



**TRAVIS ELLIOTT
TOWN MANAGER**

Integrity ▪ Respect ▪ Teamwork ▪ Pride ▪ Innovation ▪ Diversity

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TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Travis Elliott, Town Manager
CC: Town Directors
DATE: January 14, 2022
RE: Info Update

WELCOME TO MY FIRST INFO UPDATE

I will try to send out an Info Update Memorandum, like this one, at the end of most weeks. In these memos, I will briefly go over upcoming events, mention issues that you might hear about on the street, or just update the Council on some of the occurrences of the previous week. I will keep it brief and informal (that is code for they usually have spelling and grammatical errors). Should you ever want more information regarding any issue you see in these Info Updates, please just let me know.

My direct work line is 970-665-1147. My cell is 970-985-9066. Please feel free to call me anytime.

COMMUNICATIONS

On that note, please don't hesitate to call me for any other issues that might be on your mind. If you hear something through the community grape vine, I am always happy to discuss and appreciate the assistance to address rumors in the community head-on.

In an effort to make sure everyone is equally informed, when I distribute information to the Council, 99.9% of the time I give that information to all Council members. This ensures that everyone is operating with the same information.

Also keep in mind I work for all seven of you equally. Because of that, I cannot always simply "do" what one Council member wants done. In order to be fair to all the elected officials and to perform my job well, I need to "do" what the majority of the Council wants done, not just individual Council members. Because of this, when asked to do something by an individual Council member that is out of the ordinary, I will frequently ask that Councilor to give me that direction/request at a Council meeting so that the entire Council can act on it. Please believe me; it is not always easy to tell one of my bosses "no" not until you get two more votes. But, it is something I need to do to make sure that I, as Town Manager, work for the entire governing body, not just individual Council members.

To be clear, this is not to say you can't ask specific questions to me, get clarification, or ask for assistance. That is my job, please let me know how I can assist you. However, for big issues, I will require direction from the majority of the Council.

FIRST WEEK IS IN THE BOOKS

What a great first week. I have felt extremely welcomed in the organization and community, and everyone has been extremely helpful. In addition to meeting with (almost) all of the staff, I have been able to get out and about in the community a lot over the past week. I was given three separate, and equally interesting tours, and I have been able to visit a lot of local businesses. I joined the Grand Valley Rec Center today, and I hope to participate a few classes. If there is someone in particular you think I should meet, or that you would like to introduce me to, please let me know. I would be delighted to do so. I am going to aim to visit all of the businesses in Parachute and continue to meet with community stakeholders in the coming weeks.

SALES TAX AND 2021 FINANCIAL REPORTS

Finance Director, Teresa Beecraft, has prepared two financial documents for your review at the Town Council meeting on Thursday: A monthly sales tax report and the end of year / Q4 2021 Financial Report. As you will see, the Town is exceeding its projections in revenues and coming under budget for expenditures for 2021. Sales tax for the month of November, 2021, exceeded the previous year by 6.74%. YTD, through November, this exceeds 2020 sales tax collections by 9.12%. For expenditures, the Town is approximately 10-15% under budget. The end of year financial report is not final yet, but this is a significant accomplishment. Of course, I do not get any of the credit, but Town staff should be commended for their sound fiscal practices throughout all of 2021 to stay under budget – especially in these times of rising costs.

PARKLET PLANNING

Staff met with our consultant this week to discuss possible designs and layouts for the parklet at Wasson Mckay. We are hoping to incorporate several features, including a restroom, that will accentuate the park, creek, and grounds around the historic building. We hope to order the restroom soon, and we will be racing a grant deadline to have it all installed by this summer. Stay tuned and buckle up.

TOP ADVENTURES

It may be January and cold, but we are already beginning plans for the summer operations of TOP Adventures. Staff are currently exploring options for a private operator to lease the facility and equipment and run the center this summer. Plan B is for the Town to continue the operation and the status quo, much like previous summers.

PARACHUTE INN

Due to many code violations and safety issues, the owners and manager of the Parachute Inn has agreed to a plea agreement with the Town to close the facility and vacate the premises within 60 days. The Town has been contacted by a party that is interested in purchasing the property. We are working with them to guide them through the redevelopment process and to give them insight into the best plan for the property.

TID BITS:

- Crews were called to a water line break just off of CR 300 today. It wasn't big, but it could have caused a lot of damage to the nearby house if left alone. Luckily, Mark, Bud, Jim, and Jason were on the scene in no time and were able to make the repair before I finished this memo.

- The Police Department’s new patrol car has been delayed again, but it is expected to arrive soon, once it is outfitted with special equipment in Denver.
- Save the date: the annual Energy & Environment Symposium is April 13-14, 2022. Please let us know if you would like to attend, and we can make the necessary arrangements.
- The Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District’s grant award luncheon is January 28th. I understand the Town of Parachute will be well represented for some of the grants that Stuart McArthur applied for.
- The OHVs / RZR’s are now happily living in their new home in the TOP Adventures building.
- Thanks, to Brandon, We have created a new Water Tap Permit Application to process requests from properties that want to connect to our water system. Per the PMC, properties that are outside of Town limits will need to get Council approval. We expect such an application soon for a lot on CR 300.
- The Love’s Travel Center has received our “Floodplain Development Permit,” and we expect to approve their waiver requests soon. The only other hurdles that remain for the e project are with CDOT approvals. Love’s still intends to break ground this spring.
- We have received a complete nominating petition for Mayor. There are several other petitions out in circulation, but the deadline to be a candidate on the ballot isn’t until January 24.
- Town Hall will be closed Monday, January 17, in observance of MLK Jr. Day.
- If you didn’t know this already, we have a professional baker and cake designer on staff. Check out the cake Sarah Goin made for Brandon’s birthday (no, the cake did not taste fishy).

