

tions uncovered during inspections.

Havenar closed the public hearing and the board voted on Resolution 77-2023, which would grant the conditional use permit. Trustees Shana Ball, Kevin Dreher, Nick Ehrhardt, Jessica Farr and Dennis Stern voted yes. Havenar voted yes. Trustee Sam Padgett voted no.

Trail and bridge update

Wiecks told the board the current plan for the trails and bridges at the Elephant Rock property would, when complete, connect the town

center to the property. The plan requires four bridges to be completed. A bridge replacing a temporary log bridge over Monument Creek has been replaced using \$1,100 in Parks Commissions funds. The commission will also fund the second bridge. The design and construction of the bridges is being done by Air Force Academy cadets.

Resolutions

- The board tabled Resolution 78-2023, which would have authorized a memorandum of understanding between

the Town of Palmer Lake and Awake the Lake (ATL) to limit ATL's liability for any costs resulting from the presence of town water lines underneath the proposed pickleball courts to a maximum of \$20,000.

- The board voted unanimously in favor of Resolution 79-2023, which authorizes a lease agreement between the town and CORE Electric Cooperative for the placement of an electrical vehicle charger on town property.
- The board voted unanimously in favor of Resolution 73-2023, which accepts the water rate study by Chris Brandewie of Water Rates by Brandewie, LLC.
- The board voted unanimously in favor of Resolution 80-2023, which authorizes an Intergovernmental Agreement between the town and the Colorado Department of Transportation regarding improvements on Spruce Mountain Road. The Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments provided grant funds for the design and construction of the improvements.
- The board voted on Resolution 81-2023, which authorizes a professional services agreement with GMS Engineering Inc. to design improvements to the pedestrian walkway adjacent to Palmer Lake Elementary School. GMS secured a \$150,000 grant for the project; the professional services agreement commits the town to pay GMS \$218,000 to complete the scope of work. Farr voted against the resolution; all others voted in favor.
- The board voted on Resolution 82-2023, which authorizes Dukes Electric Inc. to install Union Pacific Railroad-approved lighting on the pedestrian bridge between the town and the lake at a cost of \$24,800. Farr and Stern voted against the resolution; all others voted yes.
- The board voted unanimously in favor of Resolution 83-2023, which authorizes the town staff to complete the demolition of six cabins and one long building on the Elephant Rock property, including asbestos assessment and abatement.

Ordinances

The board approved two ordinances which have been discussed in previous board meetings:

- Ordinance 24-2023, which adopts an updated sign code for the town. Stern voted no; all others voted in favor.



Above: At its special Board of Trustees meeting on Dec. 21, Town Administrator Dawn Collins wore her holiday spirit outfit. Photo by Jackie Burhans

- Ordinance 25-2023, which prohibits use of motor vehicles on undeveloped rights of way within the town. Farr was the only vote against the ordinance.

Executive session

Following the Dec. 14 meeting, the board held an executive session to develop negotiating positions on leasing a portion of the Elephant Rock property to Star View Ranch, to consider the employment contract with the town administrator, and to receive legal advice concerning a complaint against the Police Department.

The board returned to open session and voted to approve the employment agreement for Town Administrator Dawn Collins. Padgett and Farr voted against approving the agreement; all others voted in favor.

The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Jan. 11. The board will also meet on Jan. 3 to amend the 2024 budget. See the town's website at www.townofpalmerlake.com to confirm times and dates of board meetings and workshops. Meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at the Town Hall. Information: 719-481-2953.

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Monument Town Council, Dec. 6

Town Council debates sales tax options, Loop Water Authority, Maverik gas station

By Chris Jeub

The Monument Town Council (MTC) meeting in December covered topics such as potential self-collection of sales tax, Loop Water Authority Project participation, and budget resolutions. The meeting underscored practical decision-making for the town's financial and developmental future.

Sales tax management options unveiled

During the presentation on sales tax future state options by Sophia Hassman, the MTC delved into the complexities of transitioning to a self-collected sales tax model under Home Rule. Hassman highlighted the benefits of increased oversight, quicker turnaround, and enhanced tax compliance, with the potential for additional revenue streams. Councilmember

Marco Fiorito sought clarification on certifications needed for in-house management, to which the response emphasized that a CPA is not necessary, and the first year would require two trained employees. The discussion also included cost considerations, with the hybrid option emerging as the most economical at \$228,798, compared to \$344,840 and \$457,710 for an in-house or contractual option.

Councilmember Laura Kronick asked about the timeline for fund receipts in comparison to the state and was assured that under the proposed self-collect model, funds would be received within two days, as opposed to the state's two-month holding period. Mayor Mitch LaKind and Councilmember Steve King inquired about the potential revenue increase with self-collection, to which the response ranged



Kiwaniis
Monument Hill Club

THANKS YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The men and women of the Monument Hill Kiwanis Club wish to thank our community for an outstanding 2023.

Your generosity has shown through! In our most recent accounting year we granted more than \$109,000

You helped us provide great growth opportunities for our youth and our community.



Kiwaniis parade + Tri-Lakes Chamber's celebration = Monument Independence Day



This year, 710 customers bought 1,065 boxes of peaches netting \$9,000



Partnering with District 38, Empty Bowls, the Harvest of Love and Craft Fair benefit Tri-Lakes Cares with donations of food and money.



You put more than \$33,000 into Salvation Army Kettles staffed by Tri-Lakes Women's Club, District 38 Service Clubs and Kiwanis volunteers.

Learn More: MHKiwans.org
Email: monumenthillkiwanis@gmail.com

Positive
Making a ^ Difference for Youth and Our Community

Start off 2024 with a new adventure! Build your Dream in Salida, Colorado.



Stunning 360° views mark this property located less than 10 minutes NW of downtown Salida, Colorado. This 2.64-acre lot offers incredible views of the Sawatch, Collegiate Peaks, and Sangre De Cristo mountain ranges! There are plenty of recreational opportunities, including a short walk to the Arkansas River, skiing at Monarch Ski Resort within 25 minutes, kayaking, Gold Medal fishing in the river, and 52 high mountain lakes along the Sangre De Cristo mountain range! This is fantastic country for snowmobiling, hiking on the Colorado Trail and hundreds of others, and some of the best mountain biking in the state!



Given the outstanding views, beautiful, mature pinion trees and large boulders; making it super scenic, this easily-accessible corner lot is perfect for building your dream home for year-round or vacation living. With a secluded community feel, this property is perfect for those seeking a natural setting with the convenience of modern amenities. Do not miss your opportunity to own in this gorgeous, mountain setting! Being offered at ONLY \$359,000! Call Zach Games today for all the details and to schedule your private showing. Visit our website for more photos: www.WesternMtn.com.



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