



**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES – DECEMBER 21, 2009  
REGULAR MEETING  
City Hall, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064**

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**1. Call to Order, Monday, December 21, 2009 and Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Sally Harrison called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

**2. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda**

Addition: Cohort 3- Ford Family Presentation Community Garden

Project Approval CDBG amounts for acquisition – Dan Brown

Randy Parrow moved to accept the agenda as presented with the additions. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Presentation:**

HDR Engineers, Jeff Blank and Joelle Bennett along with Jim Johnson, Consultant, presented Task 1: Preliminary Evaluation – Initial Flood Study for the City of Vernonia. A Power Point was shown to describe the results of the flood modeling performed for the City of Vernonia through the USACE contract and the alternatives that were analyzed per direction from Oregon Emergency Management Office and the City. As more accurate topographic data becomes available this spring, the model will be updated to better analyze conditions around the City and identify other alternatives that may be able to reduce flooding damages within the City. Storage of floodwaters upstream of the City may provide reductions in floodwater elevations and projects to increase flow capacity within the river channel and floodway may also reduce flooding within the City. Until further studies can be performed, Alternative 5 is strongly recommended for consideration as plans for reducing the area of the wastewater treatment lagoons is already underway and adding a spillway structure along the Banks-Vernonia Trail is a low-cost fix that has definite benefits.

Mark Lemay, from the Cohort Three – Ford Family Builders Program Group presented to Council a power point showing the advantages and asking for permission to use city owned empty property on Birch Street for a Community Garden as their project. The garden would be managed by Cohort Three and used to grow vegetables for Vernonia Cares, have a raised garden for easy access and rent some of the spaces for those that wanted to have a garden. The vacant property at 666 Mist Drive would be for parking. A tool shed would be placed on the concrete already on the property and natural barriers around the property would be used. This project will have a matching grant from Ford Family.

**3. Mayors Report**

A. Letter of resignation from Liz White from Library Board

Mayor Harrison accepted the resignation request from Liz White from the Library Board.

B. Project Approval to authorize City CDBG acquisitions and recommend HMGP/FMA to County Commission on acquisitions.

Kevin Hudson moved “to approve the CDBG amounts presented for City CDBG acquisitions and recommend HMGP/FMA to County Commission on acquisitions.” The motion was seconded and passed.

#### **4. Councilor/Committee Reports and Minutes**

A. Public Works Committee Minutes – October 27, 2009

Meeting cancelled for December 22, 2009 – Kevin Hudson

Kevin Hudson reported that at the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting Brown and Caldwell provided an update on the 7B Option for the lagoons. The Committee is working with Ben Fouske to create a plan for using the GIS system and getting hand held GPS units. Bob Ruhl is working with Sam Potter on the playground equipment safety.

B. VCLC Committee – Meeting Cancelled – Randy Parrow

C. Library Board – Randy Parrow

Councilor Parrow reported that the Library Board is in need of one person for the board.

D. Emergency Management Committee – Cindy Ball, Chief Grace

Councilor Ball reported that she would be able to attend the meeting on Tuesday and that preparations are continuing for the updates.

E. Parks Committee – Brett Costley

Councilor Costley reported that minutes were approved for the last meeting and did not get to the City Recorder on time for the packet.

F. Airport Committee – Sally Harrison

Mayor Harrison reported that letters had gone out for those that are renting hangers and amounts due. Getting paving of Airport Road with grant money are continuing.

G. Economic Development Committee – Sally Harrison

Mayor Harrison reported that The Main Street Project is being discussed.

H. Planning Commission Minutes – November 5, 2009

#### **5. Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation**

*Persons addressing the council must state their name and address for the record. All remarks shall be directed to the entire city council. the council reserves the right to delay any action requested until they are fully informed on the matter.*

Josette Mitchell read a letter asking that the Council direct staff to work out a solution to benefit the community long term and that the City subsidize the VCLC until a resolution can be made, due to the recent decision that was forced onto the City, to only allow citizens within the city limits to use the VCLC.

#### **6. Consent Agenda**

A. City Council Minutes – December 7, 2009

B. Cash Disbursements – December 15, 2009

Cindy Ball moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### **7. Unfinished Business**

A. Update on Sewer damage at property on Weed Avenue.

The City Administrator explained that the property owner and their attorney are reviewing the letter that has been sent by our attorney and when that is agreed on then we will send them the money.

## **8. Business from Departments**

### **A. Police**

1. Lakewood Police Officer Memorial Ceremony December 8, 2009
  2. Vernonia Police Department Updates
    - a. Fairway Lane has set up a Neighborhood Watch Program
    - b. Laptop Computers swiped from the Middle School have been retrieved thanks to Captain Kay and Sgt. Conner. They have interviewed ten (10) including four (4) adults and six (6) juveniles which has uncovered years worth of crimes. This is an on-going investigation continuing to interview witnesses, victims and possible suspects linked to the burglary.
    - c. Medium-Speed Electric Vehicles – HB 2001 provides a definition, registration type and registration fee for Medium-Speed Electric Vehicles. A Medium-Speed Electric Vehicle is defined as not being capable of traveling at a speed greater than 35 mph. The department will adopt safety standards for medium and low-speed vehicles by administrative rule.
    - d. Cell Phone Law. HB 2377 amends ORS 811.507 for cell phone use and the law goes into effect on January 1, 2010. Hands-free accessory must be used when talking on a cell phone while driving.
  3. Chief Grace read a letter stating that Captain Mike Kay has been exonerated of all accusations that has been brought against him over the past few months. City Administrator, Bob Young was glad that Captain Kay has been exonerated and now we move on. He explained to Council that the legal fees from their accusations have cost the city at least \$6,000.
- B. Public Works – Bob Ruhl, Public Works Director**
- a. We were able to maximize the dollars out of the stimulus money for the street project and sent a bill for \$90,000.
- C. City Administrator – Bob Young**
- a. This date marked his six months on duty.
  - b. Finance Department will be contracting for three months a part time payables clerk which will be working with the City Recorder. Payroll and bills are getting done in a timely manner which is a savings to the department.
  - c. Provided to Council a Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual. The budget is at 67% of the year Revenue and the expenditures are not far off target.
  - d. Water shut offs in October. Out of 26 account's one account still off and in November out of 10 account's one account is still off. There will be no shut offs before Christmas. The next shut off date for delinquent payments is January 5.  
The one account that has been talked about in the local paper had an out of town family stepping in and helping. The meters that have been crossed have been checked and back on track. The city has worked with all involved and phone calls to him are returned.
  - e. A 2009 project list was given to Council listing thirty-three projects. The Council added another project, VCLC, which makes thirty-four projects to work on this next year!

## **9. Ordinances/Resolutions**

There were no Ordinances/Resolutions presented at this meeting

**10. Items from Mayor, councilors, and City Administrator**

Mayor Harrison expressed that the article in the local paper was upsetting, as it was an opinion which was one sided and printed as gospel. If the City was called for clarification the article would have had a better view.

Kevin Hudson wished everyone a Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year

Randy Parrow questions the new law for cell phones and wondered when punching in information on the GPS, and I-POD's for music would be banned.

Cindy Ball questioned if it was time to revisit at the dam a fishing ladder which would be environmentally smart.

**11. Recess to Executive Session as per ORS 192.660 (2) (i)**

"A member of the news media or designee may not disclose any information from executive session, may not tape record, digitally record, and/or video record any information to decrease the likelihood that information discussed in the executive session will be inadvertently disclosed."

Mayor Harrison asked for a 5 minutes recess

**Executive Session was called to order at 9:10 pm**

**12. Return to Open Session for Final Action**

City Council returned to open session with no final action from executive session.

**Adjournment:** The December 21, 2009 City Council Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Signed this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2009

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sally Harrison, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joann M Glass, City Recorder

City Council approved the December 21, 2009 Council Minutes on January 4, 2010

