

Palmer Lake Town Council, May 14 and 28

Fireworks canceled, clerk and fire chief sworn in, parking fines increased

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans
The Palmer Lake Town Council (PLTC) met on May 14 and 28. To comply with social-distancing requirements, both meetings were held online using Zoom. Links to future online meetings can be found on the town's website at www.TownofPalmerLake.com in the Agendas and Minutes section.

In its May meetings PLTC heard from the Fireworks Committee that the event was canceled, swore in a new town clerk and fire chief, and passed a new parking ordinance increasing the fines.

Fireworks canceled

Note: See page 28 for notice of County-wide Fireworks Shows July 4.

During board comments at the May 14 meeting, the board discussed the annual Fourth of July celebration, which usually includes fireworks. Mayor John Cressman said it needed to be canceled as he could not imagine handling large crowds and noted that the Town of Monument had canceled its parade. Trustee Glant Havenar said she had spoken with the Fireworks Committee, which agreed it should be canceled. They had not been able to raise enough money and felt that, with so many other municipalities canceling, if they continued, Palmer Lake would be inundated.

Havenar said she had some ideas on how to implement a "safer at home" socially distant Fourth, suggesting lemonade stands or home decorations, which worked well during the Christmas season.

The council held a roll call vote and unanimously voted to cancel the fireworks and other July 4 festivities for this year only.

New town clerk and fire chief

At the May 28 meeting, the council swore in Town Clerk Dawn Collins and new Fire Chief Chris McCarthy, who both joined the Zoom meeting. Collins was unanimously appointed at the April 23 meeting but not scheduled to be in town until May 27. She will be working with interim Town Clerk Judy Egbert on transitioning into her role.

At the May 14 meeting, Mark Schuler recapped the hiring and selection process, which whittled eight

applicants down to two finalists after interviews by fire personnel and Police Chief (and interim Fire Chief) Jason Vanderpool along with a Larkspur firefighter. The council was advised by the town lawyer to have a special meeting and executive session to interview applicants for the fire chief position and to instruct a negotiator to proceed with negotiations necessary for extending a job offer to a fire chief applicant.

Town increases parking fines

After lengthy discussions at both meetings about the challenges faced by the town with an increase in tourists and hikers, the council agreed to extend its trailhead parking closure, increase fines, and install signage regarding limits on street, tennis court and Glen Park parking.

The council unanimously agreed to direct the town lawyer to draft a new ordinance closing the trailhead parking, removing any reference to COVID-19, raising the minimum parking fine to \$100, allowing the fine to be changed by resolution in the future, installing signs indicating street parking is limited to Palmer Lake residents; and limiting tennis court and Glen Park parking lots to those using those facilities. The motion carried on a roll call vote.

At the May 28 meeting, emergency ordinance 03-2020 prohibiting parking on all town streets except for Palmer Lake residents, closing the parking area at the Reservoir Trailhead on Old Carriage Road, and restricting the use of the tennis court and Glen Park parking lots was presented. The ordinance, which replaces 01-2020, increases the minimum fine to \$100, allows that amount to be adjusted by resolutions, and requires signage to be added. The ordinance was passed unanimously by roll call.

Census

Terri Hayes, president and CEO of the Tri-Lakes Chamber of Commerce, who is also on the El Paso County Complete Count Committee for the Census, explained why it's important for local residents to complete the census.

She noted that most Palmer Lake residents have a P.O. Box, which makes it challenging but that it is a civic duty that raises \$2,300 per person that goes

back to the community and is the easiest way to get money without raising taxes. The money goes to the Colorado Department of Transportation for roads, and to schools, healthcare, Medicare, and other federal programs. Colorado is slated to get an additional member of the U.S. House of Representatives, which will increase representation.

Hayes noted that residents can fill out their census online at www.2020census.gov and email any questions to Terri@TriLakesChamber.com

Other meeting highlights

- The board agreed to spend \$120,543 to replace the filters at the surface water filtration plant.
- Kirk Noll, a member of the Parks Committee, got permission from Bob Radosevich to rope off and provide signage for a wildlife area on the west side of the lake that has been trampled.
- Noll also reported that the Tri-Lakes Little League, whose season will start in June, is willing to commit up to \$100,000 to help upgrade the baseball field.
- The council approved a business license for Fred's Towing, which is now renting space and operating at an industrial park on County Line Road.
- The council unanimously approved a motion to uphold a

unanimous decision by the Planning Commission to deny a conditional use request by Bruno Furrer for his father Rene and the owners of Elite Cranes because it did not fit the zoning. The council specified timing for the installation of a portable toilet, removal of a modular home from the site, removal of a large crane, and removal of the balance of the equipment within six months. Mayor Cressman recused himself based on a relationship with the landowner.

- The board unanimously approved acceptance of an electronic signboard by an anonymous donor. The signboard, like Larkspur's, will be used to display important notices, will be centrally located in town, will be programmable and dimmable, and will go through the normal process of working with the Planning Commission to follow relevant ordinances.

The council is scheduled to hold two meetings online in June, on June 11 and 25 at 6 p.m. 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. Check the town's website for links to the online Zoom meetings.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me. Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburchans@ocn.

El Paso County Planning Commission, May 19

North Bay at Lake Woodmoor development recommended for approval

By Helen Walklett

At its May 19 meeting, the El Paso County Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend for approval a request for a rezoning to allow the development of 28 single-family attached homes on land north of Lake Woodmoor.

North Bay at Lake Woodmoor

Lake Woodmoor Holdings had requested a rezoning of the 7.23-acre property east of the intersection of Deer Creek Road and Woodmoor Drive from the obsolete R-4 zoning to Planned Unit Development (PUD). The request included approval of the PUD development plan as a preliminary plan. The proposed development, known as North Bay at Lake Woodmoor, will have 28 single-family attached residences, rights-of-way, and five open space and floodplain tracts. Proposed lots range in size from 2,100 to around 4,800 square feet. The proposals include walking trails that are intended for public use to access Lake Woodmoor. Access to the site will be via two roads off Deer Creek Road. The property is within the boundaries of the Tri-Lakes Comprehensive Plan.

The property was originally zoned R-4 (planned development) in 1972 as part of a larger parcel of land. This zoning allowed for 110 townhomes. Two acres immediately west of the current property were developed as The Cove at Woodmoor with 20 condominium units in 1974. The most westerly four acres were developed as the Waterside Condominiums with 40 units in 1979. The proposed North Bay at Lake Woodmoor parcel is the remainder of the original R-4 zoning district that would have accommodated the remaining 50 dwelling units under the R-4 zoning.

Addressing the hearing, Andrea

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