

**DONATION from page 1A**

retiring, he moved to Florence and joined Florence Lodge Number 107. While here, he was an active member until his death last year. In 2002 he received the Hiram Award, which is an award given to older members for their long-time service to Freemasonry.

In his death, Paul continues to support local children by leaving most of his estate to the children's library in Florence.

"This will give our local library well over \$500,000 to help the children of Florence," Tooley said.

Besides the donation to the library, Kindsvater also set up a fund for the lodge to draw on to help support the Florence Masonic Lodge Scholarship Fund.

"Paul never married but always supported the lodge's efforts to help the children of the Florence



**Florence Masons met with the Siuslaw Public Library to honor the legacy of Mason Paul Kindsvater and his donation to the children's library. (Front row from left) Siuslaw Public Library Foundation President Laurel Ferguson and Library Director Meg Spencer. (Back row from left) Siuslaw Public Library District Board President Susy Lacer, Assistant Director and Youth Services Librarian Gayle Vinchesi and representatives of the Florence Masonic Lodge Secretary Hunt Ramsey, PM, Marshall Dick Tooley, PM, and Senior Warden Tom Velvin MWPGM-MD.**

area," Tooley said. "He believed our children are our future and we look forward

to continuing his support for them."

After learning of the

donation, Siuslaw Public Library Assistant Director and Youth Services Librarian Miss Gayle said, "Hearing Paul's Lodge brothers talk about his passion for

educating children and teens is inspiring. There is no greater legacy than to impact the lives of children, and we at the library are honored and privileged to share Paul's passion."

The Siuslaw Public Library has locations at 1460 Ninth St. in Florence and 88148 Riverview Ave. in Mapleton. Both locations have books and activities for children. Even more resources are available at [www.siuslawlibrary.info](http://www.siuslawlibrary.info).

According to Library Director Meg Spencer, "Mr. Kindsvater's donation will be felt for decades in our community, and young people here will have better access to library and literacy services because of his remarkable generosity. He will be making generations of readers with this gift. I can't thank him and the Florence Masonic Lodge enough for their commitment to education in our region."

**AGENDA from page 1A**

on the council a year and a half, but they have never attended a meeting in person, so it's a new experience for all of us."

The mayor then announced the mid-term appointments of Tom Benedict and James LaCroix to the Environmental Management Advisory Committee, Ken Henderson to the at-large position on the Florence Urban Renewal Agency (FURA) and Bruce Jarvis to the Public Art Committee.

This was followed by pub-

lic comments on subjects not on the evening's agenda.

The first speaker was Jarvis, who expressed support for the Florence Police Department and called on the council to adopt a "Stand for Freedom" Resolution which would limit Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's ability to impact city policies that are viewed as unconstitutional by an unnamed group of overseers.

Then, local activist Michael Allen spoke, requesting that the Florence City Council accept the what he considers to be the reality of climate change and develop

a strategy to minimize that impact.

Allen made a brief statement and, for much of the three minutes allotted to each speaker, read the names of some of the nearly 500 individuals that have signed Allen's request to the city for some form of climate action. Allen's comments were followed by those from Frank Smith, who continued reading the names of those that signed Allen's petition.

In contrast, the final speaker, Sam Spayd, urged the council to ignore the request to initiate any sort of climate discussion and instead focus on issues that directly impact Florence.

It is the council's policy to not address public comment.

The first action item of the meeting was consideration of the sale of a parcel of city property, Lot 20, in the Pacific View Business Park.

Kelli Weese, in her role as the Economic Development Coordinator for

the city, walked councilors through the review of the process which led staff to recommend the sale. The property under consideration is just under 5 acres at 216,058 feet. Weese's review included data from a number of previous sales of city properties and the rationale for determining what was eventually approved as the sale price of approximately \$19,000.

The discussion among councilors was minimal. After the review was presented by staff, the sale was approved unanimously and authorization was given to City Manager Erin Reynolds to enter into a contract to sell the parcel.

The next item on the agenda was a request from staff to accept a childcare related grant from the Cascade West Economic Development District in the amount of \$10,000. The presentation was made by City Economic Development Catalyst Sarah Moehrke, who presented data from state and

county organizations which deal with childcare issues throughout the state.

The information shows a lack of affordable child care in the Florence area and a growing need to address this shortage.

A tangential request authorized the city manager to negotiate with United Way of Lane County to administer the City of Florence's Childcare grant program. With little debate the council approved Moehrke's requests.

The evening's consent items were approved without comment by council members and included passage of Resolution No. 24, Series 2021. This resolution extended the City of Florence's workers compensation coverage to volunteers of the city.

There was also a request to ratify the recently negotiated three-year collective bargaining agreement with the Florence Police Employees Association Agreement, acceptance of a \$32,000 grant from the American Rescue Act from the Federal Aviation Administration related to COVID protocols, and purchase of two mes-

sage boards for deployment at community events, construction sites and emergency situations. These items were all approved as part of the consent agenda.

In addition, Reynolds gave her City Manager's Report and reviewed the options available to watch council meetings online or in person.

She also reminded the council that as time passes there will be more public and community events taking place. The next large-scale community event will be held Aug. 3, the third annual National Night Out, which will take place in Miller Park. This provides an opportunity for residents to meet first responders from the Florence Police Department, Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue and Western Lane Ambulance District, as well as local organizations. The event provides a free meal to the community and activities for children and families.

The next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for Monday, Aug. 2, at 5:30 p.m.

For more information, visit [ci.florence.or.us](http://ci.florence.or.us).

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