



TOWN OF ERIE

645 Holbrook Street
Erie, CO 80516

Town Council

Board Meeting Date: 12/10/2019

File #: 19-580, Version: 1

SUBJECT: Presentation

A Presentation on the planned Town of Erie 2020 July 4th Celebration - Firecracker Festival

DEPARTMENT: Administration

PRESENTER: Farrell Buller, Deputy Town Administrator

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND OF SUBJECT MATTER:

Town staff have been evaluating the past two years' July 3rd fireworks and related activities. The purpose for this evaluation was to address concerns surrounding the safety and rising expense of this event.

Some of the safety concerns are:

- Fireworks being set off at the golf course, which is close to homes
- Traffic and parking issues in neighborhoods and on streets that feed into the golf course
- July 3rd date encourages non-residents of Erie to attend the event resulting in large, unmanageable crowds

The original host of the event was Colorado National Golf Club (CNGC) with a small \$5,000 contribution from the Town. In 2017 CNGC requested additional support and that year the Town increased its contribution to \$25,000 to cover the cost of the fireworks display. In 2018 the Town again increased its contribution to \$30,000, and then in 2019 the Town became responsible for the entire event. The 2019 direct expenses were \$52,792, plus indirect staff costs of \$2,897, for a total cost to the Town of \$55,689.

To address the safety concerns and rising costs staff from the Parks and Recreation Department, Police Department, Public Works Department and Town Administration propose recreating this event in 2020 to become the Firecracker Festival.

The highlights of the Firecracker Festival are as follows:

- Held on the Saturday before July 4th (for 2020 this will be June 27th)
- Will take place in conjunction with the Colorado Firecracker 4K/4 mile race
- Location will be at Erie Community Park
- Event will include a day of family-friendly activities and end with an amazing drone light show

This re-creation of the Town's annual July 4th event will return to a community based and Erie focused celebration of community spirit.