

Palmer Lake Town Council (Cont. from p1)

Bill Fisher named project manager for Great Outdoors Colorado grant

Architect Bill Fisher agreed to take on the role of project manager for the Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) grant, which provides funds to develop the park area surrounding Palmer Lake. (The effort to fill the lake with water is managed by the Palmer Lake Restoration Committee, a nonprofit organization informally known as Awake the Lake.) Fisher will be assisted by the town's Deputy Clerk Bob Radosevich.

Fisher has been working on the project for the last eight years, focusing on it more in the last three years, and has donated \$10,500 of design services to the effort. The grant contains \$15,000 to cover administration and project management costs. McDonald said Fisher's work as project manager will remove the need for the town to hire an administrator for the grant. The motion to approve Fisher as project manager was agreed to by all trustees with the exception of Harrington, who abstained.

Council tries again to clarify oversight role

Trustee Rich Kuehster proposed changes to a motion passed at a previous council meeting that requires the Awake the Lake committee to get approval from the Town Council, voted on at a public meeting, before taking any action on its efforts to fill Palmer Lake with water. Trustee Kuehster suggested broadening the motion to require "any sanctioned committee," not just the Awake the Lake committee, to get council approval before taking action, and also suggested allowing a phone conference to be used in place of a public meeting. Town Attorney Larry Gaddis said use of a phone conference might not be in agreement with existing statutes. Trustee Harrington expressed her concern that requiring a public meeting might be too cumbersome. Following the discussion, the council took no action on the motion.

Council prohibits hash oil production in residential areas

Trustee Paul Banta presented an ordinance that would prohibit the use of flammable gases and liquids to extract cannabinoids from marijuana in residential areas of the town. Explosions resulting from use of butane in particular for this purpose have been on the rise since marijuana became legal in Colorado, and the ordinance is an attempt to prevent this. The council approved the new ordinance, Ordinance 3, 2015, unanimously.

Council hears request to repeal junk ordinance

Palmer Lake residents Jamie Rae and Jim Adams asked the council to repeal Ordinance 8.07 in its entirety. This ordinance addresses properties with abandoned cars, appliances, and other refuse. Over the past few months, Rae and Adams have come before the council with a number

of complaints about the law and how they have been cited for violating it, charging that the law as currently written is unfair, overly broad and unenforceable, that they are being harassed by municipal government, that others in Palmer Lake are in violation but have not been cited, and that there is no consequence for those who make false complaints against neighbors under the ordinance.

Trustee Banta commented that he had been advised the law was properly drafted in its present wording. Trustee Harrington mentioned that during the Hayman, Waldo Canyon and Black Forest fires a number of houses had burned because the items adjacent to the house prevented firefighters from getting access. Gaddis suggested that Rae and Adams find a trained mediator to help them resolve any issues with neighbors who have filed complaints against them under the ordinance. Mayor McDonald told Rae and Adams that the town was hiring a company to rewrite all ordinances, and Trustee Bob Grado commented that the town would try to work with Rae and Adams on this issue.

Great chicken debate comes to Palmer Lake

A number of communities in El Paso County are currently debating whether chickens should be allowed in backyards, and this question came home to roost in Palmer Lake, raised by resident Ezyra Snyder. Snyder's family has a dozen chickens in a coop at the family's residence

on Oakdale Drive. They do not have a rooster. Police Lt. Vanderpool cited Snyder, following a complaint from a neighbor, for violating the town's grazing and herding ordinance, and Snyder requested that his family not be fined

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