

**State of Colorado
Town of Paonia
Ordinance
2020-01**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF PAONIA AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE 1, OF THE TOWN OF PAONIA MUNICIPAL CODE BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 13-1-131, IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE SALE OF WATER TAPS AND PLACING LIMITS ON FUTURE WATER SALES.

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 31-11-101 et. seq., Colorado law recognizes the initiative and referendum powers granted to municipal electors; and

WHEREAS, on or about August 25, 2019, Mr. Bill Brunner, a citizen of the Town of Paonia, submitted an Affidavit of Circulator to the Paonia Municipal Clerk to receive approval of the Town of Paonia to the form of a proposed citizen’s initiative petition; and

WHEREAS, on September 4, 2019, Mr. Bill Brunner and Ms. Kathy Martinez (hereinafter the “Petitioners”), as citizens of the Town of Paonia, filed a citizen’s initiative petition seeking the adoption of an ordinance of the Town of Paonia, amending Chapter 13, Article 1, of the Paonia Municipal Code by the addition of a new Section 13-1-131, imposing a moratorium on the sale of future water sales (hereinafter the “Citizen’s Initiative Petition”).

WHEREAS, on October 3, 2019, the Town Clerk for the Town of Paonia deemed the Citizen’s Initiative Petition complete and provided written notice to the Petitioners of the same; and

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2019, the Board of Trustees undertook a review and consideration of the Citizen’s Initiative Petition and, thereafter, the Board approved submitting the Citizen’s Initiative Petition to the registered electors of the Town of Paonia; and

WHEREAS, on January 7, 2020 the Town of Paonia held a special election regarding the Citizen’s Initiative Petition; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Town of Paonia voted in favor of the Citizen’s Initiative Petition 291 to 206; and

WHEREAS, the results of the election were certified by the Town on January 16, 2020;

WHEREAS, the time in which a party may contest the results of the election has passed; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.R.S. § 31-16-105 all Ordinances shall be published after their adoption;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF PAONIA, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment of Town Code.

Chapter 13, Article 1, of the Town Code is amended by the addition of the following:

Sec. 13-1-131 Moratorium.

(a) Definitions. As used in this Section, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following terms shall have the following meanings.

Moratorium means suspension of the sale of domestic water taps that the Town of Paonia is not legally obligated to serve on the effective date of this ordinance.

Tap means a physical service connection to the municipal domestic water supply distribution system or right to water supplied by the Town of Paonia. For the purposes of this Section, tap shall also include the extension of water delivery pipes.

(b) Moratorium on the Sale of Water Taps.

A moratorium is hereby imposed on the sale of water taps by the Town of Paonia.

(c) Requirements for termination of the moratorium and limits on future sales.

(1) This moratorium shall be in effect until the following conditions are met:

(i) A report, bearing the seal of a licensed engineer experienced in domestic water supply systems, finds that the Town of Paonia has in operation sufficient infrastructure and associated water rights to serve all existing obligations for water into the foreseeable future, and;

(ii) A report, bearing the seal of a licensed engineer experienced in domestic water supply systems, quantifies additional obligations, enumerated in the form of water taps, that the Town of Paonia can reasonably supply without the likelihood of adversely affecting the service to existing water tap holders.

(d) The Town of Paonia shall not incur obligations for more water taps than the number quantified in the report required by subsection (c)(I)(ii) above, unless another report meeting the conditions of subsection (c)(1)(ii) establishes a new limit.

(e) This moratorium shall not apply to water delivered at a stand pipe or public tap operated by the Town of Paonia.

Section 3. Severability.

If any provision of this ordinance or the application of it to any person or circumstance is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions or applications. The provisions of this ordinance are expressly declared to be severable.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective upon publication, January 29, 2020.

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