

the investigation to continue in a timely way and to be cleared up. "It put a cloud over the whole [town]," he said.

Councilmember Romanello agreed, "I would like to echo the community interest into continuing the investigation, as Mayor LaKind committed to it [in December]." Abbott said, "I fully support an investigation." King, however, expressed he had a problem with the previous investigator "spending so much time investigating the Home Rule Charter" and that perhaps the money spent should be reimbursed to the town. Kimple asked if the lawyer was still billing the town, and Foreman said he has approved as much as he was able, and if there were more it would need to come from the board.

Mayor LaKind offered to gift town staff with two weeks paid vacation as amends for "low morale" during the investigation. Foreman expressed his appreciation and shared that he "already talked with financing and HR to come up with a plan." Details of implementing the offer were discussed. Foreman shared that the town staff may go to a four-week summer and give Fridays off or give two weeks of pay at the end of the year to those who don't take the days off. Abbott asked how this could be applied to already-accrued vacation, and LaKind explained his intent: "The two weeks would be above-and-beyond whatever they accrued for the year, and this would only be for employees currently employed today." The board gave direction for Foreman to come up with a plan with options for two weeks of paid vacation.

King added general comments about his feelings about recent conservation easements. After explaining actions surrounding Forest Lakes, Mount Herman, and other places in the Tri-Lakes area, King commented, "It's nice to see something from time to time that preserves some land. We seem overwhelmed at times with all the development going on, but once in a while

there is a silver lining."

Correction

The Jan. 7 article in OCN ("Special investigator claims Home Rule Charter void in report alleging illegal electioneering by Monument staff") misstated Laura Kronick as the person who wrote the check curing the misappropriation of funds stated in the investigator's report. The writer of the check was Brandy Turner. OCN regrets the error.

The Monument Town Council 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, Feb. 6 and Tuesday, Feb. 21 (the Monday before is Presidents' Day). Call 719-884-8014 or see www.townofmonument.org for information. To see upcoming agendas and complete board packets or to download audio recordings of past meetings, see <http://monumenttownco.minutesondemand.com> and click on Town Council.

Chris Jeub can be reached at chrisjeub@ocn.me.

New Church!

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PALMER LAKE (Cont. from 1)

The board voted to terminate the agreement with Monument Fire District to provide ambulance service.

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Christina Cotton

At its Jan. 26 meeting, the board discussed possible next steps on the stalled Elephant Rock property development, approved a driveway agreement for one of the adult-use cannabis shops, and authorized contracting services for a water fund analysis.

Adult-use cannabis licenses approved

Melissa Woodward of Alpine Essential LLC, and Dino Salvatori, owner of Palmer Lake Wellness, requested their businesses receive licenses from the town to add retail sales of adult-use cannabis to their current business operations. The town must grant licenses permitting retail sales before Woodward and Salvatori can apply for corresponding licenses from the state.

In response to Woodward's license application, Havenar raised the issue of potential impact on traffic, particularly the ability of nearby homeowners to reach Highway 105 quickly. Several options to manage traffic flow were discussed: extending Commercial Lane to connect Circle Road and Meadow Lane, adding a right turn lane at the intersection of Circle Road and Highway 105, and commissioning a traffic study to gather more data. Woodward said she would provide personnel to direct traffic on her property at 850 Commercial Lane when her business

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