

PALMER LAKE (Cont. from 1)

board to approve an update to the town's water study that would determine how many water taps are available. Radosevich also requested a temporary moratorium on new water taps and pointed out that taps are sometimes purchased as an investment.

Town Attorney Matthew Krob explained to the board that they could not put the moratorium in place at that meeting, but they could direct town staff to hold off on granting new taps and vote on a moratorium at the Sept. 24 meeting.

At the Sept. 24 meeting, the board returned to the issue of a temporary moratorium on taps. Mayor John Cressman said, "It's all about putting on the brakes slowly," and Trustee Patricia Mettler pointed out that the town really did not know how many taps are available. Trustee Susan Miner drew the board's attention to projects that have already begun and asked if exceptions could be made for work already under way. Cressman, Radosevich and Trustee Paul Banta all pointed out that a project can't really get under way until a water tap has been purchased.

Resident Bill Fisher, an architect, told the board he has been working with a developer who has a project under way on Spring Street. Fisher said the developer was required to put in a new water main on Vale Street for his project, at a significant cost, and that one of the requests for a water tap had already been submitted to town staff. Cressman said that the taps Fisher mentioned could not be guaranteed at present and emphasized that the moratorium would be temporary. Fisher volunteered his services to help the board with maps and graphics to define the situation with water and taps.

Local builder Kurt Erhardt also shared how a previous sewer moratorium had complicated projects he was working on. Erhardt mentioned he was planning on applying for 13 water taps in the near future. *(Details about the moratorium on sewer taps can be found here: www.ocn.me/v18n12.htm#plsd).*

Resident Reid Wiecks, a member of the Palmer Lake Sanitation District (PLSD), said he believed there were 35 sewer taps available.

Builder Richard Willan also relayed to the board the difficulty that the proposed moratorium would create for his business. Willan said his application for a tap had already been submitted. Banta said he was leaning toward letting Willan's request be approved.

The board voted unanimously to approve Resolution 18-2020 to put in place a moratorium on new water taps until Jan. 31, 2021.

Ordinance governing parking updated

In May, the board put in place Ordinance No. 13-2020, which closed park-

ing on all streets within the town to anyone except town residents. Since then, the board has struggled with issues created by that decision, such as the negative impact on restaurants who have customers who come from out of town.

The question of how to manage parking is related to the issue of whether or not the town should open the trail to the town's reservoirs, because the number of visitors who come to the town to hike that trail has led to congested parking on streets near the trailhead and has also created safety concerns when parked cars prevent emergency vehicles from being able to pass.

At the Sept. 24 meeting, the board passed Emergency Ordinance No. 13-2020, which updates the regulation of parking on the town's streets to address some of the concerns with the previous ordinance. The updated ordinance specifies:

- Only residents and essential service providers assisting residents may park on city streets.
- Customers of restaurants and businesses may park in designated parking areas that will have signs indicating they may be used by non-residents.
- Parking spaces adjacent to the tennis courts in Glen Park are for tennis court use only, and signs will specify that others will be ticketed or towed.
- The Glen Park parking lot is for Glen Park use only and signs will specify that others will be ticketed or towed.
- Trailhead parking will be allowed in designated spaces only, and those spaces will be designated by town staff.
- Anyone found in violation will pay a mandatory minimum fine of \$100.

The board voted unanimously to approve the updated ordinance.

When to open reservoir trail stumps board

At previous meetings, the board decided to close the trail to the reservoirs until repairs were completed and until El Paso County lifts its Stage 2 fire ban. Mayor Cressman and several of the trustees have emphasized that a fire adjacent to the town's water supply would be catastrophic. Many residents, on the other hand, have told the board they want the trail reopened, some pointing out that they moved to Palmer Lake specifically to have access to trails.

At the Sept. 24 meeting, Reid Wiecks argued to the board that opening the trail to local hikers would actually reduce the risk of fire, since there would be more people present to watch for illegal campfires and other inappropriate behavior.

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