

Vernonia council okays noise variance for ODOT's road work

Two citizens spoke from the floor at the May 7 Vernonia City Council meeting to ask the council to bring water/sewer rates down, not up. Both speakers stated they were retirees who could not afford the water rate increase now in place, or the one that is expected to come soon for sewer rehabilitation.

Mayor Josette Mitchell presented Vernonia Police Officer Sean Carnahan with a certificate of appreciation to thank him for the extra effort and time he put in while the two new officers, Brent Thompson and Matt Brady, were in training.

The council, by consensus, approved a Noise Variance request from Ron Larson of the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The variance will allow ODOT to work on the Bridge St. improvements, near Missouri Ave., 24 hours a day for approximately

two weeks this summer. The around-the-clock work schedule will speed up the project and keep traffic delays to a minimum. All affected residents have already been met with by ODOT, who will work with them during the project to reduce negative impact from the work.

After much discussion, council unanimously approved the basic format of the city's Vendor/Concession License Agreement for city parks. They then adopted a new format for Park Volunteer Park Host Agreements. Both have fill-in-the-blank areas for differences in contract negotiations.

City Administrator Bill Haack was authorized to find a grant administrator and obtain an environmental assessment needed for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that could be used for improving the wastewater facility. CDBG funds cannot be used by city

staff for these functions, Haack told the council. An existing grant for over \$1.2 million (No. 6021) can be used, in part, for this purpose, said Haack.

Council passed Resolution 13-12, outlining the city's responsibility for enforcement of the already existing ordinance

on flood hazard reduction. This resolution puts Haack in charge of enforcement of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood compliance.

Resolution 14-12, authorizing the Mayor to sign a resolution establishing an Open

Space System, was approved by council. The open spaces referred to are the properties that had home buy-outs and demolitions after the 2007 flood. Now those properties are off the property tax roles and belong to the city.

See Council on page 5

Vernonia City Update

From page 3

only, utility systems are required by state law to maintain a certain level of disinfectant (chlorine) throughout the distribution system. This is known as "chlorine residual." The effectiveness of chlorine dissipates over time, meaning that the longer water is sitting in the system, the less chlorine there is available in the water to act as a disinfectant. The process of "flushing" water lines through hydrants solves this problem

by moving stagnant "old" water out and bringing fresh water in.

Maintenance – Flushing is also an important preventive maintenance activity. There are over 30 miles of water line within the City of Vernonia water system and approximately 120 sites that require flushing on a routine schedule. The flushing route is carefully planned and valves are opened and closed to control the direction of the water flow.

Operations – Although it

may appear to waste water, the process of flushing water is necessary to maintain the integrity of the water system and allows us to continue delivering the highest quality water possible to our customers.

The City of Vernonia's Public Works Department works closely with the Vernonia Rural Fire Protection District in coordinating the successful maintenance of the fire suppression system for the community.

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., WGS 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
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
Upr Nehalem Watershed Council	For date call 429-0869	7:00 p.m., Vernonia Grange
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 Comm. Learning Center	1st Wednesday	5:00 p.m., VCLC
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 Library Board	1st Wednesday	9:00 a.m., Sept-June, Library
Vernonia Parks Committee	3rd Wednesday	6:30 p.m., City Hall
Vernonia Planning Comm.	1st & 3rd Thursdays	6:00 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

MIST-BIRKENFELD

M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg.	3rd 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	7:00 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 9-1-1 Board	3rd Thursday	9:00 a.m., 9-1-1 meeting room
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	2nd Thursday	4:00 p.m., 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