FLOGRO from page 1A

Public Works Director Mike Miller has been a strong advocate of the FloGro program and has taken a particular interest in seeing the effort continue and to grow.

"I saw the composting program as an environ-

All fish are

caught locally,

one at a time.

Ultra Premium

Quality

Frozen and

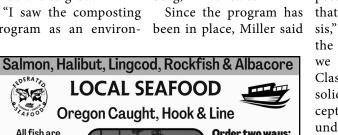
vacuum sealed

for convenience

& freshness.

mentally friendly way to reduce the amount of money spent on hauling biosolids, originally to the Short Mountain landfill [located just outside Eu-Farms outside of Roseburg," Miller said.

Since the program has been in place, Miller said



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the city has lowered its spending on hauling and disposal costs of biosolids from \$80,000 per year to \$50,000.

"As we utilize more of gene] and now to Heard the biosolids in the composting program, we expect to continue to reduce that cost on an annual basis," Miller said. "Through the composting process, we are able to produce Class A composted biosolids and meet the 'exceptional quality' criteria under the U.S. EPA and Oregon DEQ regulations on biosolids."

In addition, FloGro is good for gardens.

According to Miller, "Using composted biosolids improves soil health and allows the soil to hold more water while letting it drain and breathe better. Again, this program allows us to take care of two waste products yard debris and biosolids — and produce a sustainable soil amendment for our community."

Philben has suggested in recent EMAC meetings that there should be a concerted effort to expand the FloGro Program and offer composting options to all interested residents.

She added that money could be saved when less material needs to be hauled and dumped.

"Currently, only a fraction of the biosolids produced can be used to compost FloGro because of equipment and persondewatered sludge needs Wednesday.

FloGro, a Class A biosolids product, is produced through a composting process that combines chipped yard debris with biosolids. The end result is a sustainable compost supply, which the city cultivates at the Wastewater Treatment Plant at 650 Rhododendron Drive.

to be hauled away and disposed of. The expense involved in doing this will only increase with time and, if the sludge or biosolids can be composted here in Florence into a useful product, it will save the city money in the long

Miller said his commitment to the community extends beyond providing the essential services required of his department clean water, electrical services and properly maintained roads — but also includes significantly improving the quality of life for residents.

This ethos has taken the constraints of space, hold in the department, as evidenced by Murnel," Philben said. "That phy's thoughtful responsmeans that most of the es during the tour on

some of our operations measurable results. at the Florence Wastewater Treatment Plant with forms of unwanted waste, the EMAC committee yard debris and biosolmembers. When I look at our wastewater treatment operation and the professionals that I work with, I feel the need to point out that, for us, it nity from which it came," is more than a job and so much more than a profession," Murphy said. "The health of our community and being good stewards Composting to the environment are into the driving force behind larger." all the decisions we make. Every day we look for in- soil will be distributed novations and opportuni- this year at a time and ties to improve processes, place yet to be detersave energy and lessen mined. the impacts of wastewater on our little neck of the visit

"It was nice to share posting program provides

"We get to take different ids and safely turn them around with our own efforts to create a beneficial product that can be used right back in the commuhe said. "All of us at Public Works look forward to learning more and growing the City of Florence something

Distribution of FloGro

For more information, www.ci.florence. or.us/publicworks/flogro-He added that the com- it-makes-flowers-grow.

BUDGET from page 1A

The overall cost to taxpayers to run the city during this time is expected to be approximately \$71.9 million, increasing from \$65.2 million, which was budgeted during the preceding biennium. This means a 19 percent increase in the proposed budget.

the efforts of city staff over the last year as related to COVID-19 protocols and other situations related to the pandemic. In particular, she mentioned the challenges faced by the Florence Events Center due

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to the facility's inability to operate fully during 2020 and into this year.

"Although COVID-19 has significantly impacted local business, the overall impact to the city so far has not been catastrophic," Reynolds reported. "Most city revenues impacted by COVID-19 are currently projected to return to nor-Reynolds also reviewed mal levels by fall 2021."

The city manager also stated Florence's primary source of revenue — property taxes — has remained stable over the past year, seeing modest growth.

Additionally, due COVID concerns, onethird of city staff have been working from home while two-thirds have been at their workplace or performing duties in and around the city.

Reynolds then shared her expectations that the City of Florence will receive funding from the recently approach \$2 million.

During the rest of the committee meeting, Reynolds provided a breakdown of expenditures by category ing's adjournment. and type provided. Those figures show that Florence is expected to spend \$15 million in personnel costs, \$17.9 million for materials and services and \$21 million for capital outlay.

After this, City Recorder Kelli Weese reviewed some of the rules and procedures in place for the mandated public viewing of city meetings and the process for those members of the pub-

lic who wish to comment at those public meetings. She also reviewed COVID-19 protocols and reminded the members that there was passed American Rescue a public hearing scheduled Act, which is expected to for the committee on May

10 at 5:30 p.m. There were no additional questions or comments, which prompted the meet-

Members of the City of Florence Budget Committee are Mayor Joe Henry, city councilors Woody Woodbury, Sally Wantz, Maggie Wisniewski and Bill Meyer, Chairperson Brittany Hornung, Vice Chair Leonard Larson, Jeff Archambeau, Ron Hildeb-

rand and Joel Marks. For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.



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Port to consider budget May 19
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> the FY21-22 budget. Work sessions and regular meetings are open to the public. Due to COVID-19, meetings are being held using Zoom. The agenda and a zoom link will be posted 48 hours before the meeting. For more information, call 541-997-3426 or visit portofsiuslaw.com.



Deadline for Press Releases Is Every Monday and Thursday by Noon. Email PressReleases@ THESIUSLAWNEWS.

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