

a conditional use permit and allowing a business to relocate to 80 Spruce Mountain Road, and approved Ordinance 13 of 2018, allowing Cressman to complete the sale of town property. The council approved a replat of property in the Glen from five lots to three lots. The council also met as the Local Liquor and Marijuana Licensing Authority to consider an application for a liquor license.

**Signatures collected put recreational marijuana sales on the ballot**

At the Aug. 9 meeting, the council took up Ordinance 14 of 2018, which addresses the question of recreational marijuana sales in the town and was drafted not by the council but by the Woodward family. Town Attorney Maureen Juran explained to the council that since enough verified signatures had been collected to place the question on the ballot, the council had only two choices: Adopt the ordinance in full at the Aug. 9 meeting, which would approve recreational marijuana sales in the town that night, or put the question to the voters. If the council chose to put the question before the voters, Juran said, a special election would be held on Nov. 6 in coordination with El Paso County.

The proposed ordinance would allow sales at the same locations in the town where marijuana is currently being cultivated: Premier Organics LLC, owned by the Woodward family, and Palmer Lake Wellness, owned by Dino Salvatori.

Council member Paul Banta appeared to speak for the entire council when he said he wanted to see the issue put before the voters. "This needs to be voted on by the people," Banta said. Council member Glant Havenar pointed out similar ordinances had been voted down three times.

The council voted unanimously against the ordinance, which in effect de-

clined to approve recreational sales that night and ensured the question would be on the ballot in November. The vote was applauded by most in the audience.

**Second-quarter update shows town finances in order**

Town Clerk Verla Bruner gave the Town Council an overview of where the budget stands in the second quarter of the fiscal year. The town has increased its cash position to just over \$2.8 million. The conservation trust is running somewhat behind forecasts. The town on the whole is adhering to its spending goals, Bruner told the council.

The Palmer Lake Volunteer Fire Department (PLVFD) is running over budget. The Parks Department has only 28.34 percent of its annual budget left, Bruner said, but this is typical because most of its expenditures occur in the summer months. The Palmer Lake Police Department is "right on," with 52.75 percent of its budget remaining, Bruner said. The Roads Department is also doing well, according to Bruner. There have been few extraordinary expenditures so far this year, Bruner said.

In terms of the revenues from the sale of water, only one new water tap has been sold this year, Bruner said. 74.82 percent of water revenues are left to be collected, according to Bruner, adding water revenues are going to be low due to water restrictions, among other things. "The good news is that you're conserving water, the bad news is it's your revenue line," Bruner said.

Administration costs for water are on budget, with 59 percent spent, Bruner said. Water line repair and water tank construction costs are skewing the numbers in this quarter, according to Bruner.

Loan payments are on target, Bruner said.

**Town property to be sold**

At the Aug. 9 meeting, the council voted unanimously to give Cressman the authority to sell town-owned property on County Line Road adjacent to the railroad tracks to Timberwood Investment LLC. This sale was completed at the Aug. 23 working session, through the passage of Ordinance 13 of 2018, again by a unanimous vote of the council. The council plans to use the proceeds from this sale to finance the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the railroad tracks to connect the town to the park and lake on the east side of the tracks.

**Ban on dogs at reservoir still a topic of discussion**

In the public comment portion of the meeting, several residents expressed their disapproval of the council's decision to ban dogs from the trail near the reservoirs. One speaker said she was unwilling to hike without her dog for safety reasons. Another speaker suggested the creation of a committee to study the issue.

Two residents said that clean water was the priority for them and applauded the council for the steps taken to keep the town's water supply free of pet waste.

**Conditional use permit granted**

The council voted unanimously to grant a conditional use permit to allow light manufacturing on a 27-acre property at 80 Spruce Mountain Road. The vote en-

abled International Stone Works, which manufactures granite slabs, to relocate from its facility on County Line Road east of the railroad tracks to the property on Spruce Mountain Road. Maria Turenne, owner of International Stone Works, told the council that Black Hills Energy would take over the property on County Line Road. Turenne said she might request that the 27-acre lot be subdivided at some time in the future.

**Replat approved on Mulford Circle**

Dona Stuart, through her representative Duncan Bremer, asked the council to replat her property on Mulford Circle from five lots to three lots. The council voted unanimously to approve this request.

**Liquor license granted**

Acting in its capacity as the Local Liquor and Marijuana Licensing Authority, the council voted to approve a license for Duncan LLC, operating as Dex's Diner on Highway 105, to sell 3.2 percent beer. Duncan LLC is owned by Greg Duncan.

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The two meetings for September will be at 6 p.m. on Sept. 13 and 27 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.

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**Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, Aug. 13  
Mid-year review of budget detailed; water service request approved**

By James Howald

At its Aug. 13 meeting, the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District (WWSD) board heard a mid-year review of the district's budget and approved a request to provide water service to the I-25 South Express Lanes project. Also, district staff presented operational reports.

**Revenues and expenses both below expectations**

District Manager Jessie Shaffer told the board that both revenues and expenses were revised downward in the district budget at mid-year. The budget originally planned for 100 new taps during 2018, but to date only 35 new taps had been requested, Shaffer said, partially due to the fact that two developments, The Beach and The North Bay, were moving at a slower pace than anticipated. This brought revenues down from an antici-

pated \$3.177 million to an actual \$1.304 million.

El Paso County's plan to widen Highway 105 east of Knollwood Drive was not moving forward, reducing the district's expected costs to support this work from \$133,100 to zero.

Expenses at Woodmoor Ranch (formerly known as JV Ranch) also needed some adjustments at mid-year, Shaffer said. \$25,000 was added for an additional tractor, while the costs for irrigation sprinkler reels and pumps were reduced by \$28,000. This equipment is needed for the district's revegetation work at the ranch, according to Shaffer.

Legal services cost \$30,000 more than anticipated, Shaffer said, in large part due to expenses related to leasing land at the ranch to JUWI Solar, a company planning to install a solar array that will be used to generate electricity.



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**Above:** Drilling by the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District for Well 21 at Alexandria Drive and Hammock Oaks Court in the Misty Acres subdivision began Aug. 20 and will continue around the clock until completion in two to three weeks. The drilling must be done continuously until complete to prevent the well shaft from collapsing. The site is surrounded by 16-foot sound barriers. Landscaping will be done at the well site when drilling is complete. In addition to the construction at the well site, a pipeline will have to be installed to transport the water from the new well to a processing facility. Residents in the pipeline corridor will be notified. The total budget for the project is \$2 million. Photo by Jackie Burhans.