

in the Tri-Lakes area will be highlighted at the event. Also, Ent Credit Union on Interquest has a cafeteria and its chef would also be cooking for the event.

Police Chief Patrick Regan presided over oaths of office to Lt. Mitch Mihalko and Officer Ethan Elmshaeuser and welcomed them to their new roles in the Monument Police Department.

The council formally proclaimed April Child Abuse Prevention Month and members of the El Paso County Department of Human Services was there to read the proclamation and to help the community to understand their role in protecting the needs of children and helping families to work together within their social programs.

The council moved into executive session and, after returning, approved Resolution No. 27-2026 entering into an Economic Development Agreement with Project Cobalt to secure the location of the project within the town. Behind Project Cobalt is a mechanical contracting and systems engineering company that is looking to establish a new fabrication facility within Colorado. The project is expected to create 135 new jobs that will include project managers, engineers, and operations.

At the April 20 meeting, the council took no action on a proposed annual 10% water rate increase through 2030 to address capital and operating expenses. There would be graduated tiered water rates, with higher volume users paying a larger percentage of the cost. It will be discussed in future workshops.

The draft 2026 Stormwater Master Plan reveals that if 100-year storm increases at least 20% more rainwater than the 2006 plan was built to handle there would be a need to evaluate infrastructure updates. For example, Old Denver Road has culvert deficiencies from undersized to failing that will not provide flood protection. See the contest for re-naming the road on page 20.

For complete viewing of the draft 2026 Stormwater Plan see 4202026-Draft-2026-Stormwater-Master-Plan-w-Technical-Appendices-and-Maps- The Planning Department will return at the May 18 regular council meeting with a resolution to accept the document and place it into the Comprehensive Plan that is being compiled.

Other business

The Town Hall roof repair contract was awarded to Garland/DBS Inc. for \$55,797.

The council adopted 12 American with Disabilities Act policies to bring the town into compliance. They will be added to the master plan.

Councilman Ken Kimple raised a concern about several potholes in parking lots (Safeway, Monument Ridge, and Home Depot to name a few, which led to a discussion of the town's limited power for enforcing private property maintenance.

The Silver Key Thrift Store ribbon-cutting and grand opening at 586 W. Highway 105 was praised. Mayor Mitch LaKind and Councilman Kimple said the high sales volume would be a new source of sales tax revenue.

In public comments, Heather Jacobson, representing the steering committee for Tri-Lakes for Democracy, thanked the council for supporting the right to "free speech" after the controversy over a non-violent No Kings event in Monument. After the event, cyber-bullying on local social media was directed at certain individuals. Jacobson said constitutional safeguards apply to everyone and the right to protest can and was done in a respectful manner.

After moving into and returning from executive session, no actions were taken.

Correction

Corrections to the Monument Town Council article in the April issue of Our Community News: Monument does not have two seats on the Fountain Creek Water District Board. Monument's seat on the board has been vacant since the passing of Councilman Jim Romanello. Additionally, the board membership is not regulated by State statutes. OCN regrets the errors.

Regular meetings are typically held on the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, located at 645 Beacon Lite Road, Monument. If the meeting falls on a holiday, it will be held the following Tuesday. See townof-monument.org for agendas and supporting documents.

Marlene Brown can be reached at marlenebrown@ocn.me.

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