

City of Banks announces Jim Hough's intent to retire this year

The Banks City Council has announced that City Manager Jim Hough ["huff"] will be retiring from public service in the near future. After a great deal of discussion between the Council and the City Manager as to the best time to effect the retirement so the City will be able to continue to operate at its high efficiency rate, and simultaneously begin the search for his replacement, the Council is looking at a retirement date in the September, 2012 time frame.

"We hate to see Jim leave the City Manager position," said Mayor John Kinsky, "he has been such a strong manager in our city, but we know, too, that Jim has served the Council well and that retirement beckons."

The Banks City Council made a determination in 2006 that it was important to change the form of government to what is referred to as the Council-Manager form, and did so in September 2007. Jim was hired as the first City Manager under the new form and has had a strong influence in making both the organizational shift and the change in the way that the Council functions. A well run city staff is now the hallmark of Banks' reputation for government, and the Council is a key part of that well-deserved reputation, by being the policy maker guiding the professional manager in the execution of those policies.

"We thought long and hard about what was best for the City of Banks," said Council

President Pete Edison, "and I think that the shift to the Council-Manager form, coupled with the hiring of the professional that Jim is, has worked out superbly." Hough came onboard in August 2007 and will probably complete five years as City Manager before he retires.

The City was founded in 1902 with the creation of the Banks Post Office, and was incorporated by the State of Oregon in 1921. The current population of Banks is 1,775 and, though small, it has most of the services and amenities that a regular city must have for the high quality of life that most citizens seek. City Manager Hough has more than 17 years

of experience in public administration and holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Wichita State University.

"I know it is a cliché, but I really do work for a dream team of a City Council," said Hough. "Each council member is committed to the City and to its functioning. It will be hard to leave, but I know that the next City Manager selected by the Council will be a strong professional who will quickly join with the Council in operating as efficiently and effectively as possible with the funds provided."

The Mayor expressed the intent of the Council to immediately begin the important process of identifying and hir-

ing the next City Manager. Said Kinsky, "We hope to have the announcement of the position opening ready in the next month or two, with a closing date in the Spring, and an offer in the July time frame. In the interim, Jim Hough will continue to be our City Manager, and we appreciate him offering to continue in that capacity", Kinsky added.

The Mayor allowed that, "It will be hard to see Jim retire, but we wish him all the best in his future endeavors." Hough added that, "I appreciate all that the Council has done for our fair city and also appreciate all of the strong support of the members of the Council."

WIC earns award, including funds

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on staff and offers breastfeeding classes, post-partum breastfeeding support groups, as well as breastfeeding equipment for working moms.

According to Jeanette Howard, Public Health Lactation Consultant and Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Coordinator for Washington County, "We focus on prevention by providing frequent contact with participants early on in pregnancy. Beginning at four months of pregnancy and continuing through four months post-partum, groups of women participate in a series of prenatal education classes together. The groups are designed to be fun, engaging, and promote

peer-to-peer breastfeeding support."

"I like the (peer counseling breastfeeding) group," says Jessica Bridgett of Beaverton. "It answered a lot of my questions as I had a hard time breastfeeding my first child. It helped me have the confidence to get this far."

Washington County's WIC program focuses on nutritional support to low-income pregnant women and families with young children. It includes breastfeeding support groups, nutrition education, and vouchers for healthful foods available locally. For more information about WIC services or eligibility, call Washington County WIC at 503-846-3555.

by Washington County Sheriff Pat Garrett

In 2008, the media and other groups requested lists of information about Concealed Handgun Licenses (CHL) in a Jackson County court case. The Sheriff, at the time, declined to produce them based on privacy issues. The court ruled that unless the Sheriff had proof that each CHL holder wanted their information kept confidential, the information would need to be released.

While that case was pending appeal, Washington County took preemptive steps to obtain additional information from over 10,000 CHL holders. The information gave us proof in writing of the CHL holders who wanted their information kept confidential, and those who did not care. It appears this was the right action to take.

On June 23, 2010, the appellate court declared that absent information from each license holder, the records were

releasable public records.

While a legislative solution was not accomplished last session, I believe that if such a request were made here, I will be able to protect the information on Washington County CHL holders according to their declarations on file. If you submitted a CHL application or renewal since 2008, the information we needed was included in the forms. There is nothing further for permit holders to do at this time.

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