



Town of Empire  
30 East Park Avenue  
PO Box 100  
Empire, CO 80438



**LOCAL POSTAL  
CUSTOMER**

**PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail**

All Town Facilities are closed to the public during the COVID-19 local disaster emergency.

All public business shall be conducted by appointment only.

Empire Town Hall: Clerk@EmpireColorado.us 303-569-2978  
Empire Mayor: Mayor@EmpireColorado.us 303-994-7682  
Empire Police Chief: Chief@EmpireColorado.us 303-257-1422  
Empire Police Department: 303-569-2281

Website: [www.TownOfEmpire.Colorado.Gov](http://www.TownOfEmpire.Colorado.Gov)

# EMPIRE SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Stay connected with your Empire community on Facebook:

\* Town of Empire \* Empire Police Department \*

Empire Board of Trustees hold their regularly scheduled Board of Trustee meetings on the **Third Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall**  
Empire Planning Commission hold their regularly scheduled Planning Commission Meetings on the **Last Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm at Town Hall**

## DO YOU HAVE TOO MUCH STUFF?

Empire residents: Town-Wide Garage Sale on Friday & Saturday of Labor Day Weekend. Please provide your own signage at your residence. If you are participating, please contact Linda Robertson at 303-502-4691 so we know which streets to put signs on, and also for any questions.

**Town Photo Contest open until September 30, for photos to be used on the Town website and Facebook site.** There will be a prize of a \$25.00 Visa gift card each for two photos. We are requesting panoramic photos of the Town and/or surrounding area to be used on the website homepage, and artistic photos of the streets, buildings, businesses, and local wildlife to be used throughout the website and also on the Town's Facebook page. All artists will receive credit for their photos if they are used. With your help, we want to showcase the beauty and charm of Empire! Please email submissions to [Clerk@EmpireColorado.us](mailto:Clerk@EmpireColorado.us).

## EMPIRE Town-wide GARAGE SALE

This Friday and Saturday!!!  
Sept 4 & Sept 5  
9am – 2pm



## THE EMPIRE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WILL BE HOLDING A REMOTE MEETING:

\*Board of Trustees Regular Meeting ~ Tuesday, September 15, 2020 6:30 PM ~ Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89738494359?pwd=VVFld1UyUmZBbGhMTHFJdzRySkZQU09>  
Meeting ID: 897 3849 4359  
Passcode: 354258

## THE EMPIRE PLANNING COMMISSION WILL BE HOLDING AN IN-PERSON MEETING WITH REMOTE ACCESS:

\*Planning Commission Regular Meeting ~ Wednesday, September 30, 2020 6:30 PM ~ Join Zoom Meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961170750?pwd=V3EvakV2WTJrd0trNnkyZ3FCVDRzUT09>  
Meeting ID: 829 6117 0750  
Passcode: 100582

To join a meeting go to zoom.us and click on join a meeting. Enter the meeting ID, enter your name, click join, and put in the password. Hit OK. If you want to speak during the public comment portion, please indicate that next to your name. A computer will be set up at Town Hall for those who can't access the meeting from their location. If you have any issues, please notify Town Hall at 303-569-2978.

IF YOU ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE MEETING LINK: Exit out of Zoom. Sign in again using the instructions above.

# INFORMATION FOR EMPIRE WATER CUSTOMERS FROM MAYOR WENDY KOCH:

## Drinking Water Quality

- ◆ Quality has always been good from Mad Creek.
- ◆ In the winter, when Mad Creek partially freezes, we have low flow. That is when we ask the town to conserve water, so that we do not have to use the old well.

## Well

- ◆ Quality is poor from the old well, that is where most of the colored sediment comes from. It is heavy in mineral deposits and can stain.
- ◆ We have been working with the state on a grant proposal to create a new well and water line to access our stored water in Guanella Reservoir so that we don't have to use the old well for drinking water in emergencies.

## Pipes

- ◆ When we used the old well in the winter, it would leave some sediment in the pipes.
- ◆ When we flush the water lines and fire hydrants, we do that to flush out any sediment left in the pipes. We are scheduling this process once a year in the spring to ensure that we continually clear out sediment from our pipes and keep them flowing clean.

## Violations

- ◆ We are required to publish violations from CDPHE, and you have no doubt seen several violations included with your water bills. These violations are not about water quality. They are primarily addressing a problem with the way our system is set up. Chlorine is added to the water as a protection, and part of the design of our water system is a specific length of pipe for the water to travel through after the chlorine is injected so it has adequate contact time to ensure adequate purification for the first water recipient. Our mountain terrain has created some issues for us when we have made repairs to the pipes, and one of the repairs required us to move the pipes because we could not dig them up from their current location. However, moving the pipes during the repair shortened the amount of time between the chlorine injection and the first water recipient. Everyone further down the line still had ample contact time for purification. The first water recipient is our volunteer fire house, which has been empty for the last several months, so NO RESIDENTS were ever in any danger from drinking the water.
- ◆ To fix the problem, our only option was to move the location of the chlorine injection point. We have been diligently working on this change for over a year. Coordination of all operations was completed on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020; hence we have received one more violation for the month of August that is included with your September water bill. At this time, our system is in compliance with CDPHE guidelines and we should not receive any additional violations for the design of our system.

## Meters

- ◆ We were in the process of activating all the water meters that were offline and transitioning to a usage-based water rate. Unfortunately, the COVID pandemic put a halt to that since we needed to go into residences to activate some of the meters. We are also waiting on an equipment repair. We hope to finish the process soon so that we can read all of the water meters.

## Lead

- ◆ We do not have levels of lead in the town water, or in the town water pipes. If your homes' water has been tested and shows levels of lead, it is from residential pipes.

## Sharing Information

- ◆ We are striving to be transparent and provide you with up to date information about your water and wastewater treatment plants, as well as all other town business. You can find information about upcoming town meetings, minutes from previous meetings, newsletters, and all other town documents on our website: [www.TownOfEmpire.Colorado.Gov](http://www.TownOfEmpire.Colorado.Gov).
- ◆ We encourage all residents to be involved in all aspects of the Town by participating in Town meetings. During the COVID pandemic, we have held remote meetings that everyone can participate in. When we are able to return to in-person meetings, we will still make the meetings available online so everyone can continue to participate.