

ning commission's page on the Town of Monument's website, in the Feb 11 meeting packet.

A troop of Boy Scouts was present at the meeting, and they offered questions about the code changes for a Citizenship in the Community merit badge.

The amendment to the chapter on fences allows for 8 foot high fences in Planned Industrial Development zones.

It was also noted that the Board of Trustees postponed discussions of the Regency Park

zoning changes to March 16. The planning commission observed that developers could skip zoning changes at any time and propose site plans, which may not be the preference of the community.

The planning commission agreed it could be useful to pro-

pose potential big code changes and as "discussion items" in the future, to hammer out details before any solid decision becomes necessary.

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The next meeting will be at 6: 30 p.m. on March 11 at 645

Beacon Lite Rd. Meetings are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month. Information: 884-8017 or http://www.townofmonument.org/meetings/

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Palmer Lake Town Council, Feb. 12

## Two new trustees appointed; business license for marijuana greenhouse approved

By James Howald

At a special session of the Palmer Lake Town Council, held before the regularly scheduled meeting Feb.12, the council appointed two new members to the council: Bob Grado and Mitchell Davis. Two positions on the council needed to be filled because Trustee Cindy Allen resigned from the council on Jan. 30 after the previous meeting. Trustee Allen's resignation followed the resignation of Trustee Jennifer Martin, which was announced at the January meeting of the council.

Asked by an attendee how two new members could be appointed to the council without approval of the voters, Mayor Nikki McDonald said that because she had received only two letters of intent to run for the seats, appointments were allowed by law in place of an election.

The resignations and new appointments prompted a reshuffling of responsibilities on the Town Council. Trustee Bob Grado will replace Paul Banta as police trustee; Trustee Banta will replace Trustee Cindy Allen as parks and recreation trustee. Mitchell Davis will be the finance trustee. Richard Kuehster will continue as fire trustee, but will also assume Trustee Allen's responsibilities as mayor pro-tem. The town's website did not yet list a trustee responsible for water when this article was written.

### Water dispute with Monument resolved

Mayor McDonald announced that an agreement had been reached between Palmer Lake and Monument to settle their water case without going to court. According to Larry Gaddis, Palmer Lake's attorney, the agreement confirms Palmer Lake's right to all the water the town had requested and confirms the town's right to use the water to fill Palmer Lake or for any other municipal purpose. Gaddis pointed out that in a dry year the water might not be present at all. The council unanimously approved the intergovernmental agreement. Monument later approved the agreement.

### New business license approved for Premiere Organics

Following the vote on the water agreement, the Town Council reconvened as the Liquor and Marijuana Licensing Authority to review a request by Curtis Reese and Brenda Woodward for a license to do business as Premiere Organics LLC. Premiere Organics will take over the building at 850 Commercial Lane, which is currently the site of a medical marijuana dispensary, but will use the location for wholesale cultivation only. Premiere Organics does not plan to sell medical

marijuana at the site. The dispensary currently at the location plans to move to a building on Highway 105 that was previously a bowling alley.

Premiere Organics will not have a storefront and will not have any signs. The owners plan to upgrade the air filtration system to prevent issues with odors produced by the plants. The business will generate tax revenues for the state, but not for Palmer Lake.

Objections to granting the business license were raised by Trustee Banta and by other attendees. The concerns were odors, noise produced by the building's ventilation system, and the uses to which the building's well water can legally be put. Reese pointed out that the property has always been zoned for commercial purposes, that many businesses produce odors or have other impacts on neighbors, and that the concerns expressed resulted from actions of the current tenant, Palmer Lake Wellness Center.

Trustee Banta asked what recourse the town has if problems with the new business are not resolved. Gaddis said business licenses are granted for one year, and that the council may decide not to renew the license after that year has passed. The license was

granted with only Trustee Banta voting no.

### Bed tax amended

Seeking to address the loss of tax revenue that will result from converting The Inn at Palmer Divide into an addiction recovery center,

the Town Council amended the town's bed tax so that the center will pay \$2 per occupied bed for patient stays up to 55 days. Previously, the tax applied only to stays of up to 30 days. The council voted unanimously to make

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