

El Paso Board of County Commissioners, March 31, April 7 and 21

County meetings held primarily remotely as COVID-19 restrictions continue

By Helen Walklett

During April, the El Paso Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) largely held only its Tuesday meetings and received weekly updates on the county's response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The commissioners have made decisions relating to the Highway 105 project, the North Gate Boulevard/Struthers Road water quality pond project, and ambulance and liquor licenses.

Meetings during COVID-19 outbreak

The commissioners have been receiving weekly updates on the COVID-19 outbreak from Dr. Leon Kelly, chief medical examiner and county coroner, Susan Wheelan, director, county Public Health, and Jim Reid, director, Pikes Peak Regional Office of Emergency Management. At the April 21 meeting, the commissioners went into executive session to discuss the county's legal authority to respond to the 2020 budgetary impacts of COVID-19, including their ability and the means by which they can modify the county budget, as well as the implications of the federal CARES Act, and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) response. As is customary with executive sessions, no decisions were taken.

While some commissioners and staff have been attending BOCC meetings in person, others have joined the meetings from home. Meetings are

streamed live on the county's website at: <https://clerkandrecorder.elpasoco.com/clerk-to-the-board/meeting-live-stream/> and on its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ElPasoCountyCO/>. Members of the public are encouraged to participate remotely by contacting Kristy Smart, clerk to the board, at KristySmart@elpasoco.com in advance. They can also indicate they wish to speak while a meeting is in progress either by commenting on the Facebook page or by emailing BrandonWilson@elpasoco.com.

Highway 105 easement

At the March 31 BOCC meeting, the commissioners unanimously approved a memorandum of agreement and approved and accepted a special warranty deed, a non-exclusive permanent easement, and a temporary construction easement for Highway 105 Improvement Project A. These pertain to property owned by CW Monument 2013 LLC at a cost of \$105,200. Project A is the segment of the project from Woodmoor Drive to Lake Woodmoor Drive. The county anticipates construction will begin in the fall, subject to the completion of the necessary property acquisitions.

North Gate Boulevard/Struthers Road water quality pond project

At their April 7 meeting, the commissioners approved an intergovernmental agreement between the county and

the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) for construction of the North Gate Boulevard/Struthers Road Permanent Water Quality Pond Project.

The project will provide stormwater improvements in the area adjacent to North Gate Boulevard, Struthers Road, and I-25 where stormwater infrastructure has been inadequate for many years. The proposed improvements would create a stormwater infrastructure system that would intercept stormwater runoff from the area and carry it through a concrete pipe network to a detention/water quality pond in the I-25 median south of North Gate Boulevard. Construction is expected to begin in 2021.

Black Forest slash and mulch program update

While the Black Forest slash and mulch program, located at the southeast corner of Shoup and Herring Roads, will open for the 2020 season for slash drop-off on May 2 as planned, the committee has made some changes due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Social distancing measures will be in place. Staff will not walk up to vehicles, will not take money (for a while), and will not be able to help anyone unload. They will also not be distributing dog treats. Normal business hours will be Saturdays 7 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 5-7:30 p.m. The last date for slash drop-off is Sept.

13. Free mulch will be available for self-loading from May 16 through Sept. 19.

Users are asked to fill out and submit a form on the website prior to their first visit. For more information, visit www.bfslash.org.

The BOCC approved the 2020 memorandum of understanding with the Black Forest Slash and Mulch Committee at its March 19 meeting. See https://www.ocn.me/v20n4.htm?zoom_highlight=%22samcom%22.

Other decisions

- March 31—The commissioners approved the issuance of an ambulance service license to the Black Forest Fire Rescue Protection District. The license is effective for one year from May 1.
- April 21—Approved a request by Colorado Brewers Group LLC, dba Pikes Peak Brewing Company, to waive the time requirement for filing an application to renew its brewpub license for its premises at 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive. The applicant said he had overlooked the renewal deadline because all his efforts were going in to keeping the business operating during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Helen Walklett can be reached at helenwalklett@ocn.me.

El Paso County Planning Commission, April 7 and 21

Changes to meetings during outbreak; minor subdivision request recommended for approval

By Helen Walklett

During April, the El Paso County Planning Commission made provisions for remote participation in meetings during the COVID-19 outbreak. At the April 7 meeting, the commissioners unanimously recommended for approval a minor subdivision application by the Curtis Family Living Trust for a property at the intersection of Roller Coaster Road and Baptist Road.

Meetings during the COVID-19 outbreak

The two Planning Commission meetings in April were conducted primarily remotely, although some staff and applicants did attend in person. The hearings were moved from their usual venue to the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) hearing room at 200 S. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs and took place at 1 p.m.

to allow the BOCC meeting to happen in the morning. County staff think it is likely that the only Planning Commission meeting scheduled for this month, on May 19, will also be held at 1 p.m. in the BOCC hearing room. Contact TraceyGarcia@elpasoco.com nearer the time for confirmation.

Although members of the public may still attend in person, the county is encouraging remote participation. The

hearings are being broadcast live for members of the public to view via the county webpage at <https://www.elpasoco.com/news-information-channel> and on the county's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ElPasoCountyCO/>. The staff is monitoring comments made on the latter. Those who know in advance they wish to comment should email TraceyGarcia@elpasoco.com and leave their name and phone number and include any documents they wish to submit, and they will be called at the appropriate time.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, the Planning and Community Development Department stresses that it is making every effort to operate "business as usual," with all phone calls and emails being returned, projects reviewed, and necessary meetings held via conference call. All applications can be reviewed at: <https://epcdevplanreview.com/>, and the county's land development code is online at: https://library.municode.com/co/el_paso_county/codes/land_development_code.

Curtis minor subdivision request

The proposed minor subdivision, to be known as Curtis Subdivision Filing No.1, would create two single-family lots from the 36.65-acre property at the northwest corner of the intersection of Roller Coaster Road and Baptist Road and zoned RR-5 (residential rural). Lot 1 would be 25 acres and Lot 2 about 8 acres. 4.10 acres would be dedicated as public right-of-way for the future re-

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