

PLBOT (Cont. from 14)

ordinance and heard a presentation about planning for fireworks on the Fourth of July. The board updated the town's road standards and its fire, plumbing and electrical codes.

Two motions on street parking approved

At its last meeting in March, the board heard a presentation from town staff proposing 16 streets where parking would be allowed. Mayor Bill Bass said he supported staff's suggestions but directed them to develop a map documenting where proposed parking was allowed, and to publish that map on the town's website. He also asked for feedback from the community.

In April, the board reviewed feedback from

residents in its workshop meeting and then voted to approve two motions concerning parking in its regular meeting.

At the workshop meeting, Bass began the discussion by saying the street parking policy changes were "across the board" and applied to residents and non-residents. He said street parking had been challenging for the last year, especially when it came to the issue of how residents' guests could park legally.

In response to Bass's remarks, a town resident said he objected to visitors' disregard for speed limits, crosswalks, and no parking signs, and said he had observed them racing to find scarce parking.

Trustee Karen Stuth said she felt the staff's deci-

sions about where to allow parking said "some neighborhoods are not as important as others."

Town Administrator Dawn Collins reviewed the previous discussions on the topic, reminding the board that the staff was not attempting to punish some and privilege others, but the staff's decisions were made entirely on the design of each street. Collins said the staff had reviewed residents' feedback and was open to further discussion. She suggested allowing street parking near businesses but not on residential streets but added often there was no buffer area between commercial and residential areas.

Resident Nikki McDonald, who previously served as the town's mayor, said

she hoped last year was unusually challenging due to a high number of visitors. She suggested posting no parking signs only where parking was obviously a problem and seeing if there is still a problem in future.

A resident who said she was new to Palmer Lake said she did not want to see residential streets opened to visitor parking due to safety concerns. Another resident asked the board "not to screw it up anymore," adding that he blamed "vocal people coming in to turn this into the big city they moved away from."

At the regular meeting on April 22, Trustee Darin Dawson opened the discussion by requesting clearer signs indicating where the town did want visitors to park. Collins pointed out

that some of those signs were already in place and the many no parking signs were in response to an emergency. Bass agreed the town should clearly mark areas where parking was allowed.

Stuth said she believed COVID-19 restrictions were being removed and recommended waiting to see what effect that would have on street parking.

Collins asked the board for direction on whether to remove or retain signs specifying no parking for non-residents.

Jeff Hulsmann, owner of O'Malley's Steak Pub, said "Take the damn signs down please."

After the discussion, Stuth moved to direct the town staff and Town Attorney Matthew Krob to draft a resolution removing all signs specifying no parking except for residents. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Krob said the motion returned the town "to square one" regarding parking. Collins asked how the board wanted to handle areas where parking caused problems.

Stuth made a second motion to let the town staff make decisions on parking, and the board voted unanimously in favor of the resolution.

Consultant reports on residential wells

At the April 8 regular meeting, Dave Frisch of GMS Inc. gave the board the results of his study of residential wells within the town limits.

Frisch said he identified 151 residential wells, pumping from a total of four aquifers underneath the town.

Trustee Glant Havenar said she estimated 69 of the residential wells require metering and asked Frisch to provide details about metering of residential wells. Frisch answered that metering may be required by the state or by the town, and reporting will vary with some reporting to the state and some to the town. Some of the town's wells were drilled before metering and reporting were required. Frisch recommended that the town require all residential wells to be metered and to report to the town in the future. Bass asked if metering and reporting were currently in the town code and Collins said no.

Bass pointed out that well metering is a common practice and that the town code specified that homeowners with residential wells receive an allocation of water based on their lot size at no charge but should

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