

be best to leave it unchanged. The meeting concluded without any immediate modifications to the sign code.

Firearm ordinance debated

A contentious debate unfolded around Ordinance No. 14-2024, which addresses the carrying of firearms in public spaces, contrary to state directives.

New state legislation aimed at prohibiting firearms in public areas, originally intended to restrict open carry but not to exclude individuals with proper concealed carry permits. Town Attorney Cole highlighted this distinction, emphasizing that the state's goal was to prevent individuals from openly displaying firearms in public places.

Kimble voiced preference for the state bill, arguing that it enhances safety by designat-

ing public spaces as gun-free zones. "I think this is a good bill coming down from the State Capital," he said.

In contrast, Police Chief Reagan, King, and LaKind advocated for local autonomy in firearm regulations. Chief Reagan noted that properly permitted citizens pose minimal risk and are not the focus of concern; instead, he emphasized the potential threat posed by criminals.

LaKind raised constitutional concerns, arguing against state overreach. "If we allow the state to do this, it overrides the Constitution," he asserted, reflecting on the broader implications of state-imposed restrictions.

Councilmember Sana Abbott expressed reservations about allowing firearms in public spaces, questioning the necessity outside of law enforcement. "Why do we need

to allow people to come in here with a weapon other than our trained officers?" Abbott queried, reflecting concerns over public safety and comfort.

King countered, highlighting the potential consequences of declaring public spaces as gun-free zones. "If this is a known gun-free zone, that makes us a target," he cautioned, underscoring the potential unintended consequences of restrictive policies.

Ultimately, after deliberation, the council voted 5-2 in favor of the local ordinance, with Kimble and Abbott dissenting.

Final Plat for Zeal at Jackson Creek approved
Resolution No. 04-2024 was unanimously approved, marking a significant step forward for the Zeal at Jackson Creek development project.

The subject property, located in a Planned Residen-

tial District with multi-family zoning, sits adjacent to various residential and mixed-use zones in the area. The finalized plat includes critical updates such as a 30-foot right-of-way dedication along Higby Road, expanding its width from 70 to 100 feet along the property's northern boundary. Additionally, the plat restructures utility easements to better accommodate buried overhead utilities along Bowstring Road.

Town Planner Dan Ungerleider presenting on behalf of the project confirmed that the revised plat met all town planning and engineering standards, ensuring compliance with Monument's Development Code. Councilmember Jim Romanello sought reassurance that the resolution addressed concerns previously raised by fellow Councilmembers King and Kimble. Ungerleider affirmed that the revised

plat accommodated these concerns, prompting approval from the council. The resolution passed unanimously with a 7-0 vote. Mayor LaKind expressed satisfaction with the decision, remarking, "I am glad to finally get this going!"

The Monument Town Council 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 July 15 meeting has been cancelled. July 2 will be the only meeting in July. Call 719-884-8014 or see www.townofmonument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com and click on Town Council.

Chris Jeub can be reached at chrisjeub@ocn.me.

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06.12 King Stan Band	07.31 Mojo Filter
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07.17 Ashton	08.28 WireWood Station

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Monument Planning Commission, June 12

Monument Planning Commission cancels June 12 meeting

By Janet Sellers
The following notice was posted on June 4 on the agenda page for the Town of Monument Planning Commission:

"The Town of Monument Planning Commission canceled its regular meeting scheduled for June 12, 2024. The Planning Commission's next regular meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday,

July 10, at 6 p.m., in the town's Council Chambers at 645 Beacon Light Road in Monument. Questions regarding this notice may be directed to the Town of Monument Clinic Department or 645 Beacon Light Road Monument Colorado 80132, or call 719-651-5405."

The Monument Planning

Commission usually meets the second Wednesday of each month. To see the options for remote public participation in each meeting, visit www.townofmonument.org/263/Planning-Commission-Board-of-Adjustment. Info: 719-884-8028 or at www.townofmonument.org.

Janet Sellers can be reached at JanetSellers@ocn.me.

Palmer Lake Board of Trustees, May 30, June 13 and 27

Board approves concealed carry in sensitive spaces

By James Howald and Jackie Burhans

In addition to the two meetings in June, this article also covers the last meeting the Palmer Lake Board of Trustees (PLBOT) held in May, which was held after OCN went to press.

The three meetings addressed topics ranging from

gun rights to land use issues. Chairperson Susan Miner updated the board on the work of the Elephant Rock Advisory Committee. The board discussed regulations for farmers markets, peddler's permits and the process for granting special event permits. The board awarded a contract for water line and roadway improvements at Palmer Lake Elementary School (PLES). The board approved two special events. Town Administrator Dawn Collins gave the board an administrative update at the June 13 and June 27 meetings.

All three meetings included executive sessions.

Board opts out of state law prohibiting guns in sensitive spaces

At its June 27 meeting, Trustee Dennis Stern said he had gone to the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department (PPRBD) advisory committee and learned about a newly passed state law (SB24-131 Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces) that goes into effect July 1. Stern noted that the law has an exception for police and that local governments can enact laws to allow carrying guns in sensitive areas. He said that resolution 37-2024 would allow concealed carry in sensitive areas, such as the Town Hall and administrative offices, in Palmer Lake.

Stern said he believed declaring any building or area a gun-free zone was asking for trouble because criminals

don't follow the law. Mayor Glant Havenar expressed frustration about rules being passed at the state level that were against the Colorado Constitution and that inhibited a local municipality's way of life. She noted that she had a concealed carry permit and that as of July 1, she would no longer be able to walk into the Palmer Lake Town Hall or the administrative building with a gun in her purse. Havenar expressed support for the resolution, saying that if Palmer Lake didn't stand up, no one else would. Trustee Nick Ehrhardt said emotions can rise in sensitive areas, and he has seen the consequences. He said he wanted to create a better world for his kids and grandkids and applauded the state's efforts.

The board passed the resolution with a vote of four to one with Ehrhardt voting no and Trustees Kevin Dreher, Jessica Farr and Stern, as well as Havenar, voting in favor. Trustees Shana Ball and Samantha Padgett were excused from the meeting and did not vote.

Land use issues

At the May 30 meeting, the board held a public hearing on a request from Randy Allgood to replat his property at 95 Greeley Blvd. and a request from Ethel Engel to replat her property at 278 Lower Glenway St.

Allgood said his plan was to build four houses on the property, and the replat would change some easements to accommodate a shared access

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