

MONUMENT (Cont. from 1)

educate residents on the need for this tax increase. During one such meeting on June 30 (see photo on this page), Mayor Don Wilson revealed 82% of

town residents surveyed feel safe in the town and 64% said they would support sales tax increase if it benefitted the police.

Trustee Ron Stephens didn't seem convinced voters would approve the

2021 verbiage in the ballot issue if they didn't approve it last year. Ultimately, he voted against as did Wilson and Clark.

The ordinance was approved 4-3.

Home rule charter commission members to be elected

Town voters will also be asked to elect home rule charter commissioners. The trustees have been considering moving the town from a statutory municipality to home rule. This additional level of governance would allow for local control over some matters, such as zoning, elections, and traffic issues, while still following state laws. The charter commissioners, who are elected by town voters, will have a limited time to create the new commission the town will follow.

During a workshop held May 17, the trustees agreed nine elected commissioners would be best. See www.ocn.me/v21n6.htm#mbot. Town Clerk Laura Hogan said three people have expressed interest in running to be on the commission. Any town residents may self-nominate. Town Manager



Above: During a town hall meeting held June 30 at the Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Mayor Don Wilson, Town Manager Mike Foreman, and David Flaherty of Magellan Strategies talked with residents about the need for a 0.5% sales tax increase. The extra revenue would be used solely to fund the Police Department. Through surveys, the town found that 64% of residents would favor a tax increase, however the number of respondents represents less than 1% of the population. *Photo by Allison Robenstein.*

Mike Foreman said the board would be able to make appointments for any vacancies.

The ordinance passed 6-1 with Clark voting against with no reasons given, although she did suggest more than nine commissioners should be considered.

Newest Monument**police officer takes oath**

Police Chief Sean Hemingway administered the oath of office to Monument's newest officer, Travon Perry. Hemingway said Perry is a "man of integrity" who was honorably discharged from the military. In his spare time, Perry is a football coach.

Annexation and zoning of three enclave properties

Planner Debbie Flynn provided specifics on three enclaves that were annexed into the town by unanimous votes. An enclave is any land that is fully encompassed by the town, but currently part of El Paso County. For enclaves to be eligible for annexation, they must be completely surrounded for three years.

Because Clark and Unruh were

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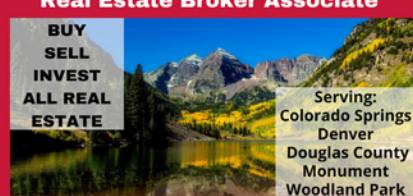
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