

**COUNCIL** *from page 1A*

“What you guys did with the Prossers, and a few other people that we know, would start a whole alt-right campaign,” Bill read from the attorney’s letter. “In making that statement, you also asserted that your accusation was based on facts that were a matter of public record. The truth is that Bill and Katie Prosser are not part of any alt-right movement, do not condone alt-right ideology and do not support the racist and violent agendas often associated with the so-called alt-right movement. ... Under these circumstances, my clients are rightfully concerned that you have harmed their reputation and, moreover, your false accusation has potentially harmed Mr. Prosser’s practice as well.”

Greene showed contrition as he responded to the criticisms leveled against him. “I’d like to address this issue. I spoke with Bill before

the meeting and I explained that I was wrong in using the phrase ‘alt-right.’ It was not my intention,” he said. “We have a different point of view on politics, on which he has been very public. But what I said wasn’t appropriate and that’s certainly not what I meant. I really just meant right, ‘far right,’ but not ‘alt-right.’ And I never meant to slander you in any way shape or form, with the interpretations that go with skinheads, Nazism and all that stuff.”

“That is not what I know you or respect you to be.”

Greene then stated he would be in contact with the Prossers’ lawyer to provide him with a statement that would satisfy the couple’s request.

The following proclamation preceded public comments and was presented in

recognition of the work done by Lon Beale, the owner of Sand Master Park, to raise the profile of sandboarding not only locally, but internationally:

**“We have a different point of view on politics ... . But what I said wasn’t appropriate and that’s certainly not what I meant. I really just meant right, ‘far right,’ but not ‘alt-right.’ And I never meant to slander you in any way shape or form, with the interpretations that go with skinheads, Nazism and all that stuff. That is not what I know you or respect you to be.”**

— Joshua Greene, Florence City Councilor

“Whereas, Sandboarding is a fun and unique board sport similar to snowboarding that involves riding across or down a sand dune on a board; and whereas, the world’s first sandboard park, Sand Master Park, was established in January 2000 as an international destination attraction; and whereas, from its headquarters in Florence, Ore., sandboarding as a sport has radiated across the planet, inspiring many locations to embrace this activity on both a recreational and competitive level, and whereas, as the epicenter of sandboarding, Florence’s unique sand qualities, and sandboarding culture attract tens of thousands of sandboarders each year; and whereas, the impact of sandboarding on Florence’s reputation throughout the world, the local sandboarding culture, advancements in related gear, and the founding of the Sandboard World Tour, Dune Riders International, have their roots in Florence; and now, therefore, be it resolved that by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Florence, I do hereby proclaim Florence Oregon the Sandboarding Capital of the World and call upon our citizens to celebrate and promote the sport of Sandboarding.”

and along with all of the other ones, it’s starting to look like a peacock. I could not have done this, of course, without the support of various organizations, many of them are represented here tonight,” Beale said. “The community, all the city offices and all of the people that have believed in us since day one — this is a team effort and we do this together. Florence, this is your win — a big win — and it’s something to be proud of and something we can apply to other applications. I know, like myself, you are looking to see what the future holds for the Sand Board Capital of The World.”

Beale received a standing ovation after his brief remarks.

Following this, Florence Area Chamber of Commerce President Neil Ecker then presented a very positive marketing report to the council, which highlighted the increased number of hits on Travel Oregon’s website and other media platforms.

The rest of the agenda for the evening included an approved request for a change to Florence City Code related to parking code violations and a recommendation for adoption of Resolution No. 1, Series 2020, which would amend the budget and food service operations for the Florence Events Center

(FEC).

FEC Director Kevin Rhodes received approval at the Nov. 18, 2019, Florence City Council meeting to initiate an in-house food and beverage (F&B) service at the FEC. Information provided by Rhodes at the November meeting indicated the establishment of an in-house F&B program would be “cost-neutral” and provide clients with a more inclusive experience when considering booking an event at the FEC.

Rhodes also stated during his presentation that the increase in funding would be offset by the revenues generated during the next two years through revenue generated by an in-house F&B service.

Resolution 1, 2020, would provide the anticipated \$167,500 in funding needed for the next two years to hire staff and to begin offering food and beverages to FEC clients.

The decision to begin to offer in-house F&B was made after a discussion which pointed out, that on occasion, there was an unclear communication between caterers and clients who had booked an event at the FEC.

According to Rhodes, The option to purchase desired F&B directly from the facility where the event is held would make it easier to complete menu and food preparation.

A request from local veteran’s group Deeds of Valor prompted the consideration of Resolution No. 2, 2020, which directed Public Works Director Mike Miller to submit a grant application to the state for support funding for the installation of a new gateway and a small park at the Florence Municipal Airport.

The request for the approval to participate in the

grant request was given at a November meeting, and the final wording for the joint request was formally approved on Monday.

In addition, the purchase of an undeveloped plot of land in the Pacific View Business Park was also approved as the council had met in executive session earlier in the day to discuss the particulars of an offer made by Stonefield Investments LLC to purchase Lot No. 22 at the park.

Stonefield Investments is owned by Robbie Wright, who is the chairperson of the Florence Community and Economic Development Committee, and his firm offered to purchase Lot 22 for \$130,525, with rebate incentives that would lower the final price by \$30,000.

City Manager Erin Reynolds supported the purchase, citing the prices recently paid for similar plots in the area.

Councilors authorized Reynolds to move forward with the sale and there were no public comments offered regarding the sale.

As the meeting drew to a close, city councilor commitments regarding Florence Municipal Court observations and ex-officio assignments were discussed by Reynolds and will be finalized at a future meeting.

Reynolds also announced there will be a change in the 2020 State of the City address. This year, in addition to the annual address by the mayor, there will be a “City Expo” component to the evening, which will include presentations from organizations that operate in Florence.

The State of the City Address and the new “City Expo” is scheduled to take place at the FEC, 715 Quince St., on Thursday, Jan. 30.

The next Florence City Council meeting is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 27 at Florence City Hall, 250 Highway 101. For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

**FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK**



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Each of these has videos on various topics that explain the hazards the Pacific Northwest faces, and how to prepare for them.

For more information, visit these websites:

AMERICAN RED CROSS — [WWW.REDCROSS.ORG](http://WWW.REDCROSS.ORG)

CITY OF FLORENCE — [WWW.CI.FLORENCE.OR.US](http://WWW.CI.FLORENCE.OR.US)

FEMA — [WWW.READY.GOV](http://WWW.READY.GOV)

LANE COUNTY — [WWW.LANECOUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.LANECOUNTY.ORG)

SIUSLAW VALLEY FIRE AND RESCUE — [WWW.SVFR.ORG](http://WWW.SVFR.ORG)

WLEOG — [WWW.WLEOG.ORG](http://WWW.WLEOG.ORG)

**EMERGENCY  
PREPAREDNESS**

**Dealing with Disaster**

**W**e often consider the physical dangers of emergencies – injuries from flying debris or car crashes, for example – but can overlook the mental impact associated with such incidents.

Crisis situations can result in loss of loved ones, debilitating injuries or traumatic stress that can change lives forever. And because these events are few and far between, they can be hard to deal with when they occur. Experts urge people of all ages who may be experiencing psychological distress as a result of natural disaster or incident of mass violence to seek the help of trained and caring professionals.

**THE SIGNS**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) identifies the following physical and emotional reactions as being warning signs for seeking professional assistance.

- Irregular sleeping patterns.
- Painful stomachaches or headaches.
- Anger or edgy attitudes.
- Overwhelming sadness.
- Increased worry or guilt.
- Lack of energy or always feeling tired.

- Drinking alcohol, smoking or using tobacco more than usual.
- Using illegal drugs.
- Eating too much or too little.
- Not connecting with others.
- Rejecting of help.

**HOTLINE HELP**

SAMHSA has set up a free hotline to assist United States citizens dealing with a traumatic event in their lives. The hotline is staffed by trained counselors from a network of crisis call centers located across the U.S. They are trained to provide crisis counseling for those who are in emotional distress caused by any natural or human-caused disaster, information on how to recognize distress and its effects on individuals and families, and tips for healthy



coping. The hotline’s counselors can also provide referrals to local crisis call centers.

The confidential and multilingual hotline is available via telephone (1-800-985-5990) and SMS (Text ‘TalkWithUs’ to 66746).

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