

Police Department, Public Works, and administration. Infrastructure: Working with the Board of Trustees to present scheduling plans de-

signed to replace our crumbling infrastructure with new underground pipes, utilities, and broadband conduit—no more Band-Aids on failing

systems. In addition to fighting for improvement of our streets, better street planning, and better highway access. ■

Palmer Lake Town Council, Feb. 13 and 27

Storm water planning underway

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans
The Palmer Lake Town Council met twice in February: Its monthly meeting was held on Feb. 13 and a work session was held on Feb. 27. At both meetings, planning for compliance with state regulations on storm water and the future of the town's Fire Department took most of the council's attention. The council also heard a presentation from Awake the Lake concerning its plan to raise funds by adding plaques to the pedestrian bridge.

Town strives to comply with storm water requirements

John B. Chavez of Chavez Consulting Inc. LLC presented a proposal at the first of the two meetings to address the town's need to better manage its storm water runoff. Chavez told the council that Palmer Lake received a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit in 2018 and that the town must provide its own resources to remain in compliance with the state's requirements. Chavez said the town received some extra time to comply with state regulations, but that his investigation showed the town was about 18 months behind schedule in its compliance efforts. Failure to comply could lead to lawsuits from the state, Chavez said.

The town will need to write a program description document that details its storm water treatment strategy, Chavez said, and would also need to develop and implement six controls for its storm water program:

- Pubic involvement.
- Public education and outreach.
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination.
- Oversight of new construction.
- Post-construction storm water management.

- Municipal Operations pollution prevention. The state also requires record-keeping and annual reporting, according to Chavez. He added that the town had done some work on the first two requirements. Storm water picks up pollution and is not treated, Chavez said, so the state requires storm water to be retained for 72 hours so that pollution can settle out. Chavez said he could build a plan for the town to address these requirements by July for about \$20,000, and that implementation costs would be in addition to that amount.

Chavez told the council that grants could not be used to comply with state requirements. He also said if the town did not meet the state's requirements, the state would step in and develop a plan for the town, which would be less flexible than what the town would develop for itself. Chavez attended the work session on Feb. 27 to answer questions from the council about his proposal. At the work session, the council voted unanimously to approve \$26,250 for Chavez to begin work on the town's MS4 permit.

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As a veteran of the Navy and Army National Guard, I know about service to others. My core values are centered around honesty and hard work, two key elements to be successful not only in the military but anywhere in life. My diverse background in IT, Military, Management, and Service has provided me a leadership style that fosters collaboration with all people, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills that can help our community reach its peak potential. I am already serving as your Planning Commissioner, and as your Trustee, I can promise you someone who will listen to the needs of the community and provide comprehensive and workable solutions that improve how we live, work and play in the beautiful town of Monument.



Carol, Mitch & Daughter Jamie

Key Issues I'll Address As Your Trustee

- Economic Development
- Public Safety
- Infrastructure

I'd love to hear from you Monument! Connect with me Online and via Social

You don't have to wait until I'm elected to voice your concerns. I'm here for the community and welcome your feedback and support at any time. I'm always open to discussing smart growth, challenges and community needs. Support me by joining my campaign or donate online at Mitch4Monument.com

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