



Don Cameron <cameron2021don@gmail.com>

Energy, Government appreciation, , lodging tax uses, Scott Vargo

1 message

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Sat, Jul 30, 2022 at 8:49 PM

Dear Neighbors,

1. City Manager Hiring - Scott Vargo, the county manager up in Summit county, will join us 9/12/22, if not sooner as our new city manager. We had great candidates, great input from residents, staff, and businesses and look forward to working with him to keep Golden awesome.

2. Lodging Taxes - Citizens approved a lodging tax last fall. The revenue could be as much as \$2M/year going forward. The City Council discussed on 7/26 some uses for the monies. 20% as defined in the vote are to be for visitor impacts, which could include increased staffing costs for creek management for example. For the other 80%, Councilors weighed on suggestions for a housing fund, a circulator bus, parking management, supporting cultural organizations, a future arts district and arts council and more. We will discuss this later in August with some ideas fleshed out.

3. Energy - I have had the good fortune to be able to highly insulate my home, add solar, and go fully electric. I was interviewed on Colorado Public Radio recently about disconnecting my gas line (though I did this in 2019). I enjoy my house with no combustion sources, it feels safer, and shared that with the listeners. What was missing from the story was the answer to the question, "what do you think would happen if everyone decided to go electric?" My reply was that "people would be frustrated", and here's why. I believe we lack the capacity in the HVAC industry to bring heat pumps in, in the numbers needed, to make a difference. Most people faced with a furnace or AC unit replacement will do just that, replace them. There are not enough trained and motivated installers for heat pumps to meet the current demand, I suggested that there needs to be partnerships with trade schools, high schools, businesses, and perhaps government to build up a workforce that can address this gap, and then we can move forward. As to the concern that fewer people will be available to pay for the infrastructure that exists for gas, I think that commercial uses, and even long term hydrogen conversion and carbon capture will

maintain the use for gas and I'm not concerned the cost will fall to those who can not convert to all electric.

4. Clear Creek - We have had a lot of input on clear creek some actually good, but much of it saying that the amount of tubers still exceeds a level that is "good". Suggestions include pulling licenses, reducing daily rentals, requiring a daily pass, different signage. I hope we make some mid-summer changes but we have not done so yet. I do not speak for council, just sharing my thoughts on it.

5. Why I like our Government - I had a chance to meet with and talk to some professionals from Africa mid-July. I wrote [about it here](#) on my blog. Here is a line to wet your appetite, "Imagine a system in which a government job is for life, is strictly based on patronage, delivers no services, and then you are asked to work *within that system* to make it better."



6. Open Space Master Plan Survey - The city run survey is open until August 10, 2022, and will inform further revisions to the Mission, Vision, and Definition statements. Please take the survey here: https://www.guidinggolden.com/open-space-master-plan/survey_tools/osmp-publicsurvey

If you have input for city council, please use councilcomments@cityofgolden.net.

Always feel free to reach me at my website, [set up a meeting](#). Or, let's run, walk or bike together if you'd like!

Peace,

Don

Feel free to forward this to friends or neighbors who may like to get more information. To join the list fill out the contact form at cameronforgolden.org

Want to know even more? Two other councilors have websites too, [JJTrout](#) and [Bill Fisher](#)

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