

**COUNCIL from page 1A**

short statement to start the evening's proceedings. Reynolds spoke about the unexpected challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and the general unease surrounding a number of recent events.

"On behalf of our city staff and as city manager, I wanted to say a few words in light of the national events and local events, and just the general sentiment that we are all feeling," Reynolds began. "As we experience these unsettling times, I want to share with the community that I do expect a high level of professionalism of our staff as they interact with all individuals and all groups in our community. We, including myself, are here to humbly serve all members of our community in an outstanding and professional manner. So, I ask as your city manager — as members of the community — please be kind and have grace and patience when interacting with all people. We don't condone hate and instead promote loving our neighbors and visitors alike."

inaccurate and deliberately inflammatory social posts prompted another unusual point in the meeting as the council was next addressed by Florence Police Chief Tom Turner, who has been speaking with city staff, local media and council members about

an incident that occurred on Bay Street last week — and trying to put the event in proper context.

According to Turner, Florence police received multiple calls on June 4 that reported an armed individual walking on Bay Street looking for protestors. Florence Police responded and spoke with the man, who then left the area. With Oregon being an open carry state, there were no laws broken and the individual involved was not cited.

However, the incident did alarm a number of residents and business owners, prompting Turner's public comments on the dangers posed by the inaccurate information

posted on social media platforms. In particular, the suggestion that "agitators" from somewhere else were coming to the Oregon Coast to cause trouble.

Turner has been very clear in recent public statements that there is absolutely no validity to

those posts, or to the idea that the FPD is not able to deal with the potential dangers presented to residents here.

LEXIPOL provides FPD with many things related to improving and evaluating the performance of first responders, including fire and medical services, and counts heavily on the group's recommendations to the department when updating necessary procedures. The statements from Reynolds and Turner then gave way to a more familiar meeting process as City Recorder Kelli Weese walked the council through the public meeting requirements for Resolutions No. 11 and 12, Series 2020, which recommended approval

by council to declare and certify the city's eligibility to receive state-shared revenues.

The council voted unanimously to approve the resolutions.

Resolutions No. 15 and 16, Series 2020, were also approved and extended the City of Florence's Worker Compensation Insurance coverage to volunteers and set an ad valorem tax rate of \$2.86 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The city and the FPD also agreed through a memo of understanding to roll over the current contract between the two entities for a year.

Reynolds and Administrative Services Director Anne Baker then reviewed the measures taken to this point to assure fiscal stability for the city during the COVID-19 pandemic and discussed possible budget scenarios which may need to be adjusted due to changing revenue streams.

The two Action Items on the agenda also passed with full council approval and included the passage of Ordinance No. 7, Series 2020, amending City Code and the regulation of alcoholic beverages on private property open to public use, and an update to an earlier version of the temporary COVID-19 Emergency

Declaration.

Public Works Director Mike Miller then asked the council to support expenditures to Schneider Water Services for \$45,000 for well repair, \$166,735 for Cascade Civil Corporation for installation of a School Pedestrian Crossing and \$129,978 for road seal treatments for part of Rhododendron Drive.

The city did make some decisions that did not immediately impact taxpayer dollars, as Turner asked for council approval to accept a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice for the Community Oriented Policing services program.


Turner said he believes the program has been an unqualified success.

The council accepted Turner's recommendation and the \$125,000 grant, which will be used to support a School Resource Officer for the Siuslaw School District.


Reynolds ended the meeting by letting the council know that she is planning on taking maternity leave and current City Project Manager Megan Messmer will be the acting city manager during that time.

Councilor Joshua Greene also brought up the issue of allowing public input as soon as possible during city council meetings, a suggestion that was adopted by the council.


The next Florence City Council meeting is scheduled for July 20, beginning at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit [ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us).



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## Rent, utility assistance available from SOS fund

Siuslaw Outreach Services, through the support of community donations, private foundations, FEMA and Lane County Human Services Commission, has established a fund of \$118,000 to provide rent and utility assistance to households that have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and Governor Brown's executive order.

Nearly half of the funds come from Lane County Commissioners and the Human Services Commission. Including donations from community members, other sources are Ford Family foundation, United Way and Allstate Foundation.

In addition, Siuslaw Outreach Services Low-Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is taking sign-ups for those who have not received energy assistance already this year.

Funds will be dispersed as long as they are available.

LIHEAP is an energy assistance program designed to help low-income individuals and families during the colder months. Sign-ups may be done in person at Siuslaw Outreach Services, 1576 W 12th St., or via phone at 541-997-2816.

For more information on this and other programs, or to schedule an appointment, call Siuslaw Outreach Services at 541-997-2816 or visit [florencesos.org](http://florencesos.org).



**Western Lane Community Foundation**  
Community People Helping Community People

## Now Accepting Continuing Education Scholarships

Awarded annually and designed for students who use permanent home addresses within the Florence/Dunes City/Mapleton/Deadwood geographical areas and graduated from High School in 2019 or earlier, have their diploma, GED, or were home schooled and are eligible to enter higher education, a trade school or a graduate program. This includes non-traditional students starting or returning to a program after a career or family change or job loss.

Scholarships are available for traditional four-year universities, colleges, community colleges, and accredited trade schools and special arts programs.

Applications can be obtained on the WLCF website: [www.wlcfonline.org](http://www.wlcfonline.org).

**APPLICATION DEADLINE JUNE 30, 2020**

Western Lane Community Foundation, founded in 1974, is a community trust, private non-profit organization. The Foundation's mission is to improve life throughout Western Lane County by encouraging and maintaining philanthropic activity.

WLCF focuses its giving in four major areas: culture, medicine and science, education, and social and civic services.



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