

Palmer Lake Town Council, July 10
Certification required for mitigation reimbursements

By James Howald

With no marijuana-related items on the agenda, the Palmer Lake Town Council focused on less-controversial committee reports at its July 10 meeting. The council heard an update on the town's fire mitigation project from citizen representatives Judith Harrington and Laura Mawdsley, and met Michelle Connelly, the forester from the Coalition for the Upper South Platte assigned to review the town's mitigation efforts. Trustees John Russell and Trisha Flake were not present at the meeting.

Fire mitigation reimbursements require certification

Citizen representatives Harrington and Mawdsley updated the council on the progress of the fire mitigation project and introduced Michelle Connelly, a forester with the Coalition for the Upper South Platte. Reimbursement for mitigation work depends upon certification of the work by Connelly. Certification documents can be found on the town's website (www.townofpalmerlake.com/palmer-lake-wrrg-reimbursement-process/).

Harrington requested those seeking reimbursement to keep all receipts, to take before and after pictures of their property, and to request the inspection through Harrington, who can be reached at 719-229-9636. To date, all the work done has been certified.

Council restricts watering

To help conserve water, the council voted to amend the ordinance governing when lawns and gardens may be watered. Under the amended ordinance, odd-numbered addresses may water on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Even addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Watering is not permitted on Mondays, and watering is not permitted between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. The details of the changes will be emailed to town residents and included in water bills. All trustees present voted to amend the ordinance.

Project to remove hemlock gets underway

Parks and Recreation Trustee Cindy Allen talked about efforts by the Parks and Recreation Committee to eradicate noxious weeds, particularly hemlock. Hemlock is toxic, and requires protective clothing to be worn when it is being removed. State law requires the town to address noxious weeds on town property.

Allen reported on the efforts of her committee to implement a guardrail for a playground area and to add

no-parking signs at the reservoir trailhead. The number of cars parked at the trailhead has at times created access problems for emergency vehicles.

Trustee Allen also called for a motion to write a request for a proposal to replace the 31-year-old windows in the library. The motion passed with the votes of all the trustees present.

Town to request presentation from Department of Local Affairs

Finance Trustee Jennifer Martin reviewed the process to get assistance from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, which provides a variety of financial and marketing services to towns in financial crisis, and indicated she would invite DOLA to give the Town Council a presentation regarding its services in September.

Martin reported on work underway to update the town's personnel manual to include current job descriptions for all town employees. She has begun work on the 2015 budget, and asked the trustees to begin collecting line-items and input from their staffs.

She thanked Karen Stuth for her work on the town's new website (www.townofpalmerlake.com) and said she would post the town's financial information on the site.

Police Department over budget for year

Police Trustee Paul Banta noti-

fied the council that the Police Department was \$21,000 over budget for the year, primarily as a result of a large insurance bill paid last month.

A study was underway to analyze the traffic on Highway 105, Banta said. He also provided details concerning a collision that occurred adjacent to O'Malley's Steak Pub. The driver was initially charged with reckless driving, but a day later was also charged with drunken driving after the results of a blood alcohol test were obtained.

Water use typical for summer

Mayor Nikki McDonald detailed the town's water consumption over the last month: 4.14 million gallons of surface water, nothing from well A2, and 2.39 million gallons from well D2. The average daily use was 218,000 gallons, and the highest daily use was 317,000 gallons—typical amounts for summer months. Mayor McDonald also said the paving project at Circle and Meadow was completed in June.

Fire Department future still under discussion

Fire Trustee Rich Kuehster reported the Fire Department had 19 calls in June and 170 for the year. The volunteer hours for June were 2,530. Kuehster told the council another public meeting would be held July 19 to gather input from citizens concerning the future of the volunteer fire department. See



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