

MEETING from page 1A

was a sticking point, as FarleyCampbell pointed to the Lovejoy's logo in the proposed mural as more informational than allowed by code.

"The written part of the mural reading 'Lovejoy's ... Since 1994' that intends to communicate a message does not meet the definition of a mural but rather a 'sign' and is subject to FCC 4-7 Sign Regulations, specifically for wall signage," she said. "The applicant shall apply to the City Building Division for a sign permit and receive approval prior to applying the informational message to the wall."

The image provided by Burnem of the finished piece was large and colorful, showing spectacular scenes from London and the surrounding area. This treatment of the London imagery also met two of the main elements of the Mural Code according to staff; the mural may reflect the diversity of the world and the mural may reflect historic, cultural or natural heritage, which it does as Lovejoy's, is a British themed restaurant.

Another of the criteria which ultimately led to staff recommendations to approve the request, was the fact that the mural will not adversely dominate the building or surrounding areas and is harmonious with the scale, color, details, materials and proportion of the building.

"The intersection includes only two structures whereby the other two

properties have parking lots. The surrounding buildings both along Nopal and opposite are all single story. This building serves as the focal point for the intersection and immediate area," FarleyCampbell said. "As proposed, the mural would be the main event on Nopal Street but would not dominate the surrounding area due to the other visual elements around the area such as the port parking lot and several three-story buildings to the east along First Street."

The review of the application was most concerning to Councilor Sally Wantz who was concerned the mural was more of a billboard than an image. Wantz also mentioned what she felt was the tenuous connection between the image and Florence.

"As evidenced by the placement of their logo in the right corner of the mural, the applicant fully intended to advertise their business," Wantz said. "Tourists may wonder what this has to do with Florence, its history or its culture, or it may cause them to explore to find out what that is."

Her concerns also extended to the manner in which the mural would blend in thematically with other structures and with the neighborhood.

Shane Burnem, who owns Lovejoy's with Heather, was on hand for this part of the meeting, and suggested the allure of London was the type of image which would draw visitors to Old Town.

"It is an image that is de-

signed to take you someplace, and being a business here in town ... we want Florence to be successful, we want it to be a destination town and we want it to be vibrant ... and that is what we are trying to do with this mural," Shane said.

FarleyCampbell informed councilors the applicants would need to have any alterations or changes to the mural approved, as well as getting approval for the sign portion of the aspect.

After recap of the options available to the council and acceptance of the conditions mandated by FarleyCampbell and accepted by the Burnems, the application was approved on a vote of 4-1, with Wantz voting against.

Road closures requested by two applicants were the next major topic of the evening.

The first request considered was submitted by Crossroads Church regarding a proposed closure along Maple Street from Ninth to 10th Street on Sunday, Sept. 12, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for an Assembly of God Church Tailgate Party.

City Finance Manager Lezlea Purcell walked the council through the process used to determine the staff recommendations, as she did for the next request from Gary Cargill, representing Rods N Rhodies, Inc.

Included in the information packet for the meeting was a statement from Senior Pastor Dale Edwards which described what the

church was planning if the request was granted.

"We are planning an event for Sept., and will be holding it in our east parking lot, as well as our main campus, both of which are located between Ninth and 10th streets on Maple Street," Edwards said. "This is an event to re-connect our congregation and neighborhood due to COVID shutdown and limited in-person services. We are making an invitation to both fire and police for personal and equipment for PR for that day and we will have our security team in charge of parking and traffic issues on premise, as well as first aid."

The application included information on traffic flow, first aid and sanitation stations.

There were few questions from councilors and the approval on the Crossroads Church request was granted on a unanimous vote.

Cargill's request for closure was more expansive, as he was seeking approval of a street closure for the Rods N Rhodies Invitational Car Show Car Show and Benefit in Historic Old Town, along Bay Street beginning at the Siuslaw Bridge down to the port parking area. The area also includes blocks of First, Laurel, Maple and Nopal streets and Old Town Way.

The event will take place Saturday, Sept. 11, with some activities occurring the night before.

Rods N Rhodies which has a long history of bringing dozens of classic cars to

Old Town for this annual September event.

"This event has a history of bringing tourists and visitors to Old Town Florence that would not ordinarily be here. If anything, we usually have a problem of restaurants not being able to keep up with the demand during the show," Cargill said. "We have asked several restaurants if they would consider opening early for breakfast, especially for the car show participants that arrive early. With most Old Town businesses sponsoring an award, they know from experience that they will be busy all day. We have also allowed for the continued use of several Bay Street parking spaces by restaurants in our car calculation so their businesses will not be restricted."

The councilors expressed familiarity with the event and related questions were limited before the unanimous vote to approve the street closure application.

The Florence City Council Special Meeting also included a consent agenda for a number of projects which have already received the go ahead at previous council meetings.

These costs included \$95,640 for the installation and extension of water and sewer lines on Xylo Street south of Coastal Highlands development; \$32,096 to Day Wireless to provide and install two remote dispatch consoles at Siuslaw Valley Fire and Rescue; and \$54,412 to Dell to provide and install two VxRail computer nodes.

In addition, FarleyCa-

mpbell's request to apply for a grant from the Department of Land Conservation and Development was approved in the form of Resolution No. 30.

Resolution No. 31 was an authorization to apply for the Green Legacy Hiroshima Peace Tree program for the placement of a peace tree in a public location, and it was also approved.

Council reports discussed the ongoing challenges facing small municipalities and the difficulty restaurant owners are having purchasing and receiving food items and the need to assist those business owners.

Senior Economic Development Analyst Sarah Moehrke and city staff have been communicating with partners at the county and state levels to find resources to support the local food and beverage community.

Restaurants in need of resources, can contact Moehrke at sarah.moehrke@ci.florence.or.us for more information.

At the end of the meeting, Florence City Manager Erin Reynolds gave the council an update on the current COVID situation, which necessitated the cancelling of Wednesday's 25th anniversary celebration for the Florence Events Center.

She also passed along a message from administrators at PeaceHealth Peace Harbor Medical Center, which is in "crisis mode," and said they are asking the public to get vaccinated and to be kind to local health care workers.

For more information, visit ci.florence.or.us.

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