

Plans from 1A

zoned Low Density Residential with a Prime Wildlife shorelands management unit overlay (LDR/PW).

During the meeting, City Planning Director Wendy FarleyCampbell's presentation included the information required by the city for proper deliberation of the proposal.

The concerns discussed during the meeting included three issues related to water: stormwater drainage, potential flooding and wetland area impact, in addition to traffic concerns and a perceived lack of pedestrian facilities.

The meeting materials included reports submitted from Benedick Holdings, as well as materials from Florence Public Works Department, Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue, Western Lane Ambulance District

and Lane County Public Works.

In addition, areas of concern needing response were listed, with the relevant local agencies responding by raising no serious objections to the annexation.

Public Works Director Mike Miller even suggested in his presentation that there would be added advantages to others living in the near the annexation.

"Regarding sanitary sewer service, the proposed project will provide opportunities for other surrounding homeowners to have city sanitary sewer service if they desire," said Miller. "City sanitary sewer service is currently only available to properties within the city limits. Properties outside of the city limits would need to annex prior to receiving sanitary sewer service from the city."

Miller explained that it is the policy of the City of Florence to provide sanitary sewer service to any property within the city's wastewa-

ter service area.

"However, the property owners are to pay for sewer main extension, manholes, pump stations, construction, connection fees, engineering fees, street opening permits and any other fees necessary for the connection to the public sewer system for the project," he added.

The public hearing on this issue was then closed, with the written record left open for the addition of materials through Nov. 24. The motion was made by Commissioner Brian Jagoe and passed unanimously by the Planning Commission.

On Dec. 8, at 5:30 p.m., the Planning Committee will continue deliberations on Farthing's request, on behalf of Benedick Holdings, LLC, to annex the 48-acre of property and apply a City of Florence zoning designation to the land.

During the remainder of the evening, the second item was a request for a postponement of a public hear-

ing from Driftwood Shores regarding an architectural variance for a storage building.

That request was also passed, without discussion.

Two days later, the Florence Transportation Committee meeting on Nov. 12 was brief. It was primarily a review of the final draft of the group's workplan that was then presented to the city council this past Monday.

The Transportation Committee is responsible for advising the city council on issues related to vehicular, bike and pedestrian traffic, public and private transit and air traffic at the Florence Municipal Airport.

The Transportation Committee memorandum to the city discussed the overall area transit plan, which highlighted public transportation.

"As ridership on the Rhody Express continues to rise, the introduction of the Florence-Eugene bus route

is on its way to being established in spite of COVID-19, along with the introduction of a new transit system from Coos Bay to Florence," the committee said in its memo to the city.

"The Transportation Committee's work regarding public transportation efforts in the city are as important as ever. Most recently, the committee was informed that the Lane Council of Governments was also awarded a Transportation Growth Management Grant, which could facilitate better connectivity to towns and cities within Lane County and other counties as well."

Josh Haring, owner of River City Taxi, which manages the Rhody Express, added that the possibility exists of a new vehicle being added to Rhody Express routes due to the continued use of the service, projecting a new bus may be available in 2021.

Discussion of the new wireless connections at the

Florence Municipal Airport (FMA) was brought to the attention of the committee by member Terry Tomeny, a pilot that is involved with many aviation-related aspects of the transportation equation in the area.

Tomeny asked for clarification of the wireless access procedures for the airport and reviewed the related requests in the workplan, which included an update on recent improvements to the runways and lighting systems at the airport.

There were few changes suggested by members to the workplan, which was then submitted to the council.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Nov. 24 at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is Dec. 10, beginning at 2:30 p.m. For more information on these and other City of Florence committees, visit www.ci.florence.or.us/boardsandcommissions.

EMAC from 1A

Day observance and proclamation.

Titmus reviewed these standards and mentioned the COVID-related cancellation of Arbor Day 2020 and the efforts being made by EMAC to re-engage with community members in the coming months.

He also responded indi-

rectly to the suggestion that the designation was primarily one that was geared towards the beauty and visual appeal of trees, suggesting there is a deeper component to the effort.

"It's not just the aesthetics, talking about the designation itself," Titmus said. "The Arbor Day Foundation is very much engaged in doing this for the environmental concerns. They have

a program now to plant a certain number of trees, and in the State of Oregon, it is about 183,000 trees that they would like to get planted this year."

Florence is one of more than 3,400 municipalities across America that has been designated a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation, with support from the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association

of Foresters.

EMAC member Sherrie Harvey also recapped the goal and brief history of the tree program and pointed towards some small steps that could now be taken — at least partially — turn the public's attention toward its leafy neighbors.

"The original purpose of the was to engage the community, and then COVID happened and that basic-

ly shut down people taking pictures," Harvey said. "We can now do a drive about posting pictures where you are indeed planting a tree and doing something more aligned with the goals of the Tree Board."

Arbor Day Foundation Chief Executive Matt Harris has said the designation is important for a number of reasons.

"Everyone benefits when elected officials, volunteers and committed citizens in communities like Florence make smart investments in urban forests," he said. "Trees bring shade to our homes and beauty to our neighborhoods, along with numerous economic, social and environmental benefits. Trees are assets to a community when properly planted and maintained. They help to improve the visual appeal of a neighborhood, increase

property values, reduce home cooling costs, remove air pollutants and provide wildlife habitat — among many other benefits."

Florence City Councilor Ron Preisler, as council ex-officio representative, also reported this would be his last EMAC meeting, since the December meeting of the committee has been cancelled. He thanked fellow members for their time and commitment to the community and for their work crafting the application and accompanying requirements to become a Tree City. He also thanked them for the many issues EMAC has been involved with during his tenure on the committee.

The next EMAC meeting will be in January, but the date is unscheduled at this time. For more information, visit www.ci.florence.or.us/bc-emac.

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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD. WATCH SIUSLAW NEWS FOR RESUMPTION

- Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant • Urologist Dr. Bryan Melihaff attends.
- Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant • Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.

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