



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2019**

Basalt is an inclusive, sustainable, mountain community that boasts both historic charm and progressive vision. It is an engaging place to live, work and play while offering an abundance of creative, professional, educational and recreational outlets.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Basalt Town Council was called to order at 6:02 pm by Mayor Jacque Whitsitt. Council members present were Auden Schendler, Jennifer Riffle, Bill Infante, Gary Tennenbaum, Katie Schwoerer and Ryan Slack.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2A. Minutes: June 11, 2019

M/S Councilors Schwoerer and Schendler to approve the Minutes of the June 11 meeting with a correction from Jennifer Riffle to reflect that Watkins Fulk-Gray had translated the Master Plan survey to Spanish (not the entire Master Plan as was indicated in the minutes under Jennifer Riffle's Councilor Report.) The motion carried 7-0.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

3A. Positive Comments and Gratitudes about Basalt

3B. At this time members of the public are invited to address the Town Council on any issue, except for items scheduled for a Public Hearing at this meeting.

Lynne Mace of Toklat Gallery spoke to parking in historic downtown, and parking related to the Aspen Skiing Company project at Willits. Lynne noted that there were many parking spaces in both downtown and at Willits, and it was a lack of parking enforcement and management that was the problem; not lack of parking spaces.

Stacey Craft, Basalt Resident and Shooting Range Committee member, read comments into the record (a copy of which is attached to the record). Her comments related to a Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) press release regarding the Shooting Range Working Group and spoke to a number of misrepresentations Stacey felt had been made in that press release. Stacey encouraged Council to request immediate databased answers from experts including lead testing, and not wait for that until after mud season

Michael Kerr, Basalt Resident and Shooting Range Committee Member, discussed that CPW operates a shooting range in Byers Canyon, Grand County and noted there had been 4 fires at that facility in last 2 years. Michael felt it was just a matter of time for another fire at the Lake Christine Shooting if the CPW continues as they are.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Jennifer Riffle praised the Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers seeding project noting there were ample amounts of seed spread. The weather was good and it will be education to see what is coming back and what is not. Jennifer expressed gratitude for all those who turned out and for the strong interest in continuing the work up there by community members, staff, CPW members, the prison workers, etc.

Katie Schwoerer reminded everyone about the emergency fire ordinance passed last year that disallowed fireworks and open burning in the Town of Basalt, especially as we head into the Fourth of July holiday.

Bill Infante said between tonight's discussion and the next discussion of TABOR, he would like to begin talking about some of the fund balances the Town has in some of the restricted funds and general funds so we can make an informed decision about the TABOR issues discussed today. Bill said he was also looking forward to the Audit Report as it would probably shed some light on some issues. Bill saw TACAW was on the calendar for July 9 and wondered if we could take the step to issue or write some letter of support for TACAW as they begin to solicit funds toward their groundbreaking this fall. Ryan Mahoney noted that the Town has a RETA that supports TACAW as partners in that sense, and perhaps a discussion of further support of TACAW might be best after the RETA discussion scheduled for the July 9 meeting. It was determined that Ryan could draft a letter supporting TACAW and Council could vote it up or down.

Jennifer Riffle added that perhaps it has been peak water, but looking at our partnerships, Jennifer noted Basalt is a partner, but Pitkin County is the lead on the Whitewater Park in Basalt. Jennifer felt if Council were going to draft letters, Council draft a letter regarding safety issues at the Whitewater Park and, moving forward, the funding of grants along with improvements to the wave. In addition, Jennifer thought there could be recommendations to insure the warning sign is always unobstructed, and I to clear the eddy at Fisherman's Park so that it is safe to scout the rapid. Ryan noted that the Pitkin Commissioners are to come to Basalt within a month to discuss the Whitewater Park.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT:

5A. CPW Letter Regarding Proposed Shooting Range Rules

Ryan Mahoney noted that CTA and Connect One hosted a picnic last Sunday trying to get more of the Hispanic community out to give input on the Master Plan. The picnic was on the pedestrian bridge at 7-11 and was successful with probably 50 people participating. Also, we are encouraging people to get on the survey page www.letstalk.basalt.net to complete the Master Plan survey.

The Cottonwood Drive sidewalk project is underway. The road is closed to through traffic but open to local traffic.

Work has begun on the top of the hill on Pinon Drive doing flood a debris flow mitigation. The Basbergs and MacDonald properties are the subjects of that mitigation. Our in-kind project will begin above that project shortly. NRCS has granted approval, the State has issued the stormwater permit and the local ESA permit will be reviewed and issued after CPW input.

At the last meeting, Council asked a letter be directed to CPW with comments from the Citizen Committee on the shooting range, A draft was included in this packet. The four main points to be made include the reconsideration of range hours – 5 days a week with consideration for one weekend day for the range to be closed; that the range be closed during stage 2 fire restrictions; that planned signage be expedited; and that CPW aggressively pursue their long range plan for a different site or an enclosed range. Council feedback was sought. Mayor Whitsitt asked for a quarterly check in with CPW to track progress. Jennifer noted discrepancies between the letter and its attached Resolution #20, Series of 2018 that should be clarified in the letter. Bill Infante asked that there be additional cc's to the letter to include the Chair of the CPW, the head of CPW, Dan Gibbs of DNR, Dylan Roberts, Kerry Donovan to get it on their radar. Auden thought it was a good letter, but thought the lead was buried; a most important point was that it is worth a long term concerted effort to relocate the range or create an indoor range. Gary Tennenbaum was disappointed that the shooting range survey didn't go to the people who actually responded the first time. He didn't want decisions being made when people who responded to the first survey were not contacted about the second survey. Ryan said he contacted CPW about the survey but had not received a call back from them, and hadn't gotten any data around the survey as to how many respondents, etc. Katie asked to see the letter if edits were to be made and supported Jacque's request for quarterly check ins with CPW.

Ryan noted the amendments to be made to the letter were to add cc's, quarterly check ins, make the language on permanent solution more robust, inquire about the survey and clarify the days and hours of the range.

6. COUNCIL ACTIONS:

6A. First Reading of Ordinance No. 13, Series of 2019: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Amending Roaring Fork Conservancy Lease (Ryan Mahoney)

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney along with Pat McMahon, President of the Roaring Fork Conservancy, discussed the request for a conversion of their construction loan to permanent financing. The reasons for the request and the documentation necessary to complete this request were also discussed.

M/S COUNCILORS INFANTE AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE NO 13, SERIES OF 2019 ON FIRST READING, AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING FOR JULY 9, 2019. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

6B. TABOR Issue Presentation/Discussion (Ryan Mahoney/Christy Hamrick)

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney prepared a Property Tax Update for this evening's discussion. Also present in person were Dee Wisor of Butler Snow, Bill Ray of WR Communications, and Bruce Kimmel of Ehler's via phone.

Council asked questions and made comments. They determined they needed to spend more time on this item and each council members should request from Ryan, any additional information they needed in order to make a decision.

Council member Auden Schendler recused himself from item 6C and left the meeting room.

6C. Public Hearing and First Reading on Ordinance No. 10, Series of 2019: Public Hearing – Aspen Skiing Company Application: For the purpose of considering an application submitted by the Aspen Skiing Company on behalf of the property owner, Willits Town Center, LLC for amendments to the Willits Town Center PUD to permit the Aspen Skiing Company's Willits Workforce Housing Project on Block 9 of the Willits Town Center PUD, Basalt, Colorado (Aspen Skiing Company Application) (James Lindt)

James Lindt offered opening comments updating Council on the changes made to the application by the Skico since the last meeting. David Corbin, Senior Vice President for Planning and Development, Phillip Jeffries of the Aspen Skiing Company, Jim Charlier of Charlier and Associates, Jim Lange VP of Human Resources for Aspen Skiing Company, and Mike Kaplan, President of the Aspen Skiing Company, spoke in turn addressing issues raised related to their Willits housing proposal.

Mayor Whitsitt opened the public hearing at approximately 8:38 pm.

Citizens commenting at this meeting were:

Chad Russell, Willits resident;
Michael Kinsley, Old Snowmass;
Amy Beasley, Willits resident;
Diana Elliott, resident across from Willits;
Bruce Knutson, Willits resident;
Michelle Oger, Director of Blue Lake Preschool;
Victoria Goulding, Teacher at Blue Lake Preschool and mom to a 3 year old;
Carol Hawk, Willits resident;
Brenda Wilder, business owner, former Ski co employee, Basalt resident;
Adele Melnick, Director of Growing Years Preschool and Basalt homeowner;
Scott Gilbert, Habitat for Humanity;
John (?) – Aspen Skiing Co employee, Assistant Restaurant Manager at Element 47, and resident manager at Town Commons in Snowmass;
Bill Maron, Chairman of Basalt Planning Zoning Commission;
Frank Woods, area resident for 21 years;
Clark Anderson, resident of Glenwood Springs and employee of Community Builders organization;
Joanie Goodwin, director of Early Childhood Network;
Bill Johnson, owner of Capital Creek Brewery at Willits;
Tracy Bennett, Basalt resident of 37 years;
Jon Fox Rubin, Basalt resident;
Cathy Click, Basalt resident and Basalt Affordable Community Housing member;
Shirley Ritter, Early Childhood Coalition;
Guy Pisano (?), Willits resident;
David Johnson, Director of Planning for RFTA.

There were no further comments and the public hearing was closed at 9:37 pm.

Council discussion followed.

M/S COUNCILORS TENNENBAUM AND INFANTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 10, SERIES OF 2019 ON FIRST READING AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING FOR JULY 9 WITH PARKING OPTION 1, BUT WITH STAFF AND APPLICANT TO STUDY POTENTIAL \$10,000 TO \$20,000 PER YEAR PARKING FEE AND THAT STAFF BEGIN LOOKING AT PARKING OPTIONS TO BETTER MANAGE PARKING. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-2 WITH MAYOR WHITSITT AND COUNCILOR SLACK OPPOSED.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND SCHWOERER THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL MATTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(F) MORE SPECIFICALLY, TOWN MANAGER RYAN MAHONEY ANNUAL REVIEW. THE MOTION CARRIED 4-0. (Council members Infante and Riffle were out of the room at the time of the motion).

7. ADJOURN EXECUTIVE SESSION

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND RIFFLE TO ADJOURN THE EXECUTIVE SESSION AND RECONVENE THE COUNCIL MEETING AT 10:22 PM. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND TENNEBAUM THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL EXTEND TOWN MANAGER REY MAHONEY’S CONTRACT TO JULY 24, 2019. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0. (Councilor Schendler did not return to the meeting after the Executive Session.0

8. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8A. Accounts Payable**
- 8B. Advanced Agendas**
- 8C. Correspondence to the Town**
- 8D. VALE Board Meeting Minutes – May 30, 2019**

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

M/S COUNCILORS TENNENBAUM AND SLACK TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:23 PM. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

The minutes of this June 25, 2019 meeting were read and approved this 9th day of July, 2019.

BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:

ATTEST:

By: 
Jacquie Whitsitt, Mayor




Pamela Schilling, Town Clerk

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety at:
<https://townofbasalt.ompnetwork.org/sessions/109561?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=15672&shareMethod=link>