



CITY COUNCIL AUGUST 01, 2016 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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**In Attendance:** Mayor Parrow, Councilor McNair, Councilor Seager, Councilor Tierney

**Staff in Attendance:** City Administrator Mitchell, Finance Director Handegard, GIS Annalist Fousek, Chief of Police Conner, and City Recorder Borst

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

Mayor Parrow called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**Additions or Removal of Agenda Items**

Councilor McNair made a motion to accept the meeting agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager, motion carried.

**Councilor Committee Meeting Reports**

City Administrator Mitchell reported on the Parks Committee meeting. The Committee is going to be having a work session to develop a plan for planting trees down at Spencer Park. They also discussed the possibility of implementing a curfew at city parks but no decision was made. She also mentioned that one of our Parks crew has been out for the last couple weeks with an injury so staff has been stretched thin.

**Topics from the Floor/Audience Participation**

Bill Sword, Vernonia, explained to Council that he is concerned about the old Mill Pond. He would like to see the pond be made larger and kept full. GIS Annalist Fousek explained that the city is looking into solutions for the pond. They are currently working with ODFW to secure a new pump as well as the possibility of fixing a leak in the pond.

**Consent Agenda for Approval**

- A. Cemetery Committee Meeting Minutes for May 04, 2016
- B. City Council Meeting Minutes for July 18, 2016
- C. City Council Executive Session Minutes for July 18, 2016

Councilor McNair brought to the attention of City Recorder Borst that in the City Council minutes for July 18<sup>th</sup>, under *Consent Agenda for Approval*, Councilor Tierney is recorded as making the motion and seconding it. He recommends that this be corrected.

Councilor McNair made a motion to accept the minutes as listed above with this correction. The motion was seconded by Councilor Seager, motion carried.

**Unfinished Business**

**New Business**

- A. Cemetery Committee Recommendation

Councilor McNair explained the recommendation from the Cemetery Committee. Council consensus is to approve the recommendation and direct staff to notify the Cemetery Committee of the decision.

- B. Parks Committee Recommendation

City Administrator Mitchell explained the Parks Committee Recommendation. City Administrator Mitchell clarified that the Lions Club is who would be purchasing the benches and they would like approval from the

City on placement. The Parks Committee also discussed potentially purchasing changing tables for the bathrooms in the parks. City Administrator Mitchell is gathering pricing and will bring it back to the Parks Committee for their review.

Consensus of Council is to approve the proposed bench locations. Council would like staff to write a letter to the Lions Club notifying them of the approval.

#### C. Oregon Public Works Emergency Response Cooperative Assistance Agreement

City Administrator Mitchell explained the Oregon Public Works Emergency Response Cooperative Assistance Agreement. She explained that the City would be compensated for use of our equipment based on what is mandated by the State. Consensus of Council is to direct City Administrator Mitchell to sign the Agreement.

#### D. City Attorney, Alex Sosnkowski, Retirement Letter

City Administrator Mitchell presented the letter from Alex Sosnkowski to Council.

#### F. Contract for Legal Services

Councilor Tierney would be interested in exploring other options for legal counsel. City Administrator Mitchell stated that this is a renewal and there is a termination clause if at any time the City wishes to terminate the contract. After some discussion, Council consensus is to renew the contract. City Council would also like for City Staff to prepare a retirement card for Alex Sosnkowski.

### **Business from Departments**

#### A. Police Department – Chief Conner

Councilor McNair explained that he is concerned about lack of police present on Hwy 47. Chief Conner explained that the Vernonia Police Department is making an effort to patrol Hwy 47 more but he is concerned about public outlash. Mayor Parrow suggested that perhaps we could reach out to the Columbia County Sheriff and/or the Oregon State Police. After great discussion, Council directed Staff to generate a letter asking the County Sheriff and/or State Police to increase their presence on the road.

#### B. City Administrator Report – J. Mitchell

*Wastewater Treatment Plant:* The project is on time and in budget. Staff is looking into the feasibility of constructing the add alternates; fencing the facility, paving around the infrastructure buildings, and purchasing needed maintenance equipment. Staff has inquired about how to request monies to purchase specific maintenance equipment that will be needed to service the new equipment.

*Rose Avenue Project:* The City Administrator met with Mary McArthur and signed the contract for Grant Administration services, all documents have been scanned and sent to ColPac, the environmental assessment is the first part of the project to be worked on.

*Nickerson Ridge Estates:* The draft MOU has been sent to the remaining vacant property owners, and an email outlining the process for street acceptance has been sent as well.

*Airport Trailer:* The City Attorney has sent correspondence outlining the responsibility of removing the trailer to the new trailer owner. The trailer owner has 10 days to remove the trailer or communicate with the City about said removal or the City will assume the property has been abandoned. I will update Council if anything more happens.

*WOEC:* The City Attorney has been in communication with the legal representative for WOEC regarding the purchase of the Cougar Street property. The City submitted a first proposal to purchase the property for \$80,000 with a primary payment amount of \$20,000 as identified in the 2016-2017 FY budget, and payments of \$10,000 a year for 6 years following until completion of the purchase. The WOEC Board of Directors will be reviewing our proposal at their next meeting in August, and sending back a counter proposal. California Avenue: No movement.

*Cougar Street Crosswalk:* City staff is working with ODOT officials to understand what they are going to require to match up the crosswalk with existing sidewalks, etc. Small movements, but movements none the less.

*High Water Mark Sign:* The high water mark sign from the Army Corp of Engineers Silver Jackets group is here, city staff is constructing the base for the sign at the corner of Bridge Street and Washington Avenue. The installation will happen Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 10:00a.m.

*Vacation:* I will be out of the office from Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> - Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup>. I will be back in the office Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>.

*City Media Policy:* Councilor Tierney recently became aware of the discussion on Facebook regarding the Park Host at the Vernonia Lake and people playing Pokemon GO. City Administrator Mitchell explained what happened at the lake and that the City is trying to create a positive spin to the incident. Barbara Hales, the woman who posted the thread, came to the City and spoke with City Administrator Mitchell and they believe they came up with a positive solution to the disagreement. The park host has been spoken to and redirected. The City will be marking an area just for Pokemon GO players so that they can safely play the game and the Park Host will know what they are doing.

Council then discussed the cities media policy. The current media policy does not allow city workers to comment on any city matters on Facebook. Councilor Tierney is concerned that not commenting will fuel people's anxiety. Council then discussed different reasons for the media policy. GIS Annalist Fousek proposes posting friendly reminders rather than addressing people directly. Councilor McNair would like to add reasons for the reminder to the posts if we choses to go that route.

## **Ordinances/Resolutions**

### **Correspondence**

### **Items from Mayor and Councilors**

Councilor Tierney reported on the meeting she attended with the Seniors. She would like to encourage those whom are eligible. They are also looking for meal delivery drivers. The Seniors also discussed when they will be reporting to Council and clarified that they will report sometime in October.

### **Action Items Summary – City Administrator**

Staff to notify the Cemetery Committee of the bench approval

Staff will notify the Lions Club that the location of the proposed park benches has been approved.

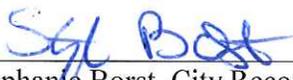
Staff will prepare a retirement card for City Attorney Alex Sosnkowski

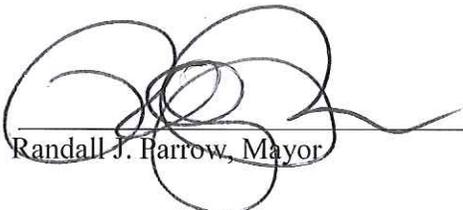
Staff will draft a letter to Oregon State Police and the County Sheriff asking them to increase patrols on HWY47.

### **Adjournment**

Mayor Parrow adjourned the meeting at 8:24 PM.

These minutes were approved at the August 05, 2016 City Council Meeting.

  
Stephanie Borst, City Recorder

  
Randall J. Parrow, Mayor