



Don Cameron <cameron2021don@gmail.com>

Weed, CoorsTek, South Table, Water

Don <cameronforgolden@gmail.com>
Reply-To: cameronforgolden@gmail.com
To: cameron2021don@gmail.com

Sun, May 1, 2022 at 7:32 AM

Dear Neighbors,

Are you better informed, or feeling at least a little informed by reading these monthly emails? If so, please pass it along, and if you found this in your spam, social, or promotions folder, please make sure that cameronforgolden@gmail.com is in your trusted contacts list so you are kept up on Ward 3, and other information.

0. City Manager Hiring - The city manager application is open, and we have received almost 40 applications so far. We will really start to narrow them down after May 6th. The city will have meet-and-greet opportunities for the finalists in June, tentatively around June 27, or 28. Get all the latest information and take a survey about attributes you're looking for at [Guiding Golden](#).

1. CoorsTek Redevelopment - The public process is playing out, and Planning Commission has moved the case to city council (late May). Meanwhile, a new proposal for permanent affordability instead of 30 year affordability in their rezoning request has been made.



2. Weed - The City Council has had several discussions about a proposed ordinance to allow retail marijuana sales. We have been listening to input from citizens and staff and our approach is developing. The number of stores and locations and rules are being discussed. No final decisions have been made so this is still the time to provide input in as constructive a manner as possible. City Councilor JJ Trout has written extensively on this and by permission I have posted the information here along with my comments.



3. Solar on South Table Mountain - I personally testified, and City Council provided a letter in opposition to the application for a "special exception" for commercial sized solar in an Ag zoned parcel on South Table Mountain. The board of adjustment voted 4-1 to not allow this. Many citizens from Golden weighed in against, and a few people came in favor. Key to this denial was the fact that character and surrounding compatibility are factors to be considered in a special use request. They are typically NOT allowed to be part of a zoning request. The same is true in Golden. If a use is allowed by right, in the zoning, it is hard to argue against it. It is only when it is NOT allowed and a variance, exception, or special use is sought, that character can come into play. My dog pictured below on STM near the proposed site agreed with my testimony.



4. Water Alliance Now - Some of your tax dollars were used to send me to Philadelphia for a two day conference on all things water. That is why I attended the early April council meeting online. Water supply, sewer, storm water and more were discussed. I learned about some funding mechanisms, green water solutions (think bio-swales and areas like we have on South Golden Road for water quality), and equity around water. Should water access be a right? Since water is life, how do we provide it equitably even to those struggling to pay bills? I shared my lessons-learned with the public works director and suggested that staff, instead of council engage in this group going forward.

5. Heart of Golden - From CoorsTek, mentioned above, to the city owned land near 311 10th street, many changes are coming to downtown. It may seem that there is no plan, when people see a line through the community garden representing a road, or a proposal to remove a ball field. In fact, that is the nature of the public process. And neither of those things are determined. Two years ago there was talk of an arts center and theater, but now that Astor house (Foothills Art Center), and Meyer's Hardware (Miner's Alley Playhouse), have changed ownership, no one is talking about an arts center any more. And this week there was a *commitment by council not to remove any amenity until a better, or comparable one is in place*. So, public input is taken into account, but it moves at the speed of...well a bureaucracy, not as fast as a Tweet or an Instagram post. It is exciting times on the city council for sure.



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

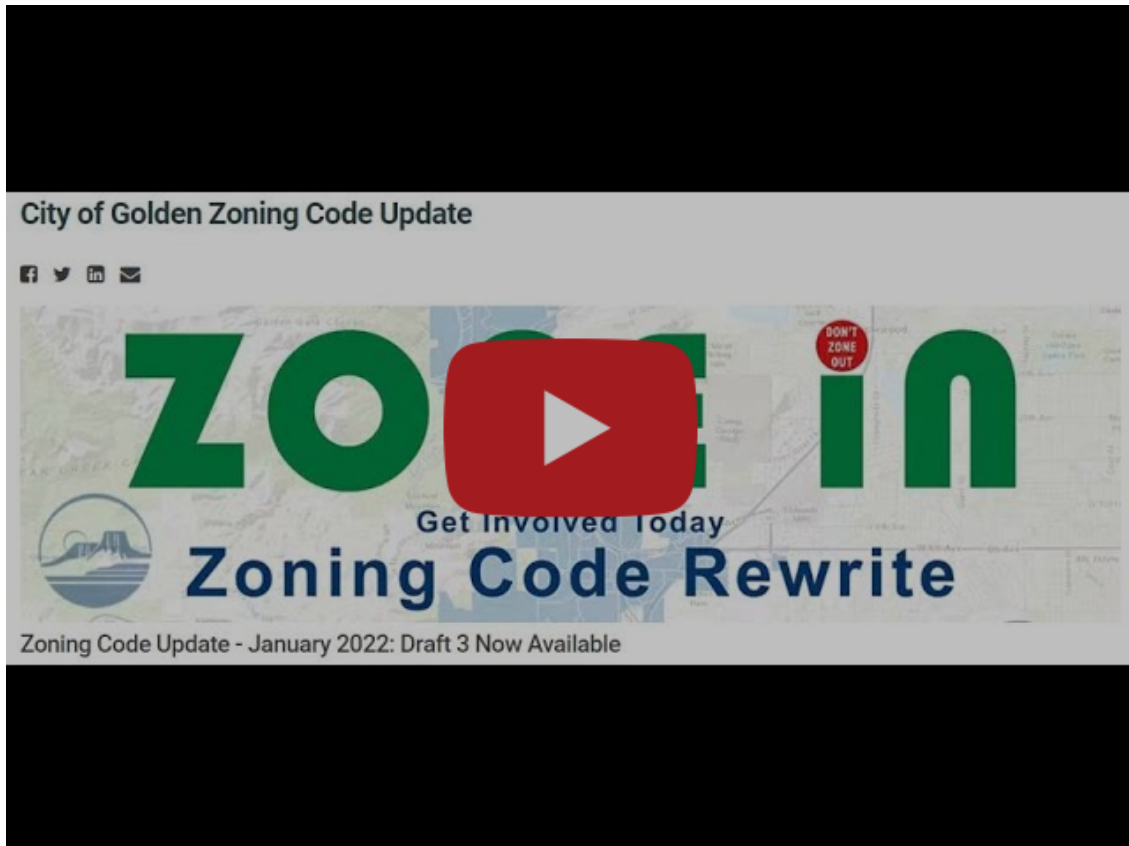
Always feel free to reach me at my website, [set up a meeting](#). Or, let's run, walk or bike together if you'd like!

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](#)



This three minute video shows you how to find, map, and provide input on the new zoning code.

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