



CITY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING 7:00 PM  
City Hall, 1001 Bridge St. Vernonia OR 97064

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**Mission Statement**

The City of Vernonia pledges to be an ethical and responsive government using community collaboration to foster leadership and a vision for civic improvement while providing a safe, peaceful, economically viable community.

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**Councilors in Attendance:** Mayor Leonetti, Councilor Hult, Councilor McNair, Councilor Seager and Councilor Wagner

**Staff in Attendance:** City Administrator Mitchell, City Recorder Borst and Police Sergeant Carnahan

**Media Present:** Scott Laird, Vernonia Voice

**Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance – Mayor Leonetti**

Mayor Leonetti called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Additions or Corrections to Agenda**

Councilor McNair made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager.

Votes: Councilor Seager: Yes

Councilor Hult: Yes

Councilor Wagner: Yes

Councilor McNair: Yes

Mayor Leonetti: Yes

Motion carried.

**Mayors Report**

A. Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation

Councilor Hult and Mayor Leonetti read aloud the Suicide Prevention Month Proclamation. Councilor Hult spoke about resources available for preventing suicide. She presented resource hand outs to be left in the lobby at City Hall.

**Councilor Committee Meeting Reports**

**Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation**

Beverly Danner, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, spoke about the storm water issue on 3<sup>rd</sup> avenue. She explained that storm water is running from 4<sup>th</sup> avenue onto her property and washing out her foundation. City Recorder Borst explained that the issue is on public works radar and they are slated to install a new drain soon. Staff will call her tomorrow to give her a more specific timeline.

Sharon Bernal is here representing a buyer and seller for lots on Springboard Lane (See Map in File). She explained the history of the sewer main for the area and that the seller of these properties is whom initial paid for the line. He has since recouped some of his cost. The concern he has is that he was assured the line would be adequate for his properties but with the connection of other properties (Rose View Hedge included) this is no longer the case. The city has provided mapping of the line and asked the seller and/or buyer to have engineering done to verify the sewer main can support more homes. The buyer is shocked with the quote of \$3,000 for engineering and is backing out of the sale. The seller is willing to attend a Council meeting if requested but asks that the city have the integrity to fix the issue themselves.

Gretchen Lindauer, Nickerson Avenue, would like to assure Council that she still intends to build her shop. Her husband wanted this and she feels this is the only thing that wasn't settled prior to his passing. She would like to see the City and Smejkals work together to resolve this issue.

**Consent Agenda for Approval**

- A. Library Board Meeting Minutes for June 2018
- B. City Council Work Session Minutes for August 27, 2018
- C. City Council Meeting Minutes for September 4, 2018

City Recorder Borst made a grammar correction to the September 4<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor Hult made a motion to approve the meeting minutes listed with the correction. The motion was seconded by Councilor McNair.

Votes: Councilor Seager: Yes      Councilor Hult: Yes      Councilor Wagner: Yes  
      Councilor McNair: Yes      Mayor Leonetti: Yes

Motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**

- A. Planning Commission Extension Request - Grant Williams

With consent of Council, Mayor Leonetti appointed Grant Williams to another 4-year term on the City of Vernonia Planning Commission.

- B. Request for City Services – Lane

Mr. Lane presented his request to Council. City Administrator Mitchell explained that there is water service for the adjacent county property. She added that there is no issue with capacity but the owner will need to work with his contractor to assure grade for sewer. Mr. Lane explained that he is working with his contractor and will be positioning the house at the top of the hill.

Councilor McNair made a motion to allow Mr. and Mrs. Lane to connect to city services on Oregon Avenue. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wagner.

Votes: Councilor Seager: Yes      Councilor Hult: Yes      Councilor Wagner: Yes  
      Councilor McNair: Yes      Mayor Leonetti: Yes

Motion carried.

**Business from Departments**

- A. Police Department – Chief Conner

Chief Conner was absent from the meeting but sent Sergeant Carnahan to field any questions. Councilor Wagner requested a report comparing the last the months code enforcement violations. She would like to know the number of new violations.

Councilor McNair inquired as to if the department is patrolling on Timber Road. Sergeant Carnahan explained that they have been patrolling since the start of the closure.

- B. City Administrator Report – J. Mitchell

**Rose Avenue Senior Center / Food Bank Project:** Meetings have been held, contractor has not gotten back to the City with details as to why plumbing and electrical totals were so high. It is the understanding of staff that the bidders were under the impression that the building was to be LEED certified. A meeting with CDBG team will take place next week to decide direction for moving forward. I will be attending the Vernonia Cares Board Mtg. tomorrow to update the members about where we are and the potentials in front of us.





**WWTP Bio Domes:** The installation of the blower building pad is stalled due to an expired engineering stamp. Once the City receives updated plans with current stamp NW Code Pros can expedite the review and the concrete can be poured. Hopefully the plans and review will be completed this week.

**Utility Billing Clerk:** Interviews were held today for the position of Utility Billing Clerk. A top applicant has been selected. Following review of references and acceptance of position we will announce the new employee.

**Public Works Staffing Change:** Unfortunately, the newly hired Public Works staff person is not with us any longer. Due to less duties being needed in Parks through the winter, James McMahon will work some winter hours in public works as well as building maintenance. We will be posting an opening in Public Works in January.

**Vernonia Lake Pump:** Today members from ODFW, Vernonia Lions, City Staff, and citizens met for the formal transition of ownership of the lake pump. ODFW presented a operations manual document. The document details the process for operating the pump system and has had the kinks worked through with help from Dale Webb. I will be bringing certificates of Appreciation for Council to sign to the next Council meeting.

C. Monthly department report

City Administrator Mitchell presented the monthly department updates (See File). She added that the department updates will be at the last meeting of the month and finance reports will be presented quarterly.

Councilor McNair inquired as to when Louisiana avenue paving will be completed. Mrs. Mitchell explained that paving is slated to be done in October.

**Ordinances/Resolutions**

**Correspondence**

**Items from Mayor and Councilors**

Councilor Hult attended a town hall in St Helens regarding economic development. It was a very interesting event. She is also attending the steering committee meeting tomorrow.

Mayor Leonetti explained that Fred Oviatt approached him and stated that Weyerhaeuser had given the city a check for parks. He added that Mr. Oviatt had expressed that he would like to meet with the Grandstand Committee regarding funding opportunities. Mayor Leonetti will facilitate getting the two entities in contact with each other.

**Action Item Summary**

City Administrator Mitchell will email the updated finance report

With Council's prompting, City Administrator Mitchell explained to Council that the Brunsmann Sewer Line was an uncovered issue from the past. It is difficult because the people whom would like to purchase the property ultimately want to build 6 houses. They are phasing it out and building 2 at a time in order to avoid having to upgrade the infrastructure. The city has asked them to verify that the sewer capacity is adequate prior to building. The buyers would like the city to pay for the engineering and any needed upgrades. Staff is following code, not trying to hardship anyone. Council requests that staff bring a report outlining the history of the sewer line.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Leonetti adjourned the meeting at 7:45pm

These minutes were approved at the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 City Council Meeting.

  
Stephanie Borst, City Recorder

  
Marfo Leonetti, Mayor