



TO: Mayor and Members of the Town Council

FROM: Rich Olson, Town Administrator

REF: Town Administrator's Weekly FYI – October 22, 2021

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1. On October 21, 2021, Town Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission held a joint workshop to discuss Tree Preservation Ordinance amendments and scopes of work with Freese and Nichols for Land Use Plan Updates as well as a limited Comprehensive Plan Update. Daniel Harrison and Eleana Tuley with Freese and Nichols' Urban Design team led a discussion on the Land Use Plan updates and gave a few options that the Town Council and Planning & Zoning Commission could choose from to get the project completed. Freese and Nichols staff also led a discussion on the scope of services for a limited update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan, aimed at determining what the Town Council and Planning & Zoning Commission members would like changed in the plan, including a timeline on when the proposed changes can be codified. The last workshop item was an update on Tree Preservation ordinance amendments. Director of Community Development Emilio Sanchez summarized the work that has been done since an ad-hoc committee was created in 2018 to draft changes to the Tree Preservation Ordinance. Town Attorney Brenda McDonald then led a discussion on what steps are needed to complete the task of drafting Tree Preservation Ordinance amendments for Council consideration. Planner II Harrison Wicks then gave a comparison of items identified by the ad-hoc committee and the current Tree Preservation Ordinance. Town Council and the Planning & Zoning Commission members present decided to ask the ad-hoc committee to draft an updated findings summary that will be presented to both the Planning & Zoning Commission and Town Council and form the basis of direction to staff to draft an ordinance amendment that captures the work of the citizen ad hoc committee.

2. On October 21, 2021, the Argyle Business Association held the monthly Networking + Coffee event. This month's event was held at Facial Aesthetics by Christy, which opened at Argyle Town Square in August. I was there to give business owners an update on development in Argyle as well as other members of town staff. If you are a business owner in the 76226 ZIP code, you can register for email alerts for the ABA [here](#) and register to join the online business directory [here](#).

3. Town staff has been working with Major Hermann, son of Councilmember Cynthia Hermann, on his Eagle Scout project. Major is a Life Scout in Troop 771 in Argyle. The project includes landscaping on the north side of the roundabout on Crawford Road. Scout volunteers will be helping with the planting and earning community and conservation service hours necessary for their own rank advancement. Town staff has trimmed up the trees on the north side of the roundabout and removed one tree which was split and dying. Major, along with John Ankeny, a member of the Denton County Master Gardeners, developed a planting bed in an effort to increase the survivability of the plants. Several loads of dyno dirt were brought in to improve the soils. Plants that John and Major have chosen include pampas grass, vitex trees and Texas sage. These plant species have a high survival rate and require low maintenance. It is

estimated that 35 three to seven-gallon containers of pampas grass will be needed. In addition, four vitex trees and 12-15 Texas sage trees will be required. The landscaping of this area will take place on November 6, 2021 and will be in conjunction with the Town of Argyle's Arbor Day tree pick-up.

4. There are still trees available for the Arbor Day tree giveaway. Please remember that registrants must live in Town of Argyle or our extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Trees are limited to one per household. The drive thru event will be held at BPS Technology on November 6, 2021, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be no Mornings with the Mayor at Town Hall on this day, instead Mayor Livingston will be handing out coffee and donuts at the Arbor Day drive thru. Sign up for your tree and time slot [here](#).

5. Town staff is in the process of closing out last year's building permits. The town issued 217 single-family building permits last Fiscal Year with an estimated total assessed valuation of \$88,152,160. The average valuation was \$406,231. The most expensive permit the town issued was for a \$3,000,000 single-family home. The estimated valuation was provided to staff by the builder. The town issued four commercial building permits last year with an estimated value of \$1,230,300. One of the permits issued was for the Well Church on FM 407, which did not include a valuation. Staff believes that in this Fiscal Year, we will see a 25% increase in building permits, issued mainly to the Avalon Development.

6. During the Town Council meeting on October 18, 2021, the Council requested information on the Argyle Police Department's (APD) ticketing process. During the year 2021, the most prevalent citizen complaint to the APD has been the speed and driving behavior of vehicles as they travel through Argyle. The APD fields, at minimum, two to three complaints a week concerning speeds and improper driving behavior, such as restricted turns, on the main roadways. The primary roadways of concern have been Crawford Road, Hickory Hill Road, Old Justin Road, and some smaller roadways such as Gibbons Road and Sam Davis Road. To respond to Argyle citizens' demands, and to maintain motorist safety, APD performs targeted traffic enforcement in these areas. Of the motorists who are contacted by APD, 54% are issued a warning either verbally or in writing. Chief Jackson will present this information at the next Town Council meeting, on November 1, 2021.