

Palmer Lake Town Council, Jan. 11 and 25

Resolutions, ordinances enacted

By James Howald

The Palmer Lake Town Council met twice in January, on Jan. 11 and 25. Both meetings were primarily devoted to discussing and voting on resolutions and ordinances on a variety of topics.

Resolutions enacted for new year

- Resolution No. 1 of 2018 establishes the Palmer Lake Post Office and Town Hall as the official posting locations for notices of public meetings. Meetings are also posted on the town's web page (<http://www.townofpalmerlake.com>).
- Resolution No. 2 of 2018 makes the regular town election scheduled for April 3 a polling place election rather than a mail-in ballot election.
- Resolution No.3 of 2018 schedules two Town Council meetings each month, on the second

and fourth Thursdays of the month, and moves the start time of the meetings to 7 p.m.

- Resolution No. 4 of 2018 defines a standard for authorized signatures on the town's checks. The town's auditors have requested tighter controls over who can sign checks on behalf of the town. The resolution specifies Mayor John Cressman, Town Administrator Kathy Green-Sinnard, and the town clerk as authorized signers. (The town currently does not have a town clerk.) Town Councilor Paul Banta voted against the resolution, arguing that the town needed to require checks to be signed by a council member in addition to town staff.
- Resolution No. 5 of 2018 re-authorizes the Intergovernmental Agreement with El Paso County

that provides emergency 911 service to the town.

Ordinance updates town code

- Ordinance 1 of 2018 updates the town code governing elections to conform to state statute relative to deadlines for candidate affidavits and other details.
- Ordinance 2 of 2018 vacates a 20-foot right of way between Verano and Largo Avenues.

The two meetings for February will be at 7 p.m. on Feb. 8 and 22 at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Information: 481-2953.

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Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility Joint Use Committee, Jan. 9

Wildlife experts drawn to bird haven at facility



Above: Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) Facility Manager Bill Burks said that representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Air Force Academy biology department were thoroughly impressed with the diverse waterfowl population at the facility when they visited the TLWWTF sludge lagoon and aeration basins as part of the national Audubon Society annual wild bird count on Dec. 15. Ring neck, mallard, common golden eye, northern pintail, green-winged teal, bufflehead, and American wigeon all paddle around at TLWWTF every year as part of their annual migration. The lagoons provide a stopover point and plenty of good food for them, said wildlife photographer Barry Mawson, who added, "I hope that this understanding of our great wildlife will be able to enlighten our youth to the wonder of our great state." Caption by John Howe and Lisa Hatfield. Photo courtesy of professional wildlife photographer Barry Mawson, BC Wildlife Photography at barrymawson@yahoo.com.

By Lisa Hatfield

On Jan. 9, the Joint Use Committee (JUC) of the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF) learned that a professional photographer and group of federal government officials visited the facility recently to observe the wide variety of waterfowl that regularly inhabit the facility's aeration basins and activated sludge lagoon. The JUC also discussed TLWWTF's monthly discharge monitoring, 2017 finances, and how to begin participation in a voluntary program that could result in an extension of its discharge permit compliance schedule.

TLWWTF operates as a separate joint venture public utility and is owned in equal one-third shares by Monument Sanitation District (MSD), Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), and Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD).

The three-member JUC acts as the board of the facility and consists of one director from each of the three owner districts' boards: WWSD board Director at Large Rich Strom, president; MSD board Chairman Ed DeLaney, vice president; and PLSD board Director Pat Smith, treasurer/secretary. Other board and staff members of the three owner districts also attended, including MSD District Manager Mike Wicklund, PLSD District Manager Becky Orcutt, and WWSD Assistant District Manager Randy Gillette.

Bird count experts visit TLWWTF sludge lagoon

Facility Manager Bill Burks said five wildlife experts from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Air Force Academy biology department visited TLWWTF on Dec. 15 as part of the annual Audubon Society wild species bird count across the nation. The representatives were there specifically to count all the varieties of waterfowl that happily and healthily live around the sludge lagoon. "In the mornings, all the basins are completely covered with ducks," Burks said. The wild bird population appreciates the quiet waterways and so much available food. "It's just like 'Quacker Barrel,'" smiled Monument Sanitation District Manager

Mike Wicklund.

Barry Mawson of BC Wildlife Photography volunteers for the Fish and Wildlife Service at the Air Force Academy and works with the U.S. Forest Service. He accompanied the representatives again this year to photograph and document the ring neck, mallard, common golden eye, northern pintail, green-winged teal, bufflehead, and American wigeon. Mawson told OCN that the good management of the wastewater plant and its lagoons and basins offers a safe haven for migratory birds every year.

The experts want to come back to TLWWTF every winter to observe the waterfowl during their migration, Burks explained, with a grin, to JUC and the other representative board members from MSD, PLSD, and WWSD.

Discharge monitoring report

During his presentation of the discharge monitoring report (DMR) for November, Burks said it was possible that WWSD's above-normal level of waste solids in October and November was an anomaly, but the current amount of influent waste solids was still "a little bit elevated." He added that the staff would monitor biological oxygen demand (BOD) as usual, along with the many other constituents the discharge permit requires. See www.ocn.me/v18n1.htm#tlwtf.

Year-end finances summed up

Strom commented during the financial report that as of Dec. 31, overall expenses were only 90 percent of what had been budgeted for 2017 despite the fact that construction costs and engineering fees (for the chemical total phosphorus (TP) removal tertiary clarifier expansion) were over budget. He commended Burks for managing the other costs so well.

Note: Burks has not yet presented the final total cost of the chemical TP removal clarifier at a JUC meeting. See www.ocn.me/v17n12.htm#tlwtf.

Voluntary Incentive Program discussed

Strom asked Burks if he had talked yet with engineering consultant Tetra Tech about the cost feasibility analysis of the Colorado Water Quality Control Com-

mission (WQCC) Voluntary Incentive Program for Early Nutrient Reductions. WQCC established the program in October as a way for a wastewater treatment facility to get an extension in its discharge permit compliance schedule by volunteering "early" to reduce its discharged amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus below the already stringent levels of Colorado nutrient Regulation 85 and Colorado Reg. 31, the Basic Standards and Methodologies for Surface Water. See www.ocn.me/v17n12.htm#tlwtf, www.ocn.me/v18n1.htm#tlwtf.

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