



**TRAVIS ELLIOTT
TOWN MANAGER**

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TO: Mayor and Town Council
FROM: Travis Elliott, Town Manager
CC: TOP Staff
DATE: December 2, 2022
RE: Info Update

HOUSTON, WE HAD A PROBLEM

As you know, the fireworks were cancelled at the last minute at Holidays in Grand Valley. The fireworks staff had technical issues with the remote detonators / switches, and there was no way to (safely) launch the fireworks. Their replacement parts were too far away to keep the crowds waiting, so we decided to cancel. We are working with the company to reschedule the show, and they are giving us a larger package for free. Standby for details on the makeup show.

Otherwise, Holidays in Grand Valley was a huge success. There was a steady stream of kiddos to see Santa all night, and we served approximately 800 cups of hot cocoa. Kudos to the staff, volunteers, and organizations that made it happen.

COGCC RULEMAKING PETITION

Garfield County notified us of a new rulemaking petition that would effectively prohibit future oil and gas development in most of Colorado. The petition was initiated by various nonprofit groups (Sierra Club, WildEarth Guardians, etc.), and the COGCC will review the proposal and vote on it. We worked with the County to draft and submit official comment opposing the petition and additional COGCC rules before the filing deadline of today. Mayor Rugaard signed the comments on behalf of the Town, and they have been filed for COGCC consideration. Many other counties and municipalities have done the same, thanks to the efforts of Kirby Wynn at Garfield County. A copy of the Town's comments are attached. I don't know how likely the petition is to succeed or gain any traction, but we will monitor the situation and keep you updated.

"I'M JUST A BILL"

I attended the CML Policy Committee meeting today. There are numerous issues that the group is working to address, support, or oppose. Below is a summary of issues that are of interest to Parachute:

- Micro Trenching - the committee voted today to oppose new micro trenching legislation that would give cable / broadband companies the right to micro trench in all public ROWs. This would circumvent our local permitting processes and control.

- Psychedelics / Mushrooms – The committee voted to initiate legislation that would establish local control over the recent election referendum to legalize psychedelics in the state of Colorado. The election question was left very vague, and there are numerous legitimate concerns from local governments about zoning and permitting.
- Auto Theft – The committee supports a bill that will increase charges for auto theft to a felony – regardless of the value of the stolen vehicle.
- No Knock Warrants – Unless amended, the committee opposes draft legislation to limit police agencies ability to serve and act upon warrants.
- Right to Rest – New legislation is expected that would give all citizens the right to be in public spaces (parks), regardless of local ordinances or park rules and hours. CML has always opposed these types of bills, and the committee voted to continue this opposition to restrict local control.
- CORA reform – The committee voted to oppose, unless it is amended, a bill that will place additional burdens on local governments when processing open record requests and limit or eliminate fees.
- Right of First Refusal for Multi-Family Housing – The committee voted to “monitor” a bill that is being drafted to give local public entities a right of first refusal for multifamily properties by offering an equal or greater purchase price.
- Road Maintenance Funding to State Parks – CCI is proposing legislation that would give local governments funding mechanisms to receive revenue to repair and maintain roadway access to state parks and SWAs. This would (likely) apply to Parachute and our maintenance to the Parachute Ponds SWA via Cottonwood Park / Yampa Ave. The Committee voted to support this bill, pending amendments or clarifications on the fees and road eligibility.
- CO Wildfire Building Code Board – The committee voted to oppose, unless amended, a bill being drafted that would create a state wildfire resiliency board to create additional codes for building structures in the WUI. This received a lot of debate due to the dilemma of valuing local control, vs. recognizing the need and value in strengthening wildfire codes.

SHARK WEEK

We held three different stakeholder meetings this week to collect feedback and input on the Trails Plan and Downtown Development Plan. In total, approximately 22 stakeholders, business owners, and community members participated in the meetings, and we received a tremendous amount of feedback and good ideas. Stay tuned for drafts of each of the respective plans, and we will be soliciting additional feedback from the public as the plans unfold.

We will also be presenting an update on the Trails Plan to the Garfield County BOCC and seeking their feedback on December 19th.

TID BITS:

- The police department hosted the kindergarten class from CFL for a tour today.
- Shop with a Hero is tomorrow, Saturday, December 3rd. There are 15 families that will be shopping with local first responders this year.
- The Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for next Thursday, December 8th. There are no action items on the agenda, but the Commission will be discussing an upcoming land use code review project that will most likely result in several amendments for consideration and approval. This code assessment will implement many of the recommendations from the Comp Plan

update. We will also be providing an update on the Trails Plan, which is making a lot of great and exciting progress.

- Additional Town Hall holiday hours and closures are coming up. Because the holidays fall over weekends, some of the closures will be observed on the day before or day after the actual holiday. We have updated our website and will post signs accordingly to inform the public.
 - Town Hall Upcoming Holiday Closures:
 - Christmas Eve Observed – Thursday, December 22nd
 - Christmas Day Observed – Monday, December 26th
 - New Years Day Observed – Monday, January 2nd
- The 12/15 Town Council meeting has been cancelled.
- Councilmember Mueller and Town Clerk Spalenka (virtually) attended CML's good governance webinar this week. Additional upcoming training opportunities are posted online, here: <https://www.cml.org/home/education-training>. Please let me or Lucy know if you would like to attend any of these trainings.
- We are working to communicate the upcoming bag fee of \$.10 beginning January 1st, which was passed via state legislation in 2021. Per the Act, the Town will collect 60% of the fee revenue.
- We are also working to communicate the approved utility rate increases for 2023. Initial notices were included on this month's utility bills, and we have posted a notice on the website.
- We have finished closing out our CDOT Revitalizing Main Streets grant for the Wasson McKay Park. We expect to receive another ~\$113,000 from the state in reimbursements.
- The Trails Master Plan stakeholder meeting invites have been sent out. Stakeholders have been invited to attend either a 12 noon or 5:30pm option on Wednesday, November 30th.
- We are working to replace the wayfinding and street signs. We expect the new ones will be installed in ~2-6 weeks.
- Our final interview for the Community / Economic Development Director position is scheduled for next week, Tuesday, December 6th. If you are available and would like to meet our sole finalist, please let me know.
- We are purchasing new AV equipment for our outdoor movie set up.
- The CoWork space on 1st street is coming together. Cheryl and CO is making final improvements, and we are working with Align to promote the space beginning January 1st – which is when the Town's lease begins.
- Mark King recently met with CDOT to discuss various maintenance concerns. They informed us that they are planning to chip + seal 1st Street and the I70 / RR overpasses next year (2023).
- I will be serving on an RFP Selection Committee for the School Districts selection of a Facilities Evaluation contractor.
- Town staff wrapped and provided the Town's gifts for the Grand Valley Givers program this week through the Family Resource Center.
- Upcoming Meetings and Events:
(please let us know if you plan to attend so we can track public noticing requirements)
 - TOP Holiday Party – Thursday, December 15th
 - Parachute Pick Up – April 28 – 29, 2023