

ficult to know when the discussions occurred, making them indefinite, and that they possibly could have been sent after the article was written.

With regard to the column, Corporon said, "It is my understanding Miss Clark writes a regular column for the *Jackson Creek Monthly* ... in no way, shape or form in her communication is she offering the opinion that the water in Monument is bad," saying it is Clark's right to give her opinions in the article, noting she includes facts from the EPA and the public works director.

The context for this allegation dates back to March 2, when Clark asked the BOT to consider purchasing renewable water as an alternative to well water, but no other board members agreed, so it was not put on a future agenda for discussion. See <https://www.ocn.me/v20n4.htm#mbot>.

"She was concerned the discussion was not put on the agenda for the next meeting," said Corporon, suggesting this may be the reason she gave for writing the column, but noting it is the right of the board majority to disapprove future discussion items.

Corporon said the basis upon which she was censured was that she was fear mongering about radium in water, but instead, he said, he believed she was just advocating for a resident and pushing for the renewable water discussion to be put onto the board's agenda.

Corporon made a motion to rescind and expunge from the record the censure against her. Citizens are usually not allowed to make a motion unless it's supported by a three-fourths majority vote of the board. Lacking this majority, Clark made the motion herself with Trustee Jamy Unruh seconding the motion.

Five board members voted against this motion, saying they would prefer to review all the evidence and speak with Harrison before deciding. Unruh and Clark voted in favor of vacating the censure.

Trustee Ron Stephens made a motion to review the texting information Corporon provided, to ask the reporter for their timeline when information was received from Clark and then make a final decision at the next meeting. This motion was approved by a 5-2 vote. In the meantime, Clark is still censured.

**New treasurer and town attorney sworn in; appointments approved unanimously**  
During the April 20 meeting, Kelly Elliott was appointed to continue as mayor pro tem. During the May 4 meeting, Laura Hogan was appointed as town clerk and Mike Foreman as the town manager. The board must appoint people to those positions pursuant to Monument municipal codes. Both appointments are for two years. Stephens noted, "I think Mike has been doing a great job. The morale since he started has been tremendous."

Tonight, Finance Director Rosa Ooms was appointed treasurer. The board had agreed to appoint Ooms during a May 4 executive session with a vote of 6-1. Clark voted against the appointment, arguing the treasurer position should require separate insurance and bonding in addition to the town's CIRSA insur-

ance.

The town has an ordinance that doesn't require this type of insurance or bonding for the treasurer position, so Clark asked for it to be amended before Ooms was appointed. Rivera said it could be amended at a later date and be applied to Ooms' appointment. "That can be taken up at a later date," said Stephens in agreeing with Rivera.

The treasurer position has been vacant since the trustees directed Foreman to draw up a separation agreement for Pamela Smith on Nov. 18. See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n12.htm#mbot>.

Andrew Richey was appointed as in-house counsel. It is unclear when Rivera, a contract employee, will complete his current work with the town. "We are very pleased with Joe and his company, but it would be good to have an attorney on staff," said Wilson.

Resident Nancy Swearengin suggested the current appointment requirements are unfair. Specifically, she said trustees recently appointed to the board shouldn't be making employment decisions to appoint someone to their existing job. "I'm not sure how the situation gets corrected, but I would propose that the trustees and employees work on finding a more equitable solution to this very obvious problem."

**Allocation of Emergency Funds from CARES**  
El Paso County applied for and received \$1.26 million in funding through the federal CARES Act and voted to share the money with local municipalities. County Commissioner Holly Williams attended the meeting tonight, saying, "In my mind, we have a lot of tough decisions to make," but this one was quite easy to help the cities and towns that have had the most impact due to the pandemic.

The county was eligible to request CARES funding because the population exceeds 500,000. During its May 5 meeting, the Board of County Commissioners voted to disburse funds to local government entities including Monument. See BOCC article on page 20.

The board unanimously approved an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the county in order to receive a local fund distribution amount of \$554,033.

Williams noted there are some spending restrictions. According to the IGA, "The local fund distribution amount will be used by the local government only to cover those costs and expenses that are eligible expenses" to include expenditures due to public health emergency incurred between March 1 and Dec. 30. If the town doesn't identify expenditures for all the money, it must be returned by Sept. 1. "Any amount it reasonably anticipates will be unused as of Dec. 30, 2020."

Wilson suggested setting a \$300,000 total to local businesses as is noted in section 5 guidance for the cost of business interruption due to the pandemic. Foreman noted the town's expenses could exceed the \$254,000, saying the town has been tracking its expenses since the beginning of the outbreak. No decision was made regarding the funding breakdown.

Resolution was approved unanimously as written.

**Public comments**

Terri Hayes, president and CEO of the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, told the board 67.7% of county residents have checked into the Census website and 74.8% of Monument residents have filled out their census forms. The town receives \$2,300 per person counted. "This is the easiest way to bring money into the town without raising taxes," said Hayes.

**Town manager's report**

Foreman reported the following for May:

- The town has furloughed two employees and reduced the hours of three more due to the reduction of revenues as a result of COVID-19.
- Town Hall is now open to the public on weekdays, but they still encourage people to use their online services if possible. See [www.townofmonument.org](http://www.townofmonument.org).
- The Police Department continues to take emails for MPDCOVID-19@tomgov.org.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

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The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 15. Virtual meetings are held via Webex at <https://tinyurl.com/y9hxgnyu> or by phone at 1-844-992-4726 (Access Code: 628 114 196). Call 719-884-8014 or see [www.townofmonument.org](http://www.townofmonument.org) for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for BOT or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

Allison Robenstein can be reached at [allisonrobenstein@ocn.me](mailto:allisonrobenstein@ocn.me).

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*Monument Board of Trustees Special Meeting, May 27*

**Town prepares to open with expanded restaurant seating and retail space**

*By Allison Robenstein*

During a May 27 special meeting, the Monument Board of Trustees amended the Local Disaster Emergency action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing outdoor dining and retail shops to expand into public spaces. A state order allows businesses to reopen at 50% capacity, which will increase a business's overall footprint and thus capacity. The resolution expands the powers of Town Manager Mike Foreman and Town Clerk Laura Hogan. Foreman may approve temporary modification requests to expand businesses into public areas, including sidewalks and rights-of-way. It will be similar to laws that cover special events, such as St. Patrick's Day festivities that spill into a parking lot. Hogan may allow li-



quor to be served in the expanded business footprint. The resolution is set to expire either when the emergency has ended or on Sept. 24, 120 days out from the approval date.

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Monument restaurants including (above) La Casa Fiesta, 230 Front St., and (left) Ramen Chops, 491 Highway 105, have opened to indoor and outdoor customers. Photos by Allison Robenstein.