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Paul Robinson, Editor and Owner

MOUTHPIECE of the NEHALEM VALLEY

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Advertising Medium of a Big Pay Roll Community

CITY COUNCIL HOLDS HARMONIOUS MEETING

Taxpayers Turn out in Force To Thresh Out Important City Problems.

MAYOR WHITE RESIGNS

Vernonia Contributes \$2,396 To State and County Co-finers in Fines in Three Months

(Reported By John D. Burt)

Before a crowd that assumed the proportions of a mass meeting Monday night the City Council held one of the most interesting and enlightening meetings held for many months. Fully 75 taxpayers and citizens were present. Just what accounted for the unusual turnout was not divulged at the meeting but judging from the flood of oratory turned loose, nearly everyone present had some views to air; and they were aired with a vengeance. The meeting, however, was entirely harmonious and all remarks made contained nothing but a serious good nature.

Mayor Charles White not being present, Councilman Sears took the chair and called the meeting to order with Councilmen Brown, Keasey and Mills, also Recorder Owens present.

The resignation of Mayor White was read. There was no discussion of the mayor's request to be relieved from office and upon motion the resignation was accepted.

Mr. Frank Malmsten, who had been delegated by the Council to meet with the county tax commissioners regarding our city budget, made a report on his mission, saying that they had found that the budget called for an excessive levy according to the assessed valuation and that they had been obliged to cut it from \$5,160 to around \$3,000, the cut being made in equal amounts from the marshal salary and fire protection fund. Recorder Owens was called upon to read the budget as originally passed, as follows:

Streets and walks	\$1,000.00
Marshal	1,800.00
Lights	300.00
Fire Protection	1,250.00
City Hall	250.00
Recorder	160.00

City Attorney..... 200.00
Emergency..... 200.00
Total..... \$5,160.00
Inasmuch as the cut of \$1,000 each from the fire protection and marshal levies will leave those funds in a serious condition the council decided to call a special election in the near future to sanction them to make an additional levy to cover the deficiency.

The question of a check-up on the water taps installed was brought up. Recorder Owens reported that he had a record of 135 that had been signed for and partly paid up according to agreement, but that there were still 40 that had been paid for by the city but not accounted for. The Council decided to get a complete line up on the taps and engaged Mr. Culbertson to do the work as soon as possible.

Applications for several new crosswalks were received and ordered put in at once. The street committee reported that they had viewed all the places in town where crosswalks might be needed badly, and on the strength of their report some eight or ten crosswalks were ordered put in, in addition to those petitioned for.

The bill of the waterworks contractors for \$648.76, for material and labor on the pump house and base was laid on the table until the items could be investigated. It appeared that the engine house and base were made larger than originally planned on account of a different type of installation being adopted.

Acting Mayor Sears called upon the audience for discussion of any matter that might be in mind. Mr. R. Sessemann started the ball to rolling by asking for a report on the amount of fines collected and what disposition had been made of the money. Mr. Culbertson, state prohibition agent for Columbia County, and who has made Vernonia his headquarters for the past three months, was called upon for a report on the subject. Mr. Culbertson stated that during the term of his activities in

the county he had been responsible for the collection of some \$7,000 all together, of which Vernonia had contributed \$2,715. \$319 of this had been turned into the city treasury and of the remaining \$2,396 sent out of our city, 25 per cent was sent to the state prohibition commission, and 75 per cent to the district attorney, according to the provisions of the state prohibition law passed at the last session of the legislature. Inasmuch, said Mr. Culbertson, as he was working under the direction of the district attorney, and the cases tried by him before county justices of the peace, he was obliged to turn the money into the aforesaid channels. The \$319 accruing to the city, he said, was from fines imposed by Recorder Owens in cases in which local peace officers participated.

This information started a general discussion of the possibility of taking steps to keep the fine money in the city treasury. Mr. Culbertson said this could be done by passing a suitable ordinance to conform with the state prohibition law and by the exercise of proper diligence in enforcement on the part of the city officials. The Council therefore decided to have an ordinance to this effect drawn up as soon as possible.

Councilman Brown brought up the proposition of hiring a night marshal and asked the audience for an expression on the subject. Clarence Coyle and others spoke favorably on it, pointing out the especial need of a watchman at night in case of fire and that he should be more than able to earn his salary in the collection of fines which have heretofore been taken out of the city. The Council voted to hire a night marshal at a salary of \$150 per month, to secure a good one if possible and to put him on just as soon as the prohibition ordinance was passed.

Attorney Lester Sheeley touched upon fire preventive measures, saying that insurance rates on buildings in the business section of town were unreasonably high on account of the wooden sidewalks, the cluttered up condition of the back yards, lack of building restrictions, etc. He advocated the construction of full width concrete sidewalks instead of narrow wooden ones.

The purification of the city water was discussed at length. It appears that an adequate filtration and chlorination plant would cost in the neighborhood of \$6,000. Dr. Sears expressed the opinion that while the city water was not of the purest, he thought it was preferable to the water from the surface wells.

At the close of the meeting councilman J. W. Brown announced his intention of resigning from the council under the fire of criticism that had been received from different sources. This elicited a response from J. P. McDonald, who, in a splendid talk, in which he touched upon many important subjects, said he did not want to see any of the council resign at this time. He voiced his appreciation of the spirit of harmony that prevailed at the meeting and hoped that the council would continue to function as peacefully in the future for the welfare of the city. He was followed by G. B. Richmond, President of the Commercial Club, who also expressed his pleasure at seeing the council "pulling together" and urged them to use extreme care in the selection of a new mayor. He avowed that if the council became an active body and con-

tinue its activities in a peaceful manner, that he and the rest of the citizens would stand back of it to a man.

Mr. Brown thanked the gentlemen for their remarks and said that if he remained upon the council he would do everything possible for the city's betterment, warning his hearers, however, that if they expected big things they must expect to pay for them without murmuring.

Councilman Keasey also made a few remarks, deploring the lack of the spirit of co-operation shown between the council and the people in the past and hoping that the future would bring a cessation of thoughtless and unjust criticism. He assured his hearers that he stood ready at all times to do all in his power for Vernonia: all he expected in return was the confidence and support of the people.

The meeting wound up with discussion of the relative values of different types of cesspools, sewers and drainage systems and many ideas on these lines were brought out. It seemed to be the consensus of opinion, however, that nothing could be done toward the installation of a sewer system until some time next year.

The council will hold a special meeting soon, at which time the city attorney will meet with them to tender advice as to the calling of a special election for an additional levy.

ANOTHER OREGON DRAWBACK

The most uncalled for, ridiculous, outrageous, and non-essential commission we ever heard of is the new so called "Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission" appointed for each county in the state. More money spent for secretaries. Will the people always stand for such stuff? The Columbia County Commission is trying to shave Vernonia's tax levy to \$1,400. Any child should have more knowledge of city affairs.

Fatal Accident

Early this morning a trestle on the Beaver Logging Co.'s track gave way dropping the engine. The fireman was pinned in the wreck and scalded to death by escaping steam.

Case of Need

It is raining at this writing, and we have just heard of a family, with a woman 80 years old that have not a suitable place to live in out of the rain. The elderly lady is sick and the rain is coming in the shack. Lee Hall furnished some new lumber this week, Henry Hall donated the shingles. Johnson Shingle Co. also shingles, and the place is being fixed up. The Missionary Society will give a dinner Saturday as a benefit. It is a worthy cause.

The Hollywood

The Vernonia Hazelwood is now called the "Hollywood". McDonald & Thomas have changed the name on account of it conflicting with the Hazelwood, a copyrighted name in Portland. However "Hollywood" sounds as well and the business will continue in the same successful way as of the past. Notice their ad.

Mrs. Eden Passes Away

As we go to press we just learn that Mrs. John Eden died at their home near Vernonia, on Wednesday night. Mrs. Eden has been ailing for some months and recently returned from the hospital in Portland, where she underwent a surgical operation. She leaves a family of children and a husband, and her death is a shock to the community of her friends and neighbors. To the relatives we join with the community in extending sympathy in their hour of bereavement. She has suffered immensely for months, and the long siege of pain had effected her mind. In her distress and suffering she drank carbolic acid, we hear, which caused her immediate death. There are five children, the oldest being 12 years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Bush were visitors in Oregon's metropolis the first of the week.

Mr. Copeland was transacting business in Portland Monday.

Mrs. Spencer went down to Portland Monday.

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A beautiful stock of Holiday Merchandise is now on display. We have bought generously that you may buy gifts for every member of the family here. SHOP EARLY while our stock is complete.

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A Great number of pretty dolls Some walk and talk

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Teach The Youngster The Value of Money

By giving your youngster a savings account at the Bank of Vernonia--then providing him with a way to earn a little money--you'll teach him the value of a dollar.

It's a mighty strong lesson for the little ones, too, for the young man who starts business life--or the young woman who starts home life--without a knowledge of industry and thrift is terribly handicapped.

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Vernonia, Oregon

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Vernonia Drug Co.

"The Store With The Christmas Spirit!"

SHOP EARLY