

Unemployment Update

- La Plata County's unemployment rate was 2.7% in May, down from 2.9% in April
- San Juan County was 2.1% in May, down from 2.4% in April
- Montezuma County was 3.1%, down from 3.6%
- Dolores County was 2.6%, down from 3.2%
- Archuleta County was 2.9%, down from 3.2%

Durango Sales Tax Collection Update

- Devon Schmidt, Durango's Budget and Strategic Plan Officer said the city is anticipating about 4% tax collection over what has been budgeted.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) Update

- City of Durango Staff announced the "ADUs for Locals Rebate Program," which will offer rebates to Durango homeowners who commit to renting out their newly constructed ADU to a local worker for at least twenty-four (24) months. The objective is to incentivize ten (10) homeowners who build new accessory units on their properties with a flat rebate amount of \$8,000, as part of the ongoing effort to create more housing opportunities in Durango.
- Program implementation will utilize \$80,000 from the already appropriated \$500,000 in the Housing Incentive Program to directly support the creation of new housing units for the local population.

La Plata County Land Use Code Update

- There will be a joint work session of the LPC Board of County Commissioners and the LPC Planning Commission in the evening of August 18th for a presentation of the new draft Chapter 90 in the Land Use Code. Chapter 90 addresses oil and gas regulations.

Homeless Camp Update

- At a joint meeting between the City of Durango and La Plata County, County Manager Chuck Stevens said the county is on track to close Purple Cliffs in September. Meanwhile, weekly meetings are taking place to plan for it. The City of Durango is actively looking at land possibilities for a managed camp.
- While a managed camp will not be able to address the entirety of the homeless population, elected officials are focusing on helping families, children, and teens as a priority.
- La Plata County is in the process of searching for a location of a safe parking area for those living in their cars.

Downtown Durango Next Steps

- Six downtown Durango business owners spoke out against the Downtown Durango Next Steps program at the City Council meeting on August 2nd. The opponents said the proposal to redesign downtown would be devastating to them and that it was attempting to fix something that was not broken.
- Meanwhile two individuals spoke in favor of the proposal, saying it would have long term benefits.
- These comments were during the general public comment portion of the meeting. City Council was not taking any action on the program.

Durango Lodgers Tax Update

- City Council asked for another survey of residents regarding the excess Lodgers Tax collected in 2021 and how it might be spent if voters allowed the city to keep the money. A survey was already done, but Councilors felt there was not adequate response.

- Currently, most councilors agree they want to ask voters to keep the overage collected in 2021 and the projected overage to be collected in 2022. They disagree on how to use the money. However, if a ballot question is asked and is voted down, councilors agree that the overage should be refunded in the form of a utility credit to residents.

Durango Signage Update

- Signs that were allowed during the COVID pandemic as a temporary measure now need to be removed within city limits. Assistant Director of Community Development Scott Shine said the City has noticed a proliferation of temporary signs and have gotten some complaints about it.
- Any temporary signage will revert to the requirements laid out in Article 3-6 of the Land Use and Development Code. Temporary signs include banners, small portable signs, site signs, and yard signs.
- In the coming weeks a code compliance officer will be evaluating temporary signage in Durango and notifying business owners of signs that are not in compliance. If business owners have any questions about their current signage, they can email compliance officer Chris Simpson at Chris.Simpson@durangogov.org

Project Approvals

- Durango Planning Commission recommended approval of a request from Jack Sheehan to subdivide Crader Lot 1R-R into multiple lots to set the stage for residential, commercial, and other types of development. Earlier this year, the City Council approved changes to the Southfork Master Plan and Comp Plan Future Land Use Map for the project. The subdivision will create lots for apartments (480), assisted living, a car dealership, another commercial lot, and will provide locations for the roads, utilities, and other infrastructure on Wilson Gulch Dr.
- The Durango & La Plata County Joint Planning Commission approved the preliminary plan and plat for proposed development of 14 townhome dwellings on 0.749 acres within Phase 1 of the Elevation Park development.
- The LPC Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of 3 compressors and associated pipelines at CR 318 in Ignacio. Arkoma plans to use the compressors to gather natural gas at the Semler and Jaques oil and gas facilities and the pipelines will connect the two facilities.

Meetings attended July 7 - August 4

7/6 - 3 pm LAC Meeting	7/21 - 6 pm Joint Planning Commission Meeting
7/7 - 8:30 am BID Coffee & Conversation	7/25 - 5 pm Durango Planning Commission
7/11 - 4:30 pm Durango URA Meeting	7/26 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
CANCELED	7/27 - 8:30 am BOCC Study Session
7/12 - 10 am BOCC Meeting	7/28 - 2 pm Joint Durango Council & BOCC Study Session
7/13 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time	7/28 LPC Planning Commission
7/14 - 12 pm BID Board of Directors Meeting	8/2 - 10 am BOCC Meeting
7/14 - 6 pm LPC Planning Commission	8/2 - 2:15 pm Durango City Council Study Session
7/19 - 2:15 pm Durango City Council Study Session	8/2 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting
7/19 - 5:30 pm Durango City Council Meeting	8/3 - 8:30 am BOCC Discussion Time