

2020-11-10 LAC Report

Notebook: 2020 Reports & Updates

Created: 11/13/2020 1:49 PM

Updated: 11/13/2020 1:52 PM

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Legislative Advisory Coalition Update for November 10, 2020

La Plata County Budget

- See the La Plata County Proposed 2021 budget here: https://www.co.laplata.co.us/finance-procurement/Budgets/2021%20Proposed%20Budget_Public%20Use.pdf
- The Budget includes increased funding for public health and a number of capital projects including improvements to La Posta Road and Gun Range remediation.
- The City Durango and La Plata Board of County Commissioners agreed to put aside \$100K for road improvements on CR 251 and \$100K for homelessness issues out of the joint sales tax for 2021.
- The BoCC will consider adopting the budget on November 24th at 10 am.

Durango Budget

- See the Proposed City of Durango 2021 Budget here: <https://www.durangogov.org/DocumentCenter/View/18431/2021-City-of-Durango-Proposed-Budget-PDF>
- The Budget is prepared with the assumption that sales tax revenues will be down 8.5% compared to the 2020 Budget and includes no pay raises and no cost of living adjustments.
- December 1, 2020 is the first public hearing on the budget.
- Council will consider adoption on December 15th.

Town of Ignacio Budget

- See the Proposed Town of Ignacio 2021 Budget here: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/ignacio/atom/220676>
- The budget anticipates \$4m in total revenue and \$3.9m total expenses.

Durango Financial Update

- Sales tax for August was up 4.2% for the month and down 3.6% year to date.
- Use tax was down 51% for the month of August and 17% year to date.
- Lodgers tax was down 23.5% for the month of August and 38.7% year to date.

La Plata County Financial Update

- Sales tax collections for August show an increase of 7.91% in comparison to the same period in 2019. Year to date, Sales tax has increased 15.15% over the same period in 2019.
- Lodger's tax collections are earned Quarterly; collections for Quarter 1 & 2 show an increase of 9.50% from the same period in 2019. Year to date for 2020 is a decrease of -4.89%, over the same period in 2019.
- Sales tax collections for September show an increase of 9.26% in comparison to the same period in 2019. Year to date, Sales tax has increased 14.09% over the same period in 2019

Urban Renewal Authority (URA) Update

- Scott Shine (Durango Planning Manager) said the URA landed on an area they called "mid-town" which includes Buckley Park, all of Town Plaza, the Schluter building, the old Post Office.
- The URA neighborhood meeting for the Midtown plan is scheduled for Nov 12 at 5 pm.
- For additional information, contact Business Development & Redevelopment Coordinator Alex Rugoff at 970-375-4855 or alex.rugoff@durangogov.org
- Following public engagement, the Partnership will determine if Midtown is a good fit for inclusion in an urban renewal plan. Inclusion would allow the Durango Renewal Partnership to

dedicate funds and establish programs to assist with developing and investing in the MidTown Redevelopment Area.

Durango Lodger's Tax Update

- Visit Durango, Durango Area Hospitality & Lodgers Association, and the Durango Creative District proposed a 3% Lodgers Tax increase to Durango City Councilors in a study session on October 22.
- Money raised would be used to increase occupancy, improve visitor experience, support a more year round economy, and create the industry gold standard for sustainable tourism, among other things.
- The groups aim to put a question on the ballot in April of 2021. Durango

Vacation Rentals Update

- Durango City Council approved changes to the Land Use & Development Code that will no longer allow vacation rentals in three of Durango's denser residential zones.
 - Existing permits issued for these zones may remain until the use is no longer active or the property changes ownership.
- #### Durango Downtown Business Update
- Scott Shine (Durango Planning Manager) said the city plans to bring the bump outs program back as early as April 2021 with improvements.
 - City staff is also trying to think of ways to help businesses this winter, including allowing bistro table permits and potentially closing a portion of Main Ave for Noel Night.

Southwest Health Alliance Update

- The SW Health Alliance announced to city and county officials that it has health plans available in the marketplace for open enrollment, which began November 1st.
- On average, health care premiums decreased by about 35% for plans that will be available in several southwestern Colorado counties.

Durango Projects Approved

- Durango Planning Commission approved the North Main/Boxcar Landing Conceptual Planned Development located at 3801 N Main Avenue. The project consists of 132 residential units with a mix of apartments, condominiums, and townhouses. There would also be 6,000 square feet of commercial space.

La Plata County Projects Approved

- On November 3, 2020, County Commissioners approved the La Plata Mini Storage and Duplex located at 29515 E US Hwy 160. The plan is to replace the existing office with a duplex and retain the existing 23,100 sq. ft. of storage units.
- October 20, 2020, the County Commissioners approved the Justesen Tow Yard Class II located at 3333 CR 510. The project is for a 4,000 sq. ft. tow yard to accommodate up to 10 vehicles.

Meetings attended October 13 - November 10

- 10/13 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda
- 10/13 - 4 pm Durango Study Session
- 10/14 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time
- 10/15 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission CANCELLED 10/20 - 10 am BOCC Planning Agenda
- 10/20 - 5 pm BOCC Budget Hearing
- 10/20 - 6:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting 10/21 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time
- 10/22 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission
- 10/26 - 10 am BOCC Work Session
- 10/26 - 6 pm Durango Planning Commission 10/27 - 10 am BOCC Business Agenda 10/27 - 4 pm Durango Study Session
- 10/28 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time
- 11/2 - 6 pm Durango City Council Meeting
- 11/3 - 10 am BOCC Planning Agenda
- 11/4 - 9 am BOCC Discussion Time
- 11/5 - 11 am DAAR Government Affairs Meeting 11/5 - 1 pm Durango City Council Work Session
- 11/10 - 9 am LAC Meeting

