

Finally, they discussed raising some of the town's fees.

"Ready, Set, Go" fire safety program presented

Fire Chief Chris Truty and Fire Marshal Jamey Bumgarner, both of TLMFPD,

advised the council and the residents at the meeting about preparing for wildfires and about how to make the community more fire-adapted. Bumgarner listed recent fires in the area, seven of which threatened Palmer Lake directly. The "Ready, Set, Go" program is a

collaboration between TLMFPD and the community, Bumgarner said, adding that mitigation efforts must start with homeowners.

Bumgarner said to be ready for fires, homeowners should reduce the vegetation in a 30-foot zone around their home and should aim to reduce ignitability from embers by removing pine needles and other debris from their roofs and gutters. He recommended a 5-foot zone around homes with gravel and no vegetation. Juniper trees are especially to be avoided, Bumgarner said. Trees should be trimmed and fuel beneath trees should be removed so that fire is prevented from climbing higher into the trees and firewood should be kept away from homes, Bumgarner added.

The "Set" portion of the program asks homeowners to be aware of the situation when fire is present and to use local means of communication such as Reverse 9-1-1, social media, and red flag warnings. Bumgarner recommended having a "go kit" with supplies, documents, and medications prepared. See Notices on page 27 to find out how to sign up for Reverse 9-1-1 emergency notifications.

Discussing the "Go" portion of the program, Bumgarner said homeowners should know appropriate escape routes, should have a meeting place for family members decided in advance of need, should know how to open their garage doors if electric service fails, and should understand that cell phones will likely not work during a fire due to a high volume of attempted calls. Most schools have evacuation plans and parents should ask about them, Bumgarner said.

Truty wrapped up the presentation by pointing out that communities should have formal evacuation plans that define escape routes, and that mitigation efforts should be focused on those routes. Truty commended the Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department on its response to recent fires.

Planning Commission vacancy filled

The council unanimously appointed Patricia Mettler to a vacant seat on the Planning Commission.

Mettler has lived in Palmer Lake for 12 years, she said, and served on the Planning Commission in Monument before moving to Palmer Lake. Mettler recalled her experiences with planning issues that arose from the arrival of the community's Walmart store. She also worked on road access and other issues for the Promontory Pointe development in Jackson Creek. Mettler said she would focus on aesthetic issues where new developments were concerned.

Annual housekeeping resolutions passed

The council passed two resolutions that

set rules for how the council will perform its duties in 2019. Resolution 1 of 2019 specifies that meeting notices will be posted at the Palmer Lake Town Hall and the Palmer Lake Post Office. (Meeting notices are also posted, unofficially, on the town's web page at <https://www.townofpalmerlake.com/calendar>.) Resolution 2 of 2019 specifies two council meetings each month: a regular session and a work session, both to begin at 6 p.m.

Street vacation considered

Town Attorney Maureen Juran asked the board if they would be willing to vacate a small portion of Spring Street. She said the property owners involved requested a preliminary opinion before proceeding with their efforts. The vacation would allow Richard Willem to divide his property into four parcels, Juran told the council.

The council did not vote on this issue but indicated they would be willing to consider the vacation request if it is put to them in the future.

Special event liquor license approved

At the work session on Jan. 24, the council voted to approve a liquor license for a fundraising event to be held by Awake the Lake at The Historic Pinecrest on Feb. 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. The event will raise funds for fireworks on the Fourth of July.

Council considers raising fees

Also at the working session, the council discussed raising a number of town fees. Town Administrator Cathy Green-Sinnard pointed out that the town has never had a fee for food truck vendors, and that the council might want to consider changing that. Palmer Lake charges \$50 for a business license, she said, while other towns charge \$75. Rental fees for the Town Hall itself are not enough to cover the costs of cleaning after an event, she said. Rental fees for the pavilion at the lake were also considered. Green-Sinnard said she thought water rates would need to be raised soon, and that the council should consider charging for demolition permits and grading permits.

The board did not vote on changes to the fees but was open to considering raising them in future.

The next two meetings are scheduled for Feb. 14 and on Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, with the second meeting organized as a working session. Information: 481-2953.

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Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Jan. 14

Board moves forward with four-day work week

By James Howald

The Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) took a step forward in its implementation of a four-day work week for district staff at its first meeting of 2019 on Jan. 14. The board also took final votes on three supplemental water service agreements that had been requested by local businesses in previous meetings and adopted a pair of resolutions, the first of which addressed some annual administrative issues, and the second of which updated the district's backflow prevention

policy. Finally, the board heard reports from district staff.

Board leaves four-day work week in place

District manager Jessie Shaffer summed up for the board the results of two surveys the district used to evaluate the four-day, 10-hour work schedule that the district has been experimenting with for the last six months. The first survey was given to customers to assess their degree of satisfaction with the new schedule and the second survey went to district staff to get their



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