



SEPTEMBER 2020 STAFF REPORTS

Police Department –

- The Salida Police Department had 847 calls for service in August. It was a 54% increase over August of last year.
 - Due to calls being up so much we have very little time for proactive policing and traffic enforcement.
 - If this keeps up anywhere close to this pace, we are beyond our limit with the current staffing levels.
 - We are in the process of condemning 610 Walnut St. We have been working on this for several weeks and it will be a similar process we have taken with the Mehos property.
 - We are conducting a background investigation on a candidate for a police officer position. If the candidate passes, we will be looking at sending him to a police academy in January. It will be this time next year until he will be ready to fill the open position.
 - We will be reposting the open Code Enforcement position because we were unable to fill it out of the last group of candidates.
 - We are back to conducting full training operations in our Colorado POST region. We have multiple officers signed up to attend classes over the next few months so we can get back on track after the COVID slow down.
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Finance Department –

- The 2021 budget development is moving along nicely. A public inspection copy is now available.
 - An OpenGov “Story” for the 2021 budget has been created and it is hoped this will provide a way to better communicate the proposed budget to our citizens.
 - We’re putting the final touches on the Financial Management Plan developed with help from Ehlers and will be able to show that to Council early October. This plan will provide significant assistance in our long term planning efforts.
 - Staff continue to do an excellent job keeping up with the reconciliations, deposits, bill paying, payroll processing, billing and reporting necessary in a busy accounting office.
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Community Development –

- Held the Planning Commission Work Session on September 8. Andrew Amend, Transportation Engineer from Stolfus Associates discussed the alternatives for the intersection of Highway 50 / CO 291 and the pedestrian improvements for Oak Street. The Commissioners comments included concerns for pedestrian safety at crossings near the proposed roundabouts; Oak Street should include striped bike lanes versus the multi-use path as the demand for bicycle commuting will continue to increase; and the need to restrict heavy truck use of CO 291-First Street–Oak Street.

Andrew explained that roundabouts typically are safer for pedestrian crossings than lighted intersections, primarily because speeds are lower. He also described CDOT's mission of moving people and materials on state highways and the Colorado laws for truck routes are biased to meeting that goal. A key argument for roundabouts is they may be built now without waiting for warrants to be met as is required before construction of an intersection with a traffic light. So, do we want a safer intersection now; or wait until traffic volumes, wait times and accidents rise to a level worthy of a traffic light?

- There has been an ongoing battle between DSI and several of the residents that live adjacent to their facility on Highway 50 near WalMart. Chief Johnson and code enforcement personnel have been fielding complaints about noise and headlights at early and late hours, dust and truck traffic. Russ and I met with John Diesslin recently and he agreed to build a six to eight foot high concrete wall around their site. The Administrator has to approve any fence in town greater than six feet in height. Therefore we agreed to send a survey to the neighbors asking about their preference. The eight foot high concrete wall will be the best solution to the noise, light and dust issues, but some neighbors are concerned about losing views and sunlight.
- Bill Almquist is preparing an application for CDOT's Safe Routes to School grant program. The improvements we are requesting funding for include recommendations included in the Future 50 Plan and a missing link:
 - Complete sidewalk / trail along north side of Highway 50 between Holman and WalMart;
 - Construct shared use path along Holman between Monarch Spur trail to Highway 50; and
 - Pave Striker Trail between Chipeta Drive and Monarch Spur adjacent to the east side of the school district soccer fields.

David Blackburn has agreed to support request including distributing the necessary surveys to students at Longfellow Elementary. We expect the request to be close to \$750,000.

- The Historic Preservation Commission met on August 27 where they approved widening a garage door opening on the back of the former Argy's Garage building on First and E Streets, which is owned by Sam Mick. The meeting was attended remotely by representatives of History Colorado as part of the requirements to maintain our Certified Local Government status.
- Our latest brewery, Tres Litros, has made an application for a more permanent outdoor patio within E Street. The conditional use must be approved by the Planning Commission. The Commission will hear the case on September 28. The COVID temporary expansion has given them and the neighbors an early try-out.
- Staff met with Joe Deluca and Sarah Whittington to discuss their desire to be granted a planned development zoning overlay for the Chaffee County campus. Their request will include

coverage, setback and height allowances appropriate for the center of county governance. We requested they agree to submit an application to the Historic Preservation Commission to make the historic courthouse as a local landmark. The landmark status will ensure the Art Deco architecture will be preserved.

Recreation Department –

- No report.
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Public Works –

Admin:

- Project Management
 - Project planning, contracting, and project management for the 2020 capital projects. Emphasis this past month on Blake Street.
 - Coordination, bidding, and project management for the DOLA funded Stormwater Improvement Project.
 - Coordination, bidding, and project management for the Centennial Park and Holman Avenue Improvement Project.
- Planning Items
 - CO 291 Intersection Control Evaluation and Corridor Plan
 - Assist with citizen comment and questions related to survey.
 - Raw Water Study
 - A first draft has been provided to staff and is under a review.

Streets:

- Staff worked overtime to deal with and early and significant snowfall. Crews shared duties between removing trees that had fallen in the roadways and plowing operations. Tree maintenance and clean-up is expected to take several weeks.
- Staff completed additional alley grading and stormwater improvements on L St.

Water/Wastewater:

- Sewer camera inspection of 2020 lines underway.
 - Staff assisted with QC at development sites.
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Arts & Culture –

- Continued renovation in the Sculpture Garden – Excavated and added a rock wall on the west side. Adding 720 sq. ft. of usable space for events.
- 21 events including 1 wedding.
- Art Therapy class.
- Community yoga on the plaza with a maximum 10.
- Total number of people attending events for the month of August. 378

Fire Department –

- RFP for the fire station facility and needs assessment has been published. Deadline for proposals is September 18th.
 - Several members of the wildland team and one career firefighter are still deployed on wildfires. We are hoping that this last weather event helped to slow the spread.
 - Call volume is up 15% over 2019. Crews were up all night during the snow event dealing with downed power lines and an RV fire east of Salida.
 - Inspector Rohrich has begun working with Lexipol on fire department policy.
 - Chief Bess will be assisting with the update to the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. It was last updated in 2016 and we will have recent events such as the Decker Fire to study.
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Clerk's Office –

Courtside:

- Prepping for September 18, 2020 Court. Began going through all aging cases (some date back to 2009); for the Prosecutor, Matt Krob, to review so that Kathy can update court records and files based on his recommendations and the Judge's approval. Continue to work towards 'paperless' court system which I hope to enact by January, 2021.

Clerk-side:

- Processed liquor license renewals and transfers as needed.
- Kathy completed the following classes: How to Survive CORA, Technology in the Clerks Office, Tobacco Licensing (CO Dept of Revenue), Liquor 101, Liquor 102 and Liquor Revisited. Erin completed: Liquor 101, Liquor102, and Liquor Revisited
- The CAP for Residential licenses is 75; all have been issued for 2020-2021 (a few were delayed due to construction delays from COVID issues).
- On Sept 8th a local hotel that Nina and Kathy have been working with paid in full the remaining delinquent 2019 Occupational Lodging Tax of **\$19,081.28**; with commitment to pay delinquent 2020 OLT taxes by end of next week.
- Followed up on LodgingRevs report listing possible non-compliant short term rentals (specific violation: renting without a STR license). On August 28th mailed 15 non-compliant letters; about 50% responded as of 9/8/20:

- (2) Owners notified the City that they are renting long term (30+days)
- (1) Owner paid back OLT tax and applied for new commercial STR license
- (1) Property was confirmed to be erroneously reported as non-compliant by LodgingRevs
- (1) Owner stated she has had a long term renter for years and uses a property manager; she checked and is satisfied that the tenant is not 'sub-renting' the property. Per LodgingRevs, this could be a scam. Owner contacted Airbnb to let them know that someone is illegally advertising her property and she filed a police report as well.
- (1) Owner stated she has not rented short term since 2018 (she did have a STR license that expired in 2019). She was going to check with Airbnb to see if the ad was never deleted.
- (1) Letter was returned undeliverable; a new address was located and letter was re-sent.

TO DATE:

\$328.16 has been recovered in OLT taxes

\$270.00 has been recovered in STR license fees