

2023-02-10 LAC Report

Legislative Affairs Coalition Update for February 10, 2023

Durango City Council Election

- Two seats are open for the April 4th election. Barbara Noseworthy and Kim Baxter will not run for reelection.
- The following people have qualified:
 - David Woodruff, president of the Durango Chapter of the Colorado Restaurant Association
 - Harrison Wendt, youth programming coordinator at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango
 - Carter Rogers, Fort Lewis College Student Body President
 - Douglas Snow, Durango resident
 - Gilda Yazzie, Durango resident
- Durango Chamber of Commerce will hold a candidate forum March 14 at the Doubletree at 11:30 am.

Chapter 90 (Oil and Gas Regulations) of the La Plata County Land Use Code Update

- La Plata County Commissioners accepted the staff recommendation to keep oil and gas setbacks at 2000 feet but allow certain circumstances (“off ramps”) that could bring setbacks to a minimum of 500 feet.
- Based on the direction provided by the Board of County Commissioners, an updated draft of the Chapter 90 oil and gas regulations ([Click here to see the draft](#)) will now go to the county Planning Commission for their review and recommendation.
- Public comment will be taken on February 23rd at 6pm at the County Administration Building.
- Version 2 of the draft will be considered later this month.
- It is estimated that by early April, Chapter 90 will be adopted.

Durango Emergency Services Building

- A combined fire and police station at the current River City Hall site in Durango has been determined to not be feasible as a joint project, but the fire district is still investigating the site for a new fire station while the city is considering the former 9R administration property as a new location for a potential City Hall complex.

- City councilors have directed staff to investigate the fair-market value of a potential swap between the city and the Durango Fire Protection District of River City Hall and the former 9R administration property.
- The next joint meeting with the DFPD board is in March.
- More information at <https://www.durangogov.org/civicalerts.aspx?AID=3024>

Durango Lodgers Tax

- Durango City Council was discussing going to voters again to potentially reallocate the Lodgers Tax distributions. The councilors were considering asking voters to approve an allocation of 35% for marketing and 65% for affordable housing, childcare, transportation, parking & transit, arts & culture, and other purposes.
- On January 17th, the councilors agreed not to pursue the question.

La Plata County Sales Tax

- County Sales tax collections for August show an increase of \$267,448 or 12.11% in comparison to the same period in 2021. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$1,195,938 or 7.47% as compared to the same period in 2021.
- County Sales tax collections for September show an increase of \$57,178 or 2.50% in comparison to the same period in 2021. Year to date, Sales tax has increased \$1,253,116 or 6.85% as compared to the same period in 2021.

Project Approvals

- Durango City Council approved the preliminary planned development known as North Main Apartments (Formerly Boxcar Landing) located on North Main next to the CDOT building. The project will have 84 one-bedroom, one bathroom units and 69 two-bedroom, two-bathroom units in 12 buildings. On-site amenities include play areas and picnic areas, a dog run and green spaces. The units will be rented at market rate.
- Durango City Council approved an amendment to Mercy Regional Medical Center's planned development, making way for a new medical office building in Three Springs. The applicant, Catholic Health Initiatives Colorado plans to construct a building that could be up to 80,000 square feet along an undeveloped hillside.

- In a 3 to 2 vote, LPC Planning Commission recommended approval of the Roberts Resorts Village Camp Durango sketch plan. The project features a luxury RV park with up to 306 stalls - a mixture of RV parking spaces and park model cabins to be located at 876 CR 252.

Meetings attended January 5 - February 10

<p>1/5 - 3 pm LAC Meeting</p> <p>1/9 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting</p> <p>1/10 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting</p> <p>1/11 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time</p> <p>1/12 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission</p> <p>1/17 - 10 am BOCC Planning Meeting</p> <p>1/17 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session</p> <p>1/17 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting</p> <p>1/23 - 2 pm Joint City/County Study Session</p> <p>1/23 - 5 pm Durango Planning Commission Meeting</p>	<p>1/24 - 10 am BOCC Business Meeting</p> <p>1/25 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time</p> <p>1/26 - 6 pm LPC Planning CANCELED</p> <p>1/31 - 10 am BOCC Meeting CANCELED</p> <p>2/1 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time</p> <p>2/3 - 2 pm BOCC Study Session</p> <p>2/7 - 10 am BOCC Meeting</p> <p>2/7 - 2:15 pm Durango Council Study Session</p> <p>2/7 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting</p> <p>2/8 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time</p> <p>2/9 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission</p>
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Colorado Legislature

Business / Taxation

- [HB 1118](#) - Concerning fair workweek employment standards - **Durango Chamber Opposes, CO Chamber Opposes** - Assigned to House Business Affairs and Labor Committee for a hearing Feb 16 at 1:30pm.
- [HB 1035](#) - Concerning the statute of limitations for a violation of minimum wage laws - **CO Chamber Supports** - assigned to House Judiciary Committee for a hearing Feb 14 at 1:30pm.
- [HB 1017](#) - Concerning improvements to the electronic sales and use tax simplification system. - **CO Chamber Supports** - assigned to House Finance
- [SB 6](#) - Concerning the creation of the rural opportunity office in the office of economic development. - Senate Appropriations Committee. - **CAR Supports**

- [SB 47](#) - Concerning modifications to the closing and settlement process for real estate transactions. - Assigned to Senate Business, Labor, & Technology for a hearing Feb 9 at 8am - **CAR Opposes**
- [HB 1006](#) - Concerning the notice requirements of employers regarding income tax credits, and, in connection therewith, requiring employers to notify employees of the availability of the federal earned income tax credit, the state earned income tax credit, the federal child tax credit, and the state child tax credit. - House 3rd reading passed.
- [SB 46](#) - Concerning the calculation of a covered individual's average weekly wage for paid family and medical leave benefit - Senate 2nd reading passed.
- [SB 17](#) - Concerning the addition of qualifying uses of paid sick leave - Senate appropriations committee.
- [HB 1008](#) - Concerning tax policies related to the accessibility of food, and, in connection therewith, requiring additions to Colorado taxable income in amounts equal to the business meals federal itemized deduction, providing funding for the small business recovery and resilience grant program, creating a tax credit for certain purchases eligible for that grant program, and providing funding for healthy eating program incentives.- House Finance Committee for a hearing Feb 13 at 1:30pm.
- [HB 1054](#) - Concerning real property valuation, and, in connection therewith, extending the property tax reassessment cycle beginning on January 1, 2021, to a four-year cycle; removing the dollar amount reductions to the actual value used for the valuation for assessment of lodging property, improved commercial property, and residential property; maintaining the same assessment rates for all real property besides residential real property in the 2023 and 2024 property tax years; and capping the increase in property values between the 2022 and 2025 property tax years. House Finance Committee
- [HB 1004](#) - Concerning requirements regarding the language used in certain insurance documents. - To Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee.
- [HB 1011](#) - Concerning a requirement that an agricultural equipment manufacturer facilitate the repair of its equipment by providing certain other persons with the resources needed to repair the manufacturer's agricultural equipment. - Assigned to Agriculture, Water & Natural Resources **CO Chamber Opposes**
- [SB 51](#) - Concerning preparation of a skilled workforce for the changing nature of work. Senate 3rd reading passed.

Land Use

- [SB 5](#) - Concerning measures to expand the forestry workforce, and, in connection therewith, directing the Colorado state forest service to develop educational materials for high school students about career opportunities in forestry and wildfire mitigation; creating a timber, forest health, and wildfire mitigation industries workforce development program to help fund internships in those industries; allocating general fund money to the wildfire mitigation capacity development fund; authorizing the expansion and creation of forestry programs in the community college system and at Colorado mountain college; and directing the state board for community colleges and occupational education to administer a program to recruit wildland fire prevention and mitigation educators. Assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee. **CAR Supports**

Housing

- [SB 1](#) - Concerning additional functions of the public-private collaboration unit for public projects that provide housing.- assigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee. **CAR Supports, CO Chamber Supports**
- [SB 35](#) - Concerning the operation of the middle-income housing authority, and, in connection therewith, adding members to the board of directors and expanding the power of the authority to enter into public-private partnerships - assigned to Senate Appropriations Committee.
- [HB 1115](#) - Concerning the repeal of statutory provisions prohibiting local governments from enacting rent control on private residential property or a private residential housing unit. - Assigned to Transportation, Housing & Local Government - **CO Chamber Opposes, CAR Opposes**
- [HB 1068](#) - Concerning pet animal ownership in housing, and, in connection therewith, prohibiting restrictions on dog breeds for obtaining homeowner's insurance, providing for the manner in which pet animals are handled when a writ of restitution is executed, prohibiting security deposits or rent for pet animals, creating the pet friendly landlord damage mitigation program, excluding pet animals from personal property liens, and requiring that pet animals be allowed at a qualified development for the development to receive the Colorado affordable housing tax credit. - Assigned to Transportation, Housing & Local Government

Regulatory

- [SB 16](#) - Concerning measures to promote reductions in greenhouse gas emissions in Colorado - assigned to Senate Finance Committee.

- [HB 1039](#) - Concerning a requirement that electric load-serving entities periodically report about the adequacy of their electric resources. - House Appropriations Committee. **CO Chamber Supports**

Local Government

- [HB 1085](#) - Concerning modification of the requirements for local governments in rural areas to adopt energy efficient building codes, and, in connection therewith, amending the definition of a rural county, defining a rural municipality, and extending the energy efficient building code compliance periods for both. - Assigned to Energy and Environment.

Labor/Employment

- [HB 1118](#) - Concerning fair workweek employment standards.Sent to House Business Affairs and Labor Committee for a hearing Feb 16 at 1:30 pm. **CO Chamber Opposes**
- [HB 1078](#) - Concerning the creation of a dependent allowance for individuals receiving unemployment compensation. House Business Affairs and Labor Committee for a hearing on Feb 9 at 1:30 pm. **CO Chamber Opposes**