

for the community.

Later, Senior Planner Jennifer Jones offered announcements: first, that the board has proclaimed October "Community Planning Month," as is celebrated in other towns, and that it thanked the MPC in its public proclamation, and secondly that there is business planned for the Nov. 13 MPC meeting. Commissioners were encouraged to attend. Jones is also working to appoint some additional commissioners to serve in 2020, due to Dick's term being up shortly and Lushnat potentially having to relinquish his place on the commission for employment reasons. Commissioner Melanie Strop will be moving out of Monument's town

limits, too, likely between April and June 2020. The new appointees will effectively join the MPC on Jan. 1, 2020. Applications for the MPC are online on the Town of Monument's website.

Following the Oct. 9 meeting, there was a work session with the consultants that will help the town write its Land Development Code.

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MPC meetings are generally held at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month at 645 Beacon Lite Rd. Information: 884-8017 or <http://www.townofmonument.org/meetings/>.

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## Palmer Lake Town Council, Oct. 10 and 24 Well and drainage issues concern council

*By James Howald and Jackie Burhans*  
In October, water issues—both supply and drainage—demanded the council's attention. At the Oct. 10 meeting, the council considered an application for a well and a proposal for a land swap that involved water rights issues. At the Oct. 24 meeting, the council briefly took up the drainage study that was begun following torrential rains that flooded parts of the town. At the same meeting, concerns were raised about the need to drill an additional well. The council also approved a bid to move a water line that is underneath the proposed location of the pedestrian bridge that will connect the town to the lake.

The council also considered a potential property donation to the town, started work on the 2020 budget, and proceeded with a long-term effort to update the town's codes.

### Well application approved

Town Manager Valerie Remington presented a well application from Louis and Mei Sass to the council. The application was out of the ordinary because the Sass residence is within town boundaries, which obligates the

town to provide water, but outside the area served by the pipelines managed by Palmer Lake Water Department (PLWD). The State Engineer required the town's consent before approving the Sasses' application because the town has the right to use all groundwater under the Sasses' lot.

Trustee Mark Schuler asked if the town was giving away water and Remington responded yes. Trustee Paul Banta summed up the issue by saying, "a pipe or a well; it's that simple."

The council voted unanimously to approve the well application rather than extend the PLWD pipeline to service the Sasses' property.

### Proposed land swap raises issue of water rights

In September, resident Dean Couture proposed donating to the town four lots adjacent to Glen Park in return for land owned by the town. Remington pointed out in September the town's land included water rights for an alluvial well. The council decided to ask the town's water attorney if the town could retain the water rights if the exchange



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