

administrative leave with required depletion by the end of the year.

#### Beacon Lite LLC

On Feb. 6, two resolutions and two ordinances involving the annexation and zoning of Beacon Lite LLC, a commercial property currently part

of El Paso County, were opposed by two of the five councilmembers before swaying a third, leaving interim town attorney Robert Cole to encourage the council to reconsider and table the resolutions until the next meeting. Town Planner Shawn Snow presented details of the annexation explaining unanimous support by the Planning Commission and recommended approval by the town staff. Even so, King and Kimple voted against the zoning of the property to Light Industrial (LI), and though Abbott voted for the resolu-

tion, she voted against the ordinance.

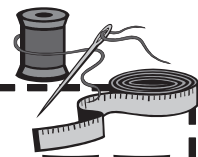
The vote followed public comments expressing concern primarily over the condition of Beacon Lite Road, which is maintained by El Paso County. A petition signed by 188 neighbors asked the council to consider the overall impact of all the developments along the road, not just one. Citizen Mike Kopycinski, speaking on behalf of the petitioners, expressed that they would also like to see right-turn lanes, sidewalks, the preservation of trees, proper setbacks, minimal heights, and minimal water usage for any new applicant on Beacon Lite Road.

John Clark, the applicant, seemed to agree with these concerns, asking the council to "put pressure" on the county to improve the road. "I understand the concerns," he said, "but we're a small 5-acre lot who is getting stuck between a rock and a hard place." Romanello encouraged citizens to complain to the county rather than deny a business fair use of the property. "I am very empathetic to the problems with the road there," he said, "but I'm hoping these 188 people call the county and complain," and added, "why put a stranglehold on a loyal business with something that is a county issue?"

King and Kimple did not vote against the annexation but voted against the zoning. King explained he was fine with the applicant's use of the property but concerned that it could be sold and

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