



CHAFFEE COUNTY
PATRIOTS^{LLC}

PATRIOTS TOWNHALL MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 9th, 2026

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 6:30 p.m.

American Legion Hall, 338 N Railroad Street, Buena Vista, Colorado 81211

Topic: Freedom to Peaceably Assemble

Brief summary: Meeting opened with logistics, sign-in and mention of the upcoming flag-waving and Town Hall events. The Community is encouraged to every second Thirsdays of the month.

- Apr 11: Flag Waving
- May 7: Freedom to Peacefully Assemble
- May 14: Freedom to Petition our government
- May 16: Flag waving
- Jun 13: Flag waving
- Jun 11: Our Constitution's Second Amendment

Brian O'Connell gave a talk on Frederic Bastiat, French author who wrote La Loi (The Law) in 1850 in France. Brian has studied Bastiat and gave a presentation with regard to law and morals, assembly rights, and civic responsibilities based on Bastiat's book. Although we live in a Constitutional Republic with law, while the author lived under a Monarchy, our governments' immoral behavior and soft tyranny parallels of today are fascinating.

There also was a short question-and-answer session following the presentation.

Presentation Summary

Brian O'Connell presented a civic/political lecture centered around 19th-century thinker/writer Frédéric Bastiat and his book *The Law*. Bastiat argued for individual natural rights (life, liberty, & property) as preexisting and superior to man's laws; made a clear distinction between a constitutional republic, a democracy a monarchy. Bastiat emphasized that government's lawful role is protecting individual rights via collective force, not violating them.

Brian framed current local political pushback as similar to historical patterns and urged defending constitutional protections and building a local, face-to-face community.

Brian prefaced his talk by saying how profound and amazing the book is. From the information gleaned, "we can ask questions and strategize, because it's meetings like this that we need in our community to



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grow and communicate. Too many people are isolated by the Internet or on their apps on their phones, and I think it's necessary. So if you have friends who are looking for something to do every second Thursday of the month, bring them along. There's no charge, and we'd love to just build local community face to face.”

Presentation

Salient points of the main presentation.

- Frederick Bastiat was born in 1801 and died in 1850.
- He was a French Catholic libertarian, living in a Catholic monarchy; a monarchy that was behaving immorally and unjustly.
- Although French, Bastiat traveled extensively including the newly- founded United States of America.
- Bastiat’s book was an editorial comment on the Monarchy and how it was an abusive administration of powers lacking good morals.
- While touring the Us in the 1800’s, Bastiat observed a unique people who were thriving under the design of the newly founded Republic.
- Bastiat stated emphatically that the United States is a constitutional republic, not a democracy or monarchy, or oligarchy.
- There are very subtle legal and important differences that keeps us from the tyrannical rule of the majority under democracy.
- A constitutional Republic has checks and balances to protect the minority. These checks and balances prohibit a Monarchy (king) hence the absurdity of the ‘no Kings protests’.

Presentation Conclusion

“I’ll conclude with some good news by turning to Bastiat’s closing remarks on this question: What do we do about it? We face all these problems—so what’s the remedy? Bastiat addresses that. I recognize there may be objections and counterarguments, but this isn’t the place to fully exhaust that controversy.

I merely wish to observe here that this controversy over universal suffrage—as well as most other political questions that agitate, excite, and overthrow nations—would lose nearly all its importance if the law were what it ought to be. In fact, if the law were restricted to protecting all persons, all liberties, and all property—if the law were



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nothing more than the organized combination of individuals' rights to self-defense; if the law were an obstacle, a check, and a punisher of oppression and plunder—it is likely that citizens would argue far less about the extent of the franchise.

How do we control it? By getting involved—it really is that simple. Get off the couch and participate. I'm pushing 60; if you'd told me I'd be getting into politics this late in life, I would've said you were crazy. But the truth is: if not me, who? It feels like Ecclesiastes—there's nothing new under the sun. This was written 176 years ago, and we're still dealing with the same things; we just call them by different names.

So, thanks for your time and attention.”

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Month\Theme Organizer	Details
Jan 14 / Free Speech D Heap	BV Police Chef Dean Morgan American Legion Hall
Feb 11 Freedom of the Press D Heap	Mountain Mail, Hear of Rockies Radio, HCA on panel. Chaffee County Times, Ark Valley Voice sat in far back corner
Mar 11 Freedom of Religion D Heap	OF not FROM, Panel: Jake Farber, Tom LeBaron, Pastor Zach Bearss
Apr 9 Freedom to Assembly B O'Connell	Peacefully Assemble
May 7 Freedom to Petition Government A Seeling	
Jun-11 2nd Amendment 1	To Protect First Amendment
Jul 9 Illegal Immigration	
Aug13 Threat to Constitutional Republic	Greatest Threat is Controlled Press
Sep 10 Election Integrity	
Sep 12 Flag Retirement D Heap	Confers or McMurry Ranch
Oct 8 Candidate Forum D Heap	
Nov 12 A Nation to be Thankful For	
Nov 28 Xmas Tree Harvesting M Kostelic	Christmas Tree Harvesting Louis Kostelic Homestead Possible fire mitigation will impact-stay tuned
Dec 10	Christmas Potluck?????