



Town of Empire
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Empire, CO 80438



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Empire Town Hall Office: Clerk@EmpireColorado.us 303-569-2978
(Office line for Mayor, Town Administrator, & Town Clerk)
Empire Mayor: Mayor@EmpireColorado.us 303-994-7682
Empire Police Chief: Chief@EmpireColorado.us 303-995-2135
Empire Police Department Office: 303-569-2281
Non-Emergency Dispatch: 303-679-2393
Website: EmpireColorado.us

EMPIRE ELECTION 2024 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**

Election Day is Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024

“Decisions are made by those who show up!” *(Quote from the TV Series the West Wing)* We encourage everyone to vote in our local election!

Here are your candidates:

MAYOR: Wendy Koch

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Randy Horning, Jacob Belcher, Denise Tennant, Lon Fulton

Everyone is invited to **Meet & Greet your Candidates** on Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm, to meet all the candidates for Mayor and Board of Trustees. This gives you an opportunity to get to know all of them better and hear why they want to serve as your Mayor and Board of Trustees. You will also have a chance to learn more about the ballot question on term limits. Participate in your Town Government by attending and submitting questions in advance via email to: Info@EmpireColorado.us by 5 pm on Monday, March 11th. There will be a chance to submit questions in person that night, with previously submitted questions having priority. Light refreshments and beverages will be served, and a Zoom link for listening in will be available.

Mail Ballot Elections make voting easy. You will receive your ballot in the mail, fill out your ballot at home (you can even do this in your pajamas), put it in the postage paid return envelope, and take it to the Post Office (Ballots must be received at the Post Office by April 2nd), or drop it off at Town Hall (Ballots must be received at Town Hall by 7:00 pm on April 2nd). Please verify your voter registration with the County to ensure you receive a Ballot.

Ballots will be mailed the week of March 11th. If you will be out of town and cannot pick up your ballot from your PO Box, please contact Town Hall for an absentee ballot form so we can send your ballot to you. (303-569-2978, clerk@empirecolorado.us)

Please pick up a handout or go to the website (empirecolorado.us) to get information on the ballot question asking if you, the voters, want to eliminate term limits. It's important to understand what your "yes" or "no" vote means.

THANK YOU TO OUR MAYOR & BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR YOUR SERVICE THESE PAST TWO YEARS! THESE ELECTED OFFICIALS REPRESENT A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AND WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEERING FOR OUR TOWN.

WENDY KOCH: Mayor Wendy Koch has lived in the Town of Empire for 52 years, serving many terms as a Board of Trustee and Mayor throughout the years. Mayor Koch retired in 2003 from CDOT where she worked for 30 years in the Eisenhower tunnel, first as tunnel maintenance and then working her way up to Crew Supervisor. After she had back surgery, she transferred to the warehouse doing purchasing and then finished her career as a dispatcher for emergencies, road closures and snow storms etc.

Wendy's other skills include learning to be a firefighter, owning a painting and texturing business and a cleaning service, as well as banking experience. Her passions outside of working and volunteering include her family and traveling. She enjoyed skiing until the back surgery, and also enjoys her pets including raising several cockatoos. Wendy reports her biggest challenge in life has been playing a part in helping her brother become sober for the last five years of his life. Finally, Mayor Koch share's this life advice: Never make decisions when you are tired and never give up!

LINDA ROBERTSON: Linda Robertson has lived in the Empire for 5 years and has served 2.5 terms on the Board of Trustees, most as Mayor Pro-tem. Linda has no other political experience, aside from a stint on an HOA board in Louisiana. Linda's career experience includes process engineering and technical writing in the software and oil & gas industries around the World. She currently is a realtor.

Linda loves anything OUTSIDE, including skiing and hiking and more, as well as oil painting. Linda's biggest challenge was moving every 4 years or so with her family all over the world and then learning how to adapt to the very different cultures. Finally, Linda chose Roald Dahl's quote, "If you have good thoughts, they will shine out of your face like sunbeams, and you will always look lovely!"

DENISE TENNANT: Denise Tennant has lived in Empire for the past 27 years and has served 4 terms, both elected and appointed, on the Board of Trustees, as well as being the town's ex-officio for the Planning Commission for the past 4 years. Denise is currently a residential planner with Clear Creek County, but has vast professional experience including working in the restaurant industry; being a Nanny for 13 years; serving as the Lift Ops Foreman for 11 years at Loveland Ski Area; owning a landscaping business for 15 years, and being the Town of Georgetown's landscaper.

Outside of work life, Denise includes skiing, gardening and reading as passions while also declaring herself a boring person. She considers learning to hold her own in male dominated professions as the biggest challenge she's overcome to date. Finally, Denise's inspirational quote hails from President Theodore Roosevelt: "Do what you can with what you have, where you are."

JACOB BELCHER: Jacob (Jake) Belcher has lived in the Town of Empire for 3 years. Jacob filled an open seat this past year on the Board of Trustees and has a career in Education Technology. Jake is an avid outdoorsman who says he fell in love with Empire years ago and is so happy that he gets to live here now. Jake's professional outdoor experience includes raft guiding, backpacking, snowmobiling, ski instructing and grooming snow in Connecticut, and he now enjoys fishing, hunting, skiing, hiking, camping, rafting and kayaking in Colorado.

Jake also has been an admissions recruiter for higher education and has intellectual skills our Town is lucky to benefit from in his role on the Board. Jake reports that moving to Colorado with no job or prospects has been his greatest challenge to date. In conclusion, a quote Jake values as a guiding principle is, "Once the arrow is gone, it's gone" meaning the idea that once the arrow is released from the bow, the only option is to focus on the next shot and not dwell on the past.

RANDY HORNING: Randy Horning has lived in Empire for 2 1/2 years and was appointed to fill an open Board seat in 2023. Randy's previous political experience includes serving as a Board representative for the Downtown Executive Board for the Kansas City, Missouri, Fire Department. Randy's professional industry experience includes working in Telecommunications, Farming, Ranching, Fire Fighting, Sales, and Lawn & Landscape.

Randy loves all things outdoors, including fishing, hiking and "all the cliches!" The biggest challenge Randy reports overcoming so far in life is transitioning from a career as a FireFighter to whatever the next chapter may bring. In conclusion, Randy embraces "Live your life" as a motivational quote because he encourages people to get out and experience their life to the fullest.

LORRAY SINGMASTER: Lorry Singmaster began serving on the Planning Commission in 2020 and has served one term on the Board of Trustees. Lorry is an elementary teacher in Clear Creek County and has been a valuable contributor to the Town of Empire.

LON FULTON: Lon Fulton has been an Empire resident for the past 7 years. Lon was invited to join Empire's Planning Commission this past year and also recently agreed to fill out the last 6 months of an open Board seat, serving as the town's ex-officio for both governing bodies. Lon is self-employed now, and had a previous career in Landscape Design and building in Central Illinois.

Lon played rugby in college and still loves "the greatest team sport ever conceived!" He was stoked to begin mountain biking when his family relocated to Colorado and enjoys snow sports like snowboarding, either at a resort or in the backcountry. Lon considers learning to white water kayak as the greatest challenge of his life right now, aside from raising his children. Lon chose 2 resonating axioms, as he said, the first credited to President Abraham Lincoln: "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt." Lon's great grandfather, John Watson, provided great concluding advice for us all with "Jail's an awful place, boys."