

apartments being built, impact to Preble's meadow jumping mouse habitat and other wildlife, traffic, infrastructure, water, and the communications tower on the property. A representative for the applicant replied to many of these concerns. He reiterated the commitments they have already made concerning multi-family housing and density. They have agreed to no apartments and no high-density residences adjacent to other neighborhoods. There are still many conversations and additional modifications to be made after the Planning Commission meeting.

Before voting to table the discussion, Trustee Redmond Ramos asked if the applicant would commit to single-family homes only, to which the applicant said no. LaKind asked about the communication between the developer and the staff. (Ramos was elected to continue on the BOT and LaKind was elected mayor on Nov. 8.)

Legal services agreement

The BOT passed Resolution No. 82-2022: A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter Into a Legal Services Agreement Between the Town of Monument and Hoffmann, Parker, Wilson & Carberry P.C. The resolution passed 4-3. Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott, Darcy

Schoening, and Ron Stephens dissented.

As Interim Town Attorney Rivera has requested his release, Town Manager Mike Foreman proposed that Rivera be replaced by the firm of Hoffman, Parker, Wilson & Carberry. Schoening said she would be "very against" moving forward with the firm. Elliott asked how this firm was selected, and Foreman said it was the only firm of five that responded with interest. LaKind disagreed with Schoening's disapproval and recommended the board move forward with the law firm. Ramos asked if affordability was the issue for opposition, and Foreman said the town could afford a law firm.

Public comments on the eve of election

Some public comments expressed appreciation for the service of the mayor and trustees, but several expressed anger. Two recesses were called during the comments due to citizens refusing to limit their time at the podium.

Nancy Forenger thanked Mayor Don Wilson and Mayor Pro Tem Elliott for working for the town and for serving admirably but concluded that "it's a pretty sad day when you can't get five law firms to want to come into town and represent you." Barbara Knitt

claimed the mayor should have recused himself from previous votes on Classic Homes because he attended a fundraiser organized by the developer. Wilson said he didn't know who organized the fundraiser. Brandy Turner thanked Trustee Ramos, LaKind, and Schoening for engaging the community for the Home Rule Charter, accusing the rest of refusing to participate. An unidentified participant took issue with Trustee Schoening typing on her phone and called Trustee Elliott a liar for a flier that called Steve King "left wing."

Joel Lusby, elected to sit on the Home Rule Charter Commission, thanked the town staff and community members but called on all to bring honor to the town. He accused Elliott of revealing "an agenda" of misleading slogans and propaganda in recent weeks in an attempt to defeat the Home Rule Charter. King asked the trustees to censure Elliott for misinformation and deception, just as Elliott did the year prior to Trustee Laurie Clark (censured in 2021). He ended with, "this is disgusting." Sana Abbott, elected to a trustee position, quoted Proverbs 10:11-12 and expressed "sadness" about what she claimed were "lies" about her campaign. She then extended her time far over her allotted three minutes to at-

tack several of the trustees.

Board comments

Trustee Ramos expressed disappointment in the "disgusting smear campaign" against the Home Rule Charter. He said, "everything was positive" until disinformation—an attempt to lie—calling Steve King "left wing," an "absolute, blatant lie." He cited quotes from Elliott in 2020 that expressed concern for accurate information, asking for Elliott to apologize for lying. Elliott said she was a registered agent who did not talk with any builders and developers who did not contribute to any of the fliers in question, concluding that she had no reason to apologize. Ramos put forward a motion to censure Elliott, seconded by LaKind. The motion failed 5-2. Mayor Wilson said, "There is a big difference between publishing inaccurate information and being a registered agent; this is some of the most ridiculous conversation I have heard."

Election results for Nov. 8

The meeting adjourned on the eve of the Nov. 8 election. The results of the election promote Trustee LaKind to mayor by 58.76 to 41.24% of the vote. The four trustee positions that were open were won by the top four candidates on the ballot: Steve King (17.46%), Sana Abbott (15.5%), Redmond Ramos (14.78%), and Kenneth Kimple (12.35%). King, Abbott, and Ramos will serve four-year terms, Kimple will serve a two-year term.

Current Trustee James Romanello and Mayor Pro Tem Kelly Elliott will remain as members. Trustees Schoening and Stephens did not receive enough votes to remain on the board. Jason Gross and Marco Florito were also on the ballot but did not garner the votes to be elected.

Question 2A won with 67.57% of the vote. It read, "Shall the proposed charter, as drafted by the Town of Monument Home Rule Charter Commission, be adopted as the Home Rule Charter for the Town of Monument?" The charter will be the official governing document for the town. All seven members of the council will have one equal vote, though one member will be titled "mayor" and another "mayor pro tem."

One BOT meeting is scheduled the first Monday of December, and the current BOT will convene the regularly scheduled meeting on Jan. 3. An order of business will be recognizing the outgoing trustees and the mayor. New trustees will be sworn in by the town clerk but will be seated as the new Monument Town Council. A new council vacancy will be announced to replace incoming Mayor LaKind, and the opening will be published by the town staff. The new council will function similarly to the old BOT but will be referred to as a "Town Council" with "councilmembers" instead of "trustees."

Election results taken from the El Paso County Clerk website at <https://results.enr.clarityelections.com>.

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 two regular meetings are scheduled for Monday, Dec. 5. The third meeting, scheduled for Monday, Dec. 19, has been cancelled. Call 719-884-8014 or see www.townof-monument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for BOT or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minuteson-demand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

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CHRISTMAS EVE
AT TRI-LAKES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

3 PM*

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
WITH HOLY COMMUNION
**NURSERY PROVIDED (4 AND UNDER)*

5 PM* and 7 PM*

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
WITH HOLY COMMUNION
**NURSERY PROVIDED (4 AND UNDER)*

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