

mously to approve Ordinance 19 of 2018, which amends the town's building codes and documents the floodplains in the town. In response to a question from Schuler, Curtis said the ordinance doesn't change the floodplains in Palmer Lake. Rather, it helps to ensure that residents will be able to purchase flood insurance for their properties through the National Flood Insurance Program, and may also affect availability of mortgages.

Ordinance restricting outdoor lighting passed

Schuler summarized the history of lighting ordinances in Palmer Lake, mentioning that a previous ordinance had been proposed but was never voted on, and that the town had begun receiving complaints about the lighting in place on commercial buildings on Highway 105 in the north end of the town.

Town Attorney Maureen Juran explained that the ordinance gave the town's Board of Adjustment jurisdiction to grant variances relative to lighting. Certain types of lights are prohibited by ordinance, she said, adding that the ordinance requires lights on commercial buildings be shielded so that the light is emitted downward only. Residential lighting is not addressed in the ordinance as long as it does not exceed what is required for security, she said.

The council voted unanimously to approve Ordinance 20-2018.

Parking restrictions near

Limbaugh Canyon trailhead protested

Parking near trailheads, and restrictions the town has put on the use of some trails, have been controversial topics at several previous council meetings.

Town Administrator Cathy Green-Sinnard told the council that the town has received complaints from residents on Rock Ridge Road. She said she has discussed the issue of the trailhead at Rock



Above: A group of residents expressed their concerns that the Town of Palmer Lake had placed boulders to block parking on Rock Ridge Road which functions as an unofficial trail head that enters public land to connect with trail 715A which goes to Inspiration Point. While acknowledging that recent events had caused issues for local homeowners, this group suggested some solutions to address those concerns while still preserving access to public lands. Photo by Jackie Burhans.

Ridge Road with Oscar Martinez of the Forest Service to try to reconcile the policies of the Forest Service with the town's needs to ensure emergency vehicles and trash trucks have the access they need. Green-Sinnard said a meeting was scheduled to try to clarify issues such as whether the trailhead is in the jurisdiction of the town or the Forest Service,

Speaking on behalf of a number of residents and hikers, John Johlfs asked the council to remove some boulders that the town had placed at the trailhead that prevented hikers from parking on Rock Ridge Road and to create five parking places adjacent to the trailhead.

The council is scheduled to hold two meetings in December, on Dec. 13 and Dec. 27 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall, 42 Valley Crescent. Meetings are normally held on the second and fourth Thursdays of

the month, with the second meeting organized as a working session. Information: 481-2953.

James Howald can be reached at jameshowald@ocn.me. Jackie Burhans can be reached at jackieburhans@ocn.me

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Donald Westcott Fire Protection District, Nov. 14

Smaller 2019 pay boosts proposed; subdistrict dissolution considered

By Allison Robenstein

At their regular meeting on Nov. 14, the Donald Westcott Fire Protection District (DWFPD) board members reviewed changes to the 2019 draft budget, discussed consolidating the district and sub-district into one legal entity, voted on a land issue, and heard updates about the committee meetings with Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Protection District (TLMFPD.)

Further revisions to the 2019 preliminary budget

At the October board meeting, Chief Vinny Burns presented the 2019 draft budget to the board. This month, he and Assistant Chief Scott Ridings read



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