. Preparedness Comm.	4th Wednesday	6:30 p.m., WOEC
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	1st 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 Ridge Riders	Last Thursday	7:00 p.m., Senior Center
Vernonia RFPD Board	2nd Tuesday	7:00 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

Upr Nehalem Watershed Council For date call 429-0869 7:00 p.m., Vernonia Grange

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

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