decision to close the trail. Most of the pub-
ic Council approves ordinances to regulate marijuana-related
lic comment supported the council’s deci-
son to increase the fines for behavior on the trail that endangered the town’s water sup-
ply, and the council debated ordinances that codified the process for closing the trail and raised fines for fires and pet-related viola-
tions. At the April 27 meeting, the council returned to the topic of regulation of mar-
ijuana-related businesses within the town boundaries.

The council transferred a liquor license to the new proprietors of The Villa. Forester emphasizes risk to town
Connelly said that current forest condi-
tions are very dry, and forest management practices over the years have increased the amount of fuel present and the risk of wild-
fire. Intense wildfires sterilize the soil and prevent trees and plants from regenerating, she said.

She illustrated many of her points with details of how the Waldo Canyon Fire af-
nected property she owned, pointing out that erosion following the fire can also be
extremely damaging. In the case of Palmer Lake, a fire adjacent to the reservoirs that supply the town’s drinking water would be catastrophic and could potentially lead to erosion that would cause the reservoirs to fill with silt and gravel. In that case, the town might need to truck in water for years.

Public questions council’s decision to close trail
Many of those present took advantage of the public comment period to express their concerns about the trail and the town’s water supply. People who chose to live in Palmer Lake accept the risk of fire.

Erosion, smoke, and wildfire destruction force many residents to move their belongings to other locations.

Customers support the local restaurants and businesses. That was the vocal approval of the attendees, the
council approved the following ordi-

nances related to the discussions about fire
safety and protecting the town’s water:

• Ordinance 5 of 2017: The ordinance codifies the process for closing the trail and raises fines for fires and pet-related violations.

• Ordinance 6 of 2017: The ordinance protects the water system, prohibits fishing in the reservoirs, and establishes these fines:
  • $400 for washing, swimming, wading, or bathing in the reservoirs
  • $1,000 for a campfire within the water system
  • Up to $150 for any dog off leash
  • $400 for allowing any animal to swim in the reservoirs
  • $150 for failing to remove dog feces
  • $200 for being in the water shed area in violation of a posted sign

Council enacts ordinances to regulate marijuana-related businesses
At the April 27 meeting, the council approved two ordinances addressing busi-
esses that cultivate or sell marijuana in the town:

• Ordinance 8 of 2017: The ordinance puts in place a three-month morato-
rium on licenses for new marijuana-
related businesses, with the intent of giving the town time to redraft the ordinances for these businesses.

• Ordinance 9 of 2017: The ordinance increases the maximum fines for vio-
lations from $1,000 to $2,650, to align with state laws.

The council also conducted a preliminary discussion of the town’s ordinance on the cultivation and sale of marijuana, with the goal of consolidating the ordinances on this

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