

Submit photos now for Chamber 2018 photo contest

CITY from page 1A

She thanked each councilor individually and acknowledged that the councilors hold unpaid volunteer positions.

“I looked at the itineraries and schedules that you all have for this last year and going forward, and I can’t believe the countless hours you all have to put in to make this city run smoothly,” Wantz said. “I know how much work goes into this, and I fully appreciate it. I just want to say thank you.”

Each speaker gets three minutes during the public comment period. Wantz used the remainder of her time to lead the attendees in a “moment of quiet reflection.”

“I would like us to go inward and visualize those people who have sat up there before, visualize the people who have sat over here (at the staff table) and been paid to run this city, people who have been here before, who have gotten us to this place, and to those who are coming still. It’s a great responsibility,” she said. “I look forward to watching whoever is up there help run this city as best as you can.”

Afterwards, Wantz said she wanted to start the meeting with a thank you and quiet reflection to help set the tone for the meeting.

“There seems to be so much division in the world, country, state and city, and the city is supposed to be nonpartisan. No matter who gets elected, I want to thank them for being part of our city,” she said. “We’re going to be fine.”

She said that recent contention around the council and election encouraged her to issue her request for a return to “common decency.”

Besides the council and city staff who Wantz thanked, Florence relies on committees to shape policy, conduct research and lead in the areas of transportation, public art, economic development, community development, planning and more. City Recorder Kelli Weese

The Florence Area Chamber of Commerce is looking for the best amateur or professional photos of the fun, frolic, famous attractions, iconic buildings and beautiful scenery of Oregon’s Coastal Playground.

The winner will collect a \$250 cash prize and have their submitted photo featured in the Chamber’s resource guide and other printed marketing pieces, on its website and in social media.

A panel of Chamber members will decide the winner.

Photos must be taken within 25 miles of Florence to be eligible. The contest is open to Florence area residents and visitors from all over the world.

Amateurs and professionals alike are encouraged to enter. Portrait-oriented photos stand the best chance of being used in print media, though landscape-oriented photos are just as encouraged.

Ideal photos will be in .jpg format, color, vertical in orientation (but horizontal will be accepted). Preferred size is 1920x1080 pixels, and 8MP, if possible.

Deadline for entry is Nov. 15, with the winner being announced the week of Nov. 19. For more contest information, entry forms, and image release waivers visit Florence Chamber. com/Contest, call 541-997-3128, or email Contest@FlorenceChamber.com.

brought Agenda Item No. 7, “Committee & Commission Code & Policies,” before the council to help streamline language in the Florence City Code about committees and commissions and to clarify their roles.

“Our committees put in countless hours in volunteer efforts in their specific interests and things that work towards the city’s goals,” Weese said. “We wanted to make sure there was a formalized process for them to have a voice in the city’s overall work plan and goal setting — and to make sure the council is aware of what they are working towards.”

For the past year, according to Weese, staff has been working with the council in work sessions on reviewing committee structures and duties, as well as creating a policy manual for the committees. Updates included adding the option to have up to 11 people in each committee, changing the term to four years to match the city’s new biennial budget, clarifying appointments and removals and simplifying membership requirements.

“Overall, we looked at each committee’s scope and purpose and thought about how they can be larger, when possible, to incorporate more of the overarching goals of each particular objective,” Weese said. “This really helps to make sure the committees have a wide variety of projects.”

She said that committees have option to break up into smaller committees to complete tasks, and more members might help accomplish those tasks.

“We find that’s been an efficient method to get the work done,” Weese said.

Later in the meeting, Councilor Joshua Greene agreed.

“One of the changes we’re making with the subcommittees is that the committees can decide if they want to expand the quantity of people,” he said. “For example, the Public Art Committee is one that is really going to take advantage. We have seven people and we have eight

subcommittees right now, and want to create three more. That situation is the perfect example where we want all 11 people. So if you’re interested in public art, this is going to be a big opportunity to get involved.”

Other changes included consolidating committees.

The first is a new Transportation Committee that will combine and expand the roles of the Airport Advisory Committee and Transit Advisory Committee.

“The hope with that is to provide those two outlets, which are kind of narrow in scope, with a much broader way to look at our transportation infrastructure,” Weese said. “Hopefully they will be able to work on some policy objectives that meet all those needs, and think about how they work together.”

The second new committee combines and expands the roles of the Housing Committee, Economic Development Committee and Parks Committee, all of which are currently inactive, into a new Community and Economic Development Committee.

In addition, the Environmental Management Advisory Committee has been expanded to include the Tree Board and to address noxious weed removal and the City of Florence Audit Committee will now be an Ad-Hoc Committee.

“We’ve really done a lot of work — clearing of the roles and the job descriptions for the council, committee members and staff — trying to narrow down what everybody’s responsibilities are,” Weese said.

Now that the policy work is over, people are welcome to apply to: The Planning Commission, Budget Committee, Community & Economic Development Committee, Environmental Management Advisory Committee, Public Arts Committee, Transportation Committee and the Audit Ad-Hoc Committee.

“We have a boon of city com-

mittee positions open,” Weese said. “Anybody who is interested in volunteering for the city ... we want you all. This is our official start to the recruitment period, where we’ll be recruiting for up to 39 open positions.”

People can pick up applications at ci.florence.or.us or Florence Public Works, 2675 Kingwood St. The starting date will be in February 2019.

“I just would encourage anybody that is interested in serving their city to get an application for one of the committees that available, and get it in,” Woodbury said at the close of the meeting.

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- We visit with Kathy Murphey about Peace Harbor Hospice's Light Up A Life.
- Local Pastors Ruth Miller, Dale Edwards and Greg Wood share their thoughts about the tragedy in the Pennsylvania synagogue.
- We also talk with local veterans about their experiences and the Veteran's Day Celebration.
- Siuslaw athletic director Chris Johnson talks sports with some high tech additions.
- We will also take a look at some of the local election results.



with host
GEORGE HENRY



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