

Pilot Rock Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 12
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Pilot Rock
541-443-2811
www.cityofpilotrock.org

City Hall is available
To assist the Community
Monday-Friday 8 AM – 5PM
Editor reserves the right to edit any and all articles for content
Next City Council Meeting July 7, 2015

June 18, 2015

Mayor: Virginia Carnes
City Council:
Ray Corwin, Kacie Moss,
Raymond Doherty,
Bob Deno, Jim Hinkle and
Deacon Perkins

Controlled Burn tonight @ 6:00 pm The hill across from Kinzua Mill

City Of Pilot Rock

The following topics were discussed at the last Council meeting.

- Council adopted the 2015-2016 fiscal year budget. Councilors Moss, Corwin, Perkins, Doherty and Deno voted in favor, while Councilor Hinkle was opposed stating that he thought we could have cut more.
- Council voted that Staff and Council will pay the \$10 Sewer upgrade fee.
- Councilor Perkins made several attempts to discontinue the reduced sewer and water rate for Council each motion died for lack of a second. Council did not take any action and let the 21 year old resolution granting the existing reduced rate stand.
- There has been some discussion regarding a bond to fund the Lagoon Upgrade. Council directed staff to look into the bond prospect and return with info for Council to consider.
- Council agreed that it would be beneficial to the citizen to use our newsletter to provide factual information to offset the misinformation, misleading and inaccurate items being circulated.
- Mayor Carnes stated that there will be a controlled burn at the Woodwaste land fill across from the mill. This will be to burn off the grass before it becomes a bigger fire hazard.
- Council was informed that Officer Diehl has stated his intent to resign as of June 30, 2015. If given a \$6.23 an hour increase and allowed to work a reduced schedule, he would stay on until another officer is hired. Council accepted his resignation. Council also agreed to his terms to stay on until another officer is hired. Council asked staff to draw up a contract for their approval prior to the June 23, 2015, work session.
- Council granted approval to the Community Days committee to close of Cherry St. on Saturday during community days to hold lawn mower races.
- Council will meet for a work session on Tuesday June 23, 2015, at 6pm, to consider the City's options regarding the new recreational and medical marijuana laws. The meeting is open to the public.

Detailed minutes are available on line at www.cityofpilotrock.com as well as at City Hall. Citizens are welcome to stop by City Hall ask questions and get all the facts.

WHAT'S GOING ON...

REQUIRED LAGOON UPGRADE WILL MEAN SEWER RATE INCREASE

Our lagoon system is 57 years old and one of only two left in the state.

In March of 2014, the city received a "Warning" letter from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The letter stated that during the December 2013 quarterly wastewater test, the city had exceeded the ground water bacteria limit. It should be noted that the following tests have all been below the bacteria limit and at no time was there a risk to the citizens. DEQ states, in order to avoid formal enforcement action, the city must submit a facilities plan to identify and select options to upgrade the sewage treatment lagoons to prevent further degradation of the groundwater.

Steve Draper, Teri Porter and Mayor Carnes met with DEQ in July of 2014, to discuss options and see if there was a possibility to appeal the decision. DEQ held firm to their decision that we must upgrade.

The City has hired Anderson Perry, the engineers of record, to conduct a feasibility study and identify options to upgrade the lagoons as required by DEQ. Brad Baird and Jadon Herron, of Anderson Perry, have attended several meetings with Council to help sort out the details. The following options have been discussed:

1. Evaporative Lagoon at Bike Pit: Work includes lining the bike pit area, a new pump station, construction of a new bike pit, and abandoning the existing secondary lagoon because of the high anticipated cost to line the lagoon in cobble stone. Advantages include very simple operation, flexibility, utilization of an existing pipeline, and utilization of an existing pond area. Disadvantages include long term pumping costs and relocation of the bike pit. Annual cost of operation and maintenance is \$13,500 for the life of the lagoon. Preliminary cost is estimated at \$2,377,000 (present worth \$2,546,000).

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Continued from page 1..

2. **Secondary Lagoon Expansion with Adjacent Irrigation:** Work includes lining and expanding the secondary lagoon, a new effluent pump station and irrigation equipment and area. Advantages include the lowest initial cost, operations all at one location, and potential monetary benefit of crop production with treated wastewater. Disadvantages include land acquisition and long term operation of irrigation system and crop, operation of irrigation area and crop needed. Annual cost of operation and maintenance is \$35,000 for the life of the lagoon. Preliminary estimated cost is \$2,149,000 (present worth \$\$2,586,000).
3. **New Storage Pond and New Irrigation Area on City Industrial Land West of Existing Lagoons:** Work includes abandoning the secondary lagoon, a new pump station and pipeline, a new storage pond, and new effluent pump station, irrigation system and irrigation area. Advantages include no land acquisition needed, and potential monetary benefit of crop production with treated wastewater. Disadvantages include a long term highest pumping cost and long term operation of an irrigation system and crop. Annual cost of operation and maintenance is \$39,500 for the life of the lagoon. Preliminary estimated cost is \$2,342,000 (present worth \$2,797,000)
Council asked the engineers to work up the following option...
4. **Evaporative Storage Ponds Adjacent to Existing Lagoons:** Work includes lining the existing secondary lagoon, and constructing new storage ponds on the north and south side of the existing primary lagoon. Advantages include very minimal pumping, all facilities located adjacent to the existing lagoons, no discharge of any kind, considerably less sampling requirements, and the lowest annual operation and maintenance costs. Annual cost of operation and maintenance is \$3,700 for the life of the lagoon. Disadvantages include considerable land purchases needed, and highest initial capital cost. Preliminary estimated cost is \$3,695,000 (present worth \$3,742,000).

The City is looking into funding options, focusing on the lowest cost to the City and its citizens. We have found that there are low (1%) interest rate loans available. To qualify for the low interest loans, the "affordability criteria index" (per the Infrastructure Finance Authority) must be met. Which means that our monthly sewer rate per connection must be \$40.36. Currently our rate is \$18 a month. The city has sought to keep the utility rates low, which have resulted in some of the lowest rates compared to similar cities. There has been discussion that perhaps small increases over the years would have avoided the need to increase the rate by such a big jump. A commercial rate would be a 4% interest as opposed to 1% from state agencies. That could be a savings of \$1.35 million in interest to the City and citizens. The City is proposing to increase the sewer rate \$10 this year (starting July of 2015), \$7 next year and \$5 the following year. The goal is that by the time the loan comes due for payment in about 4 years, we would have about \$500,000 saved to put toward the loan and pay it off earlier maybe in 18 years. Then at that time if the economy allows we can take a look at decreasing the sewer rate again. There has been discussion about allowing the citizens to vote on a bond. Council has directed staff to find out more about this option and whether or not we would still qualify for the low interest rate or not. If it does go to a vote on a bond, and the bond is voted down, the Lagoons will still need to be upgraded and the cost funded.

The city offers a "low income" rate for those who qualify that reduces their total utility bill by approximately 25%.

On June 16, 2015, Council voted that Staff and Council will pay all of Sewer Upgrade Fee increases until loan is paid off. All revenue from the Sewer Upgrade Fees will be accounted for separately in the budget and will not be used for anything other than the Lagoon upgrade.

The next work session for the Lagoon Upgrade has not been scheduled. When it is, it will be posted in the Post Office, and on the doors of City Hall and the Council Chambers. We encourage citizens involvement, you are invited to attend the work sessions and Council meetings where we will be happy to answer questions and hear your views.

It is my intention to include articles such as this one in each newsletter to keep our citizens informed. I will make every effort to include all sides and present as much of the facts as possible. If you have questions please stop by City Hall and Steve Draper or I will be happy to answer them to the best of our ability. You are also invited to drop questions in the payment box, and if appropriate we will answer them in the newsletter. Upcoming articles will be about the Stairs to the High School, Recruitment of a Police Chief, the Deeding of the Bike Pit, Promotion of our Industrial Property, Swim Bus and more. Teri Porter, City Recorder.

Mayors Minute or two

It appears that we are going to have a busy summer! I understand we are hosting the Junior/Senior Girls' Softball Championship games July 11-15. How nice that our families don't have a long distance to travel and something on this scale is wonderful for business. It's also an opportunity to showcase our community! We are always on the lookout for economic development opportunities. One never knows when that opportunity may arise or under what circumstances.

Please be aware that the PR Fire Department will be doing a controlled burn on the Kinzua Landfill with a tentative burn date of June 18 beginning at 6 pm. The Fire Department has elected to do this to prevent having to fight fire in less than optimal conditions. The burn is tentative pending wind and weather conditions. This is being done with permission of the owners, their attorney and DEQ. God bless our fire fighters! They anticipate a long fire season and this will get a troublesome area off of their plate.

You will notice that with this edition of the Newsletter that we are and will be including an additional page(s) informing citizens in detail about upcoming projects, issues and so forth. This decision has been made to better inform our citizens so they don't have to rely on misinformation or inaccurate half-truths from other resources/sources. City Hall, I and the City Council are always willing to provide answers as best we can and welcome the opportunity to do so!

It's very frustrating to be continually misrepresented in a variety of ways. The Council and staff work very hard to do what it deems in the best interest of this community. Often when we are criticized, people don't have all of the pertinent information---just hearsay and misinformation inaccurately stated. This only creates mistrust and division in a community. We seem to have a couple of sources who simply don't have their facts correct. Wouldn't it be wonderful to see the negativity turned to positive endeavors for the good of all?

Have a wonderful couple of weeks!

Virginia Carnes
Mayor



PRPD

**06/02/15**

Traffic Stop
Trespass
Area Checks

SW 6th
SW 3rd

06/03/15

Drug Info
Civil Standby
Civil Dispute

06/04/2015

Citizen contacts
Area Checks
Burning Complaint

06/05/15

Agency assist
Trespass
Area Checks

NW Cedar

06/06/15

Suspicious activity
Agency assist
Welfare check

Stock Drive

06/07/15

Dispute
Area Checks

Alder St.

06/08/15

Code Enforcement
Area Checks
Citizen Contact
Suspicious Activity
Welfare Check
Disturbance

NE 4th

SE 4th

Cedar St.

06/09/15

Animal Complaint
Agency Assist

NE Douglas

06/10/15

Area Checks
Citizen Contact
Traffic Stop
Welfare check

Main St.

06/11/15

Animal Complaint
Traffic Stop
Area Checks
Animal Complaint
Code Enforcement
Welfare Check
Civil Complaint
Animal Complaint

SW 3rd
NE 4th

SW Birch
SW 10th

Birch

06/12/15

Animal Complaint
Traffic Stop

NW Birch
Cedar St.

06/13/15

Agency assist
Area check

06/14/15

Animal Complaint
Area Check

SW 3rd

06/15/15

Citizen Contact
Animal Complaint
Follow-up
Follow-up
Agency assist

SW Birch
NE Elm
SW Cedar
SW Birch

Emergency Dial 911

POLICE DEPT. - 541-443-1224

Leave a message or call

DISPATCH - 541-966-3651

To better serve you, The Pilot Rock Police Department would like you to call Dispatch for non-emergency police business, not City Hall.

Pilot Rock Public Library
2015 Summer Reading Program

"Every Hero has a Story"

June 15 to August 21

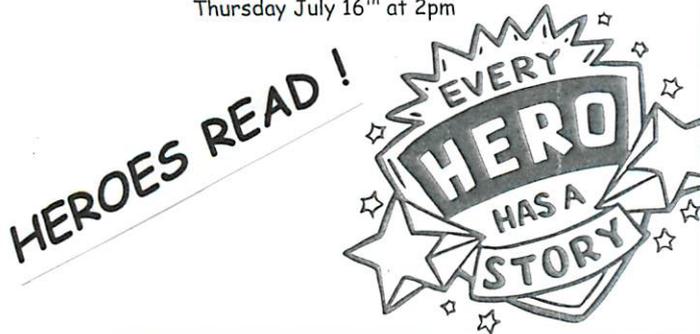
Sign Up begins June 15th

Weekly programs on Thursday Morning's
Beginning June 16th at 11:15

There will be 2 Summer Performers

Rich Glauber - "Music in Action"
A mix of songs, storytelling and comedy
Wednesday June 17th at 1pm

Henrik Bothe - Juggler, comedy & magic show
Thursday July 16th at 2pm



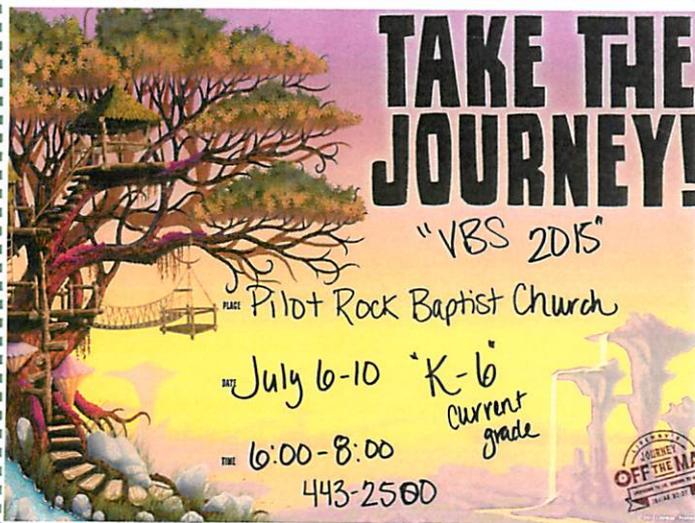
ATTENTION !!

The water department is now reading water meters, please be sure not to have your vehicle parked on the meter the last week of the month. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU :o)

Effective July 1, 2015 the Pilot Rock Public Library will have a new website address. You can find us at

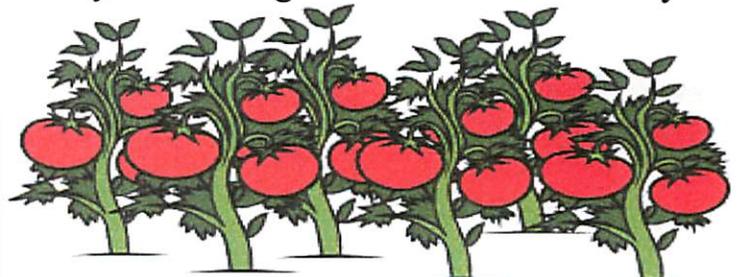
<http://pilotrockpubliclibrary.weebly.com>



Greetings Gardeners!

The tomatoes are doing great this season and you may visit them at the Elm Street Garden at any time. There is also lettuce that wants to be harvested and I will gladly instruct. Thanks goes to the PRHS Key Club for planting carrots and harvesting greens for our local food pantry last week. We still have raised beds for your gardening projects. Call 443-2905 for information.

See you in the garden! Lori Newberry



Little League Junior / Senior State
Softball Tournament July 11-14th
Here in Pilot Rock!!

Dry Camping available in the Football
field parking lot, behind the grade
school.

Swim Bus Starts Monday June 22

Lessons For the first two weeks

\$3.00 per day for regular swim

Lunch Provided everyday

Questions Call City Hall 541-443-2811

