



TRAVIS ELLIOTT
TOWN MANAGER

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TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Travis Elliott, Town Manager
CC: TOP Staff
DATE: March 10, 2023
RE: Info Update

GETTING PUMPED UP

Our fuel station contractor was able to complete the initial SP 001 inspection last week, and the tanks passed and are approved to be put back into service. That is the good news. The bad news is they have a lot of other recommendations and repairs to make. Most of these are very minor, but there is one very costly upgrade that we are considering. They are recommending that we convert the existing dispensing system to a “Submersible Turbine Pump” (STP) system. The current system relies on gravity from the tanks. We were told throughout the bidding process by multiple experts that this is a problematic set up that is prone to slow dispensing, losing prime, and even cavitation damage.

To prevent these issues, our contractor feels we should install the STPs directly on the tanks. This will pressurize the tanks and make dispensing fuel much more reliable. Given the age of the existing pumps, and our desire to make this system as reliable and “Armageddon proof” as possible, we are inclined to proceed with their recommendation.

The cost for the conversion is approximately \$42,000, which would exceed our project budget. To make room for this expense in the existing budget and grant award, we are considering eliminating the roof canopy from the scope of the project. This would save us approximately \$62,000, and bring us back under budget for the project. We are discussing this change with the Fire District and FMLD. In the meantime, the rest of the project is progressing well. With local fuel prices steadily increasing, we can't wait to get the system up and running.

I'M JUST A BILL

The state legislative session is heating up. I have continued to participate in the CML and AGNC policy committees as the respective groups take positions on various bills to lobby for or against at the Capitol. There are several bills that have recently been placed on our radars, such as the Transportation Planning Region changes and the “gun bill” package. If you, as a Town Council representative, have any particular concerns with legislation that you are hearing about, please let me know and I can make sure your concerns are heard through our lobbying efforts.

WILDFIRE READY

The Wildfire Collaborative recently voted to proceed with their Colorado Water Conservation Board grant application for the WRAP and Wildfire Ready Watershed Plan. This is the effort that the Town Council voted to contribute \$1,000 towards the cash match. Citing an uncertainty with the project budget and cost allocations, some agencies have declined to participate in the collaborative. This includes the regional Conservation Districts, but the group overall is proceeding as planned. I will continue to participate on this Collaborative and have been selected to represent the municipal organizations in the first year. I will keep you posted on the effort, but if you have any specific questions or concerns, please let me know.

TRASH TALK

In an effort to ensure our utility billing practices are fair and consistent, we recently conducted an audit on all accounts. During this process, we discovered that many residential customers were not paying for trash service. Per our Town Code, all residential customers that receive water service must also participate in the town-wide residential garbage collection services – regardless if they actually utilize it. A correction letter was recently sent out to these customers informing them of the mistake, and they have been informed their monthly bill will now include the \$16.80 monthly charge. We are not back-charging any customer. If you hear any complaints, please feel free to send them to me.

TID BITS:

- Our sales tax numbers for 2023 is off to a great start. Sales tax in January 2023 was 36% more than the same month in 2022. This is a good sign that the strong trend from 2022 is continuing into the early part of 2023.
- We received 8 bids for our water tank recoating project. Believe it or not, most of them CAME IN UNDER BUDGET! That seems to be a rare statement these days. Our staff evaluation committee has selected a contractor and the bid award is on the Council agenda for approval on Thursday, 3/16.
- We are meeting with firms that will conduct our compensation and market study this year. Our goal is to conduct an apples to apples comparison of how our wages compare to other employers. The results will be used in the development of the 2024 budget and recommendations to Town Council.
- The CRV EDP held a meeting this past week to continue discussions on the flight and free fall economy concept. The group is proceeding with a grant application to conduct a feasibility study. I recently provided a letter of support for this effort on behalf of the Town.
- Speaking of grants, we submitted our applications for a mini and a traditional FMLD grant. Fingers and toes are crossed. We expect to hear the results in April.
- The RFP for possible tenants in the Wasson McKay house is now LIVE and available on our website, parachutecolorado.com. ICYMI: The Town Council's decision to proceed with an RFP to find a tenant for the Wasson McKay house made the paper: [Parachute offering \\$1 yearly lease to parties interested in opening shop in historic Wasson-McKay Place | PostIndependent.com](https://www.postindependent.com/story/news/2023/03/15/parachute-offering-1-yearly-lease-to-parties-interested-in-opening-shop-in-historic-wasson-mckay-place/7000000001/).
- Congratulations to Andrew Kingen in Public Works for recently completing his CDL requirements.
- We are hiring! We have posted several positions internally: the SRO, and two seasonal public works positions. If no internal applicants are selected, we will post them externally in the next few weeks.
- The Drop In Co Work space is now open! Save the date for a grand opening celebration March 29th, and check out the new website at parachutecowork.com.

- We have published the TOP scholarship application for GVHS students. We updated the criteria to be more geared towards students that have demonstrated community involvement and volunteerism. We will be awarding \$2,000 in scholarships this year.
- Planning Commission was cancelled this week.
- Speaking of the Planning Commission, we are once again recruiting for a vacancy. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please have them submit a cover letter and resume to Lucy at lspalenka@parachutecolorado.com.
- The State of the Community event held by the Chamber was a hit and Mayor Rugaard delivered an excellent update on Parachute.
- Work continues to prepare the 2023 Community Survey. Town Council will be reviewing the draft survey at the council meeting next week.
- Our downtown beautification grant application is now available online at parachutecolorado.com. Each grant awards 1st street businesses up to \$5,000 to beautify their storefront or landscaping.
- Construction is underway for the utilities at the new public restroom facility at the Parachute Adventures boat ramp.
- You will likely see contractors at the Wasson McKay house in the coming weeks. They will be installing conduit and security cameras.
- One of our patrol cars is back in service after getting body work repairs done.
- Love's liquor license was recently approved by the state and is now considered final.
- Upcoming Meetings and Events:
(please let us know if you plan to attend so we can track public noticing requirements)
 - YouthZone Trauma Response Training – Friday, March 10th
 - The Drop In Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting – March 29, 2023
 - Parachute Pick Up – April 28 – 29, 2023 – Cottonwood Park
 - Wasson McKay Park Grand (RE)Opening – Thursday, May 4, 2023
 - Rockmageddon – June 1 – 4, 2023
 - Summer TOP Staff Family Barbecue – Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 5:30pm – Cottonwood Park
 - Grand Valley Days – August 18 – 20, 2023