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For this reason, the city's workplan is updated regularly every two years — a biennium — with some items being completed, some continued and others removed or updated. That process is currently underway with the Florence City Council scheduled to hear numerous committee and commission presentations and suggestions to be considered for inclusion in the next workplan, which will

be discussed at the upcoming April 19 city council meeting. An additional and important component of the workplan formulation is the work done by the numerous committees comprised of volunteers. These committee members discuss and decide which topics related to their particular committee should be identified and forwarded to the city council. At Tuesday's meeting of the Environmental Man-

agement Advisory Committee (EMAC), part of that process was short circuited when a special session was unable to be held due to the lack of a quorum — the minimum number of members necessary to conduct the business of that group. Usually, a quorum is made up of a simple majority of the committee. In the case of EMAC, six members are needed for a quorum. When City Planner Wendy FarleyCampbell, ex-officio representative from city staff, greeted members, those who were virtually present included Laurie Green, Lisa Walter-Sedlacek, Eric Oshel, Vickie Philbin, Ray Sherrill and non-voting member Councilor Sally Wantz, ex-officio representative from the Florence City Council.

Haring or Daniel Berry — there would be a limit of 15 minutes for a quorum to gather or the meeting could not be held. The main subject of the special session was to discuss a recommendation to the council to form a "climate change" subcommittee. Tuesday's special session was scheduled as a response to the dozens of comments submitted to the council and city staff requesting official action regarding the subject. For the past several years, there has been growing support among a segment of the community pushing for an official recognition in the form of a proclamation, and a related action plan, which recognizes and acts on climate-related issues. During recent meetings, some EMAC members have vocalized their opposition to establishing an official climate policy. Coincidentally, members absent from this week's special session to discuss the subject were among those who have expressed

opposition to the idea. The inability to hold the EMAC meeting due to the lack of a quorum means that any additional discussion or recommendations will not take place prior to the April 19 council meeting, effectively assuring that any climate-related recommendation will not reach the council for discussion or inclusion. There were a number of speaker cards filled out for the special session. Among them was from area resident Michael Allen, who said he believes the absence of those who are on record as opposing a climate change initiative was a parliamentary tactic designed to prevent the discussion. "On Tuesday, Florence had a travesty at the Special Session for the City's Environmental Management Advisory Committee (EMAC)," he wrote in an email to Siuslaw News. "As you know, the purpose of the session was to consider a recommendation to the city council for the formation of a subcom-

mittee to consider workplan items that address climate change. ... Among those not present was the committee's chairperson [Titmus] it's vice-chair [Kuert] and Josh Haring, who exclaimed at a previous meeting that he would boycott the special session." Allen added that the move was a similar tactic used by Republicans at the state capitol when the legislature was on the verge of passing climate legislation. "Now it is being practiced in our small city of Florence," Allen said. After the mandated time of 15 minutes for a quorum to form had passed, FarleyCampbell announced the meeting would not be held due to a lack of a quorum. The next EMAC meeting is scheduled to be held April 20, the day after the Florence City Council will discuss workplan recommendations submitted by EMAC and other city committees. For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

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Lane County invites responses to Hunger Factors survey

FOOD for Lane County (FFLC) is conducting a survey to better understand who, why and where the community is in need of food assistance. The confidential survey is open to anyone who has witnessed or experienced food insecurity and is available from April 1 to April 30.

The survey is confidential and should take 10 to 15 minutes. People have the option of entering a drawing for one of 20 \$25 gift cards to thank them for their time.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, even as the economy improved, Lane County residents continued to access food assistance at the highest rate in several years. FFLC anticipates that hunger and food insecurity will persist even af-

ter the economy recovers, thus making participation in this survey crucial.



"The Hunger Factors survey is one of the important ways we get feedback from those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity," said FFLC Executive Director Tom Mulhern. "The more we know about the attitudes and life situations of those who need assistance, the better we and

our food distribution partners will be able to respond with compassion, inclusion and meaningful impact."

The online community survey is modeled after the Hunger Factors survey that has been implemented since 1986 through Oregon Food Bank. The survey can be accessed through links on FFLC's website, social media, email distributions and newsletters, and through the use of QR codes that will be printed and given out with food distribution efforts at FFLC partner agencies.

"We need your input to understand how we can best collaborate with our partners and our community to get food to people's tables," Mulhern said.

FFLC's survey is intended for anyone who has had

food and other resources. It's for anyone who has experienced hunger or has worried about their next meal. It is for anyone who has visited a pantry, a meal site or gotten help with food. It is for anyone who knows someone else that is making tough choices because of food insecurity.

"By completing this survey, you will help us create access to food for all across Lane County," Mulhern said.

FOOD For Lane County's mission is to reduce hunger by engaging our community to access food. We do that through the lens of our values: compassion, inclusion and collaboration. We distribute over 8 million pounds of (mostly donated) food through a network of 164 partner agencies across Lane County. FOOD For Lane County is neighbors showing up for neighbors.

For more information, visit foodforlanecounty.org.

Doing Good. Giving Back.

Do you part and volunteer today to help support these organizations in our community.

Habitat for Humanity

We need your help! Florence Habitat ReStore is in need of cashiers on Saturdays. If you have spare time and want to give back to your community in a fun environment give Floyd a call! 541-997-5834

Helping Hands Coalition

We are in need of volunteers on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. We need volunteers to serve food, set up for meals and also prepare meals beginning at 11:00 am and finishing at 2:00pm. New Location: Community Baptist Church, 4590 Hwy. 101, Florence (Across from Fred Meyer)

Oregon Coast Humane Society

relies heavily on volunteers. There are many opportunities to volunteer and a variety of skills and talents are always in need. Volunteer interest forms may be found online, at the shelter and at our Thrift Shop on Bay Street. www.oregoncoasthumane.org/volunteer/

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