



TOWN COUNCIL STUDY SESSION AGENDA
December 9, 2024
5:00 PM

I. Study Session Items

1. Senior Center Annual Update and Funding Request - Richard Foerster - 30 minutes
2. Legislative Update - Representative Hartsook and Senator-Elect Frizell/William Mutch/Hogan - 60 minutes
3. HB 24-1175 – Assignment for Right of First Refusal of Affordable Housing Units - Matthews - 10 minutes

II. Staff Updates

III. Town Council Updates/Items



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Michael Lawson, Assistant Town Manager
DATE: December 9, 2024
SUBJECT: Senior Center Annual Update and Funding Request

ISSUE:

For the first time since the current agreement between the Senior Center and the Town was signed in 2022, the Senior Center is expected to request an increase in funding support from the Town. The Senior Center recently convened a committee of its members to develop a long-range plan. The plan considers, among other things, funds necessary to preserve programming and maintain the Senior Center facility in the future. Board members from the Senior Center will present elements of the long-range plan to the Town Council, along with the anticipated request for increased funding.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

The Senior Center is expected to request an increase in annual support from the Town. Since the last agreement was approved by the Town Council in 2022, the Town's support for the Senior Center has been \$80,000 per year. Staff anticipates the Senior Center requesting the Town increase its support by 25-35%. A specific amount for the requested increase has not been provided to Town staff.

BACKGROUND:

The Senior Center is one of five nonprofit organizations that receives funding from the Town in the form of a funding agreement. The Senior Center is the largest of the agreements in terms of dollars paid. Since the most recent version of the funding agreement was signed in 2022, the Town's provided the Senior Center with \$80,000 on an annual basis.

As part of the agreement with the Town (Section 4h), the Senior Center is required to update the Town Council at least once per year on its progress in meeting the performance measures/metrics contemplated in the Funding Agreement. The Senior Center is also required to make financial/operating reports available to the Town on an annual basis. Rich Foerster, the Board President for the Senior Center, will lead the presentation.

The Senior Center is also anticipated to use the December 9, 2024 Study Session to request an increase in the annual funding it receives from the Town.

RECOMMENDATION:

Presentation only.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

Presentation only.

ATTACHMENT:

None



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Emily Hogan, Assistant Town Manager
DATE: December 9, 2024
SUBJECT: Legislative Update

ISSUE:

Staff is presenting a legislative briefing for Council, including an update from Parker's legislative delegates, Representative Hartsook and Senator-Elect Frizell.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

The Town has established a framework for legislative advocacy and takes positions on major policy issues under consideration at the federal, state and local levels that may impact the Town and its residents and businesses. The Town supports legislation that is consistent and furthers advancement of the priorities and objectives found in the Strategic Plan. Conversely, the Town opposes legislation that inhibits achievements of the Strategic Plan and its objectives. These positions are captured in the Town's Legislative Policy Agenda, which is adopted annually.

The Legislative Policy Agenda identifies the Town's positions on major policy issues that may impact the Town and its residents and businesses. The Agenda builds on the Town's existing values, priorities and objectives identified in its Strategic Plan. The Agenda was shared with Parker's legislative delegates prior to the study session. The Town's 2025 Legislative Policy Agenda was adopted by Council on December 2.

The Council serves as the Town's legislative review body and is apprised of bills throughout the session and receives regular updates throughout the legislative session. The Council also receives updates from staff and the Town's lobbyist (Mutch Government Relations) when out of session as there are interim committees meeting and discussing potential bills. The Town's lobbyist is contracted to provide legislative advocacy services to the Town. In addition to maintaining a daily presence at the State Capitol when in session, the lobbyist acts as a policy advisor, strategic consultant, coalition organizer and legislative advocate on behalf of the Town.

Parker's legislative delegates, Representative Anthony Hartsook (HD 44) and Senator-Elect Lisa Frizell (SD 2), were invited to attend this legislative briefing and share their legislative priorities for the upcoming session with Council. Likewise, Council will share the Town's legislative priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff is sharing an update on items of interest for the upcoming 2025 legislative session of the Colorado General Assembly.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

Staff is sharing an update on items of interest for the upcoming 2025 legislative session of the Colorado General Assembly.

ATTACHMENT:

1. 2025 Legislative Agenda 111424



2025 Legislative Policy Agenda

Introduction

The Town of Parker's 2025 Legislative Policy Agenda ("Agenda") establishes positions taken by the Town Council on major policy issues under consideration at the federal, state, and local levels that may impact the Town and its residents and businesses. The Agenda builds on the Town's existing values, priorities, and objectives identified in its Strategic Plan. With the Strategic Plan as its foundation, the Agenda is given the flexibility to represent the Town's interest in a wide range of policies, even if the policies in question are not explicitly addressed on the Agenda.

The Town's mission and vision are:

Mission

To enrich the lives of residents by providing exceptional services, engaging community resources and furthering an authentic hometown feel. We promote transparent governing, support sustainable development, and foster a strong, local economy.

Vision

Be the pre-eminent destination community of the Denver Metro area for innovative services with a hometown feel. We will be an area leader in economic and community development, and strive to be at the forefront for services, civic engagement, and quality of life.

The Town's Strategic Priorities are:



Support an active community

Parker will demonstrate our commitment to the health of our community, both indoors and out by providing access to outstanding parks, trails and recreation amenities and activities. We promote a healthy lifestyle and work to meet the needs of a diverse, multigenerational community.



Foster community creativity and engagement

Parker will stimulate community creativity and engagement through high quality cultural and educational programs and amenities. These will include community events, accessible cultural venues, state-of-the-art facilities and innovative lifelong learning opportunities, all of which are vital to a creative community.



Enhance economic vitality

Parker will be an area leader for economic growth by supporting the development of thriving businesses and industry. We will play a critical role in shaping quality of life through exceptional residential, commercial, and open space development; and creating a sense of place that attracts new employees, residents, and visitors to ensure fiscal stability for the community.



Provide a safe and healthy community

Parker will promote the wellbeing of our community by protecting our residents' welfare through prevention services and a safe transportation network. Parker fosters a feeling of personal safety and security through a visible, responsive public safety presence and a proactive focus on prevention, intervention and safety education.



Innovate with collaborative governance

Parker employs a high-quality dedicated workforce to support transparency, accountability, and fiscal sustainability by using innovative techniques to optimize performance. We engage in regional relationships, including our education, fire, water providers, and other governmental agencies and partnerships.



Develop a visionary community through balanced growth

Parker will demonstrate our commitment to balanced growth, well-planned development, and quality infrastructure using a visionary plan for a sustainable future. We support a healthy, future-focused community with exceptional services, while preserving our historical elements and hometown feel.

The Town of Parker supports legislation that is consistent and furthers advancement of the priorities and objectives found in its Strategic Plan. Conversely, the Town opposes legislation that inhibits achievement of the Strategic Plan and its objectives.

Limitations on legislative involvement

The Town will not take a position on every policy likely to impact the Town or its residents, businesses or other stakeholders in the community. The Town's legislative advocacy function has finite resources and focuses on areas with potential to have the greatest impact to the Town. The Town Council exercises discretion in determining when the Town takes a position on a policy.

Revisions to the Legislative Policy Agenda

The Town Council will review and update this Agenda each year as it deems appropriate. The Council may also choose to revise the Agenda outside of the regular update cycle in limited circumstances. Such circumstances may include a need to quickly respond to a particularly impactful policy or provide further direction to staff where the Agenda is not sufficiently specific on a topic.

The Council approves the Agenda each year via resolution.

Support of other organizations

The Town of Parker may from time-to-time partner with other municipalities or agencies on items of mutual interest. The Town may take a position on legislation to support its partners even if there is no direct impact to the Town itself.

Legislative review process

The Council serves as the Town's legislative review body. The Council is apprised of legislation throughout the session by staff and receives regular updates during Council meetings.

Individual advocacy and free speech

These procedures do not limit and are not intended to abridge the federal and state Constitutional rights of the Town Council and staff when they choose to express personal opinions on legislative matters. When expressing personal opinions, Council Members and staff are strongly encouraged to communicate that any personal opinions are not issued in an official capacity or on behalf of the Town of Parker or the Town Council. Individuals must refrain from the use of the Town's copyrighted logo or other branded materials.

While individual Council Members may advocate for or against legislation in their personal capacity, no Council Member may represent that they speak on behalf of the Town or Town Council when engaging in political advocacy unless the Town Council has taken a formal position for or against such legislation.

Advocacy for new legislation

Formal approval of the Town Council is required for the Town to propose new legislation. Neither the Mayor nor individual Council Members may propose legislation on behalf of the Town without the consent of the full Town Council.

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Home rule authority and local control

Strategic Priority: All

- The Town supports local control and municipal government home rule authority.
- The Town supports collaboration with local municipalities as certain issues require statewide and multi-jurisdictional response, which are best addressed through early and meaningful engagement.
- The Town supports retention of authority for all municipalities to set local tax rates, expand municipal taxing authority and equitably share new state revenue with municipal governments.
- The Town opposes state legislation that creates unfunded mandates on local municipalities without state funding or other sources of revenue.
- The Town supports property tax policies that do not reduce local government revenue and allow municipalities the flexibility to retain excess revenue and modify debt service mill levies, among other tools.

Land use

Strategic Priority: Support an Active Community; Enhance Economic Vitality; Promote a Safe and Healthy Community; Innovate with Collaborative Governance; Develop a Visionary Community Through Balanced Growth

- The Town supports local control and determination of local land use issues.
- The Town supports municipal discretion concerning the imposition of development fees and requirements.
- The Town supports municipal discretion to adopt, update and enforce local building codes, including those that meet or exceed state standards.
- The Town opposes delegation of municipal land use authority to state agencies or preemption of municipal land use controls.
- The Town opposes mandatory approval of wireless telecommunications facilities permits within a 60-day period as this is a local land use issue and there are no known issues with municipalities delaying review of these applications.

Economic development

Strategic Priority: Enhance Economic Vitality; Develop a Visionary Community Through Balanced Growth

- The Town supports the diversification and expansion of local economies, including support for existing businesses and the creation of new jobs.
- The Town supports regional economic development through partnerships and coordination with local, county, regional and statewide economic partners.
- The Town supports appropriate state tax policies and incentive programs that encourage business expansion, retention and attraction through job creation, investment in capital equipment and employer facility development.
- The Town supports workforce development, including higher education funding and vocational training.
- The Town opposes unreasonable restrictions on urban renewal authorities and downtown development authorities.
- The Town opposes limitations on municipalities' ability to utilize financing mechanisms such as tax increment financing (TIF).

Energy

Strategic Priority: Develop a Visionary Community Through Balanced Growth

- The Town supports reasonable energy conservation efforts and appropriate legislation that accelerates the development of clean, economical energy resources.
- The Town opposes preemption of municipalities in setting and implementing long-term renewable energy goals.
- The Town opposes unfunded federal and state mandates on energy sources that would create unnecessary economic burden on municipalities, local businesses or residents or would reduce energy supply in a significant manner.

Environment, conservation and sustainability

Strategic Priority: Develop a Visionary Community Through Balanced Growth

- The Town supports reasonable and practical application of air and water pollution control laws by federal and state agencies and encourages restraint in modifying legislation and regulations that have a fiscal impact on municipalities.
- The Town supports practices to assure public health, safety and environmental protection and the protection of domestic water sources.

- The Town supports statewide and regional cooperation in drought response planning including water storage, as well as increasing conservation efforts.
- The Town opposes state preemption of local government authority to adopt environmental ordinances.

Housing

Strategic Priority: Support an Active Community

- The Town opposes mandated affordable housing requirements that infringe upon local home rule authority or pose a safety issue.
- The Town opposes state preemption of local authority to adopt and enforce ordinances that regulate use of public spaces and rights-of-way.
- The Town supports increasing local governments' ability to regulate, manage or generate alternative sources of funding for affordable housing, including public-private partnerships.
- The Town supports an adequate supply of diverse housing options and continued public and private sector support for such an effort.
- The Town supports solutions at the state level to limit litigation on construction defects to encourage a variety of housing types, particularly for-sale multifamily housing.
- The Town supports the creation of an adequately financed statewide housing trust fund.

Public health

Strategic Priority: Support an Active Community; Promote a Safe and Healthy Community

- The Town supports the greatest amount of local control possible for the regulation and ability to restrict sales of marijuana, kratom, and products with hallucinogenic properties.
- The Town supports legislation that expands support for those with mental health needs.
- The Town supports legislation that provides state resources for mental health initiatives.
- The Town supports the greatest amount of local control possible for regulating nutraceutical supplements.

Public safety

Strategic Priority: Promote a Safe and Healthy Community

- The Town opposes initiatives that have the potential to compromise officer safety.
- The Town opposes efforts to undermine local control or enforcement of activities on public property.

- The Town opposes the reduction and loss of qualified immunity for government officials.
- The Town supports local control of local emergency services, operations, and involvement of the state as a resource to local government in the areas of information, coordination and training.
- The Town supports federal, state and county funds for those agencies that serve as a resource to municipal emergency services.
- The Town supports state and community-based intervention, prevention and rehabilitation programs and state initiatives that respect the key role of communities and local government officials.
- The Town supports ensuring that municipal governments retain flexibility in implementing federal and state criminal justice programs.
- The Town opposes efforts to undermine local control and create mandates for local governments related to personnel policies and benefits structures.
- The Town supports limitations on the liability of municipalities and their officers and employees.
- The Town opposes state preemption of municipal authority to regulate firearms within municipalities.

Transportation

Strategic Priority: Support an Active Community; Enhance Economic Vitality; Promote a Safe and Healthy Community

- The Town opposes state transit planning that results in mandates for local governments and infringes upon local home rule authority.
- The Town supports better geographic distribution in programming provided to communities by RTD to ensure the Parker area has equitable access to multi-modal transit options that meet the needs of its residents.
- The Town supports greater flexibility and increased funding for multi-modal transportation systems. The Town supports cooperation among Colorado Department of Transportation, counties, municipalities and interested stakeholders in improving Colorado's transportation system.
- The Town supports legislation and regulatory action that maintains or increases the level of funding provided by the state or passed through the state by the federal government to transportation activities at the local level.

- The Town opposes legislation to transfer maintenance responsibility of state-owned roads to municipalities without adequate short and long-term funding to meet these additional responsibilities.
- The Town supports legislation that would allow local governments to impose an additional local motor vehicle registration fee to fund safety improvements for vulnerable road users (i.e. pedestrians, cyclists, etc.) in a local government's jurisdiction.
- The Town opposes legislation that would require local governments with a population of 25,000 or more to prepare a transportation mode choice implementation plan every 5 years to meet mode choice targets and provide different means of travel to reduce emissions.

Water and wastewater

Strategic Priority: Innovate with Collaborative Governance

- The Town supports water policies that protect Colorado's water resources.
- The Town supports appropriate water conservation efforts and sustainable water resources management practices by all users.
- The Town supports participation in statewide discussions of water use and distribution.
- The Town supports stakeholder input and involvement in developing laws and regulations related to water and wastewater issues.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: Bryce Matthews, Assistant Director - Planning
DATE: December 9, 2024
SUBJECT: HB 24-1175 – Assignment for Right of First Refusal of Affordable Housing Units

ISSUE:

Recent State law, HB24-1175, creates a right of first refusal and right of first offer for local governments to purchase certain types of affordable multi-family rental properties. The Town of Parker does not have a housing authority and does not operate any affordable housing properties. However, the Town is a member of the Douglas County Housing Authority which develops, owns and operates affordable housing throughout Douglas County.

FISCAL/BUDGET IMPACT:

None.

BACKGROUND:

On May 30, 2024, the Governor signed HB24-1175 into law, which establishes a right of first refusal and right of first offer for local governments to purchase certain types of existing affordable multi-family rental properties. Affordable housing is housing that is subject to one (1) or more restrictive use covenants or similar recorded agreements to ensure affordability consistent with affordable housing financing requirements. The new state law sets forth requirements and timelines for the property owner *and* the applicable jurisdiction for right of first refusal and right of first offer. An acquiring jurisdiction would have to move relatively fast if they intend to acquire an affordable, multi-family residential property. If a local government does not acquire the property, it can then be sold through a private transaction. The purpose of HB24-1175 is to preserve existing affordable housing units within the State of Colorado.

The Town is a member of the Douglas County Housing Partnership (DCHP), a multi-jurisdictional housing authority formed in 2003 as a cooperative effort between local and county governments to address the issue of the lack of affordable housing for residents of the county. The DCHP owns, is partial owner or has participated in the development of more than 14 affordable housing communities throughout Douglas County. DCHP has expertise in the management and ownership of affordable housing communities that the Town lacks.

The Town does not have staff capacity or expertise in the management and ownership of affordable housing communities; however, HB24-1175 allows local governments to assign their right of first refusal with respect to a qualifying property or all of the qualifying properties in their jurisdiction to a housing authority. This assignment can be made in perpetuity or for a specific period of time. Alternatively, local governments may waive their right of first refusal if they do not want to exercise this right.

Assigning the first refusal and right of first offer to DCHP has several benefits, including:

- Gives the right to an organization that is experienced in the acquisition, management and ownership of affordable housing communities.
- Continues the regional approach to affordable housing in the County, of which the Town is a part.
- May preserve existing affordable housing in the town when these properties may be sold or their affordability controls are scheduled to expire in the future.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the assignment of the right of first refusal and right of first offer for certain affordable housing multi-family properties, established by HB24-1175, to the Douglas County Housing Partnership.

REQUESTED DIRECTION:

Staff requests Town Council direction about assigning the right of first refusal and right of first offer for certain affordable multi-family housing properties, established by HB24-1175, to the Douglas County Housing Partnership.

ATTACHMENT:

None