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again about how we feel tricked.”

Stephens motioned to table the plan until it could be represented in a more accurate manner, coming back later after discussing the changes. He expressed concern that “the town could be accused of bait-and-switch.” The motion failed.

Ramos followed by saying he didn’t want to waste everyone’s time. “If the only change is the removal of the building, I would still vote ‘no.’” He then motioned to deny Monument Junction West, Lot 5. This motion, likewise, failed.

Trustee Jim Romanello then motioned to approve with the modification to remove Building 2 and replace it with adequate landscaping and no other changes. The motion passed 5-2 with Ramos and LaKind dissenting. LaKind added that he believed the setbacks do not align with the town’s comprehensive plan.

Ramos asked Rivera if trustees who receive funds from an applicant should recuse themselves. Rivera replied only for “contribution to the person,” which does not include political contributions.

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Whataburger coming to town

The BOT passed Ordinance No. 19-2022, approving a Preliminary/Final PUD for BurgerWorks, developer for Whataburger Restaurant, by a vote of 7-0.

Barlow of N.E.S. presented the final PUD of the 1.79 acres, a larger lot than other Whataburger lots in Colorado Springs. She addressed traffic concerns for the opening week. This will be the seventh opening in the area, so traffic should not be nearly as large of a concern as when the first Whataburger opened on Voyager Parkway, the first of the Texas chain of restaurants to open in Colorado.

Ramos asked Monument Chief of Police Sean Hemingway if security will be ready for the opening. Hemingway responded with the desire to have an officer—as opposed to a hired security officer—on duty during at least the opening week. LaKind noted the 24-hour operation of the restaurant, asking how light ordinances will be followed. The applicant said that all dark-sky ordinances were followed in the plan. Ramos expressed that “everyone wants Whataburger,” citing the only concerns he received from citizens were about traffic.

Items not on the agenda

Public comments not on the agenda were from two residents in favor of the mill levy override (MLO) on the Nov. 8 ballot for School District 38. Stephanie Markle, a Palmer Ridge High School (PRHS) employee and former PRHS student, expressed how important it was for her to have an incredibly talented teacher when she was young. She fears without the MLO we will likely not prepare our students with qualified teachers. “We are the lowest-funded district in our region,” she said, “and this MLO brings us to average.” Jackie Burhans, a resident of the area for 30 years, expressed that Monument is blessed with a wide range of choices in D38. “The glue that holds us together is the teachers and staff,” she said. “They have long been undervalued and underpaid.”

Rivera announced his departure as interim town attorney but requested to stay long enough to help train the new lawyer. Stephens called for a resolution to condemn the vote on recreational marijuana in neighboring towns of Palmer Lake and Colorado Springs but found no support to advance it. Ramos and Schoening, while claiming they would not support recreational marijuana in Monument, specifically said it was not the place for the BOT to impose their opinions on neighboring towns.

The Monument Board of Trustees usually meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month at Monument Town Hall, 645 Beacon Lite Road. The next two regular meetings are scheduled for Monday, Nov. 7 and Monday, Nov. 21. Call 719-884-8014 or see www.townof-monument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets for BOT or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Board of Trustees.

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