



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES – JULY 10, 2018**

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.

6:00 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM on Tuesday, July 10, 2018 by Mayor Jacque Whitsitt. Council members present were Gary Tennenbaum, Bill Infante, Katie Schwoerer, Auden Schendler, Ryan Slack. Council member Jennifer Riffle was absent.

6:02 2. Updates on Fire and Emergency Preparedness (Ryan Mahoney)

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney brought in Police Chief Greg Knott and Pitkin County Emergency Manager Valerie MacDonald to update Council on what had been done by the Town leading up to the Lake Christine Fire in order to be prepared for such an incident, and to give an update on the status of the fire.

It was noted that citizens, also, need to do their part to prepare for these emergencies; sign up for notifications through their county emergency sites, prepare evacuation kits, plan home evacuations and practice them, etc.

Kris Mattera of the Basalt Chamber was recognized for her creation of a new information website during the fire that consolidated information from other sites for Basalt residents.

Leroy Duroux, BEMC Chairman, and Dick Merritt Citizen Member and Security at Roaring Fork Club, spoke about the BEMC (Basalt Emergency Management Committee), its formation and membership, mission, the emergency management plan and the Incident Command System, and how successful the plan worked during this fire emergency.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

3A. RFTA's Build Grant Letter of Approval (Jacque Whitsitt)

3B. Continue Public Hearing to July 24, 2018 : Appeals of Slope Review Approvals for 224 Curtis Lane for the Construction of an Addition of Approximately 2,300 sf to the existing Single-Family Residence (James Lindt)

M/S COUNCILORS SCHENDLER AND SCHWOERER THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESETNED. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- Please limit comments to three (3) minutes, and address your comments directly to the Mayor.
- Identify yourself by name and address when making comments.
- Comments should be courteous, civil and constructive.
- Town Council will make no decision nor take action, except to direct the Town Manager.

4A. Positive Comments and Gratitudes about Basalt

4B. 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.

Janet Mohrman spoke to the Council about the increased sales taxes on cigarettes. She noted that for some people, that tax was the difference between being able to afford cigarettes or not; and some of those people relied on cigarettes for the first few days as they work to avoid their drug of choice. Mayor Whitsitt invited Ms. Mohrman to leave her contact information and she would follow up with her.

Lynne Mace, Town of Basalt, noted she had been involved with the Pitkin County Cares Awards for many years and thought this might be a good time to begin thinking about people who might fit into one of these 10 categories. Lynne noted the applications were now available and she would continue to follow up with Council. The service needed to be provided in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Stacey Craft asked why the Eagle and Pitkin counties Stage 2 Fire Restrictions don't align with the USDA rules for the discharge of firearms. Stacey said the warning came 6 years ago with a fire at the gun range. The range was already highly unsafe surrounded by grasses and trees, located next to residences and the downtown core. Basalt's highest priority should be to move the gun range as soon as possible. Chief Knott explained it is the County Sheriff's and Fire Chiefs that determine what is included in the fire restrictions.

Toni Kronberg noted she had written a letter to the Editor about what a great job Basalt had done preparing for an emergency of this magnitude; she has previously worked on Mountain Rescue, served as a Paramedic EMT, crash fire and rescue at the airport. Toni wanted to back up what Valerie said about the public preparing for these wildfire events and has reported the same to the Aspen Council as well. Toni has asked for a Call to Action for making wildfire mitigation a priority.

Mike Luciano, Swinging Bridge Lane, commented that as a community, we need to communication have discussion, debate, gather information and statistics about gun ranges; and we need to recover as a community while we're doing this. Mike asked if this Council could spur a venue for a community meeting to present ideas or vent; he would be available to help council implement that. Mike requested that until the fire ban was lifted, and the State could

provide concrete policies and changes to the gun ranges, and until we can have community meetings, the gun range should remain closed indefinitely.

Kris Mattera, Chamber Director thanked everyone who had done everything they could during this fire – the community and the first responders. Chris hoped we take this positivity forward and beyond the fire into the future. Chris celebrated her 1 year anniversary with the Chamber during the fire and thanked the Community for welcoming her.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Auden Schendler felt it was miraculous that no one died. He personally felt this idea of gratitude was just platitudes and wanted people to feel the actual love and gratitude of the community. Auden said he was working to recognize people who did good things and called out a few: Greg Knott, Aaron Munch, and others of the PD who were present and went door to door to get people out. The fire department, Scott Thompson, Snowmass Ski Patrol with the Forest Service, Brian Davies and Dwayne Baskin., Pitkin County, State troopers, neighbors. Auden thought that for the future, the Council did need to work with the CPW (Colorado Parks and Wildlife) to come up with a reasonable approach to close the range when Stage 1 Fire Restrictions were in place; we need to do mitigation in town; talking to a state forester, we should cut a fire break above the town. The people who lost their homes need our support. The Community Foundation has a lot of resources to close the gaps that other funds might not reach. We need to be sure the accounts set up to help these people are legitimate. There are lessons learned, and we need to accept the criticism we will get. We can do better on communication; if there is nothing to report, tell people there is nothing to report. We need to get people to sign up for emergency communications.

Bill Infante also expressed his thanks to Chief Knott and all first responders and firefighters that protected the town. Bill felt the greatest tribute we can provide our firefighters is to prepare and prevent. Bill suggested a fuel mitigation preparation and reduction day as a preventive measure. He also wanted to discuss automatic protocols when Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are imposed as well as considering closure of the firing range.

Katie Schwoerer offered infinite gratitude to the news agencies, the Chamber, Art Base, emergency responders, and Hot Shot crews, who receive only basic government benefits.

Ryan Slack said he couldn't thank the town enough; with the fire now 43% contained, thank you to all.

Gary Tennenbaum said Auden had captured what we feel in this Town. We all need to go out to dinner downtown and support our local businesses; get back to what this community is all about. People in this community came together and supported each other. Thank you. The staff prepared for evacuation. We need to work with the State and find a place to relocate this range.

Jacque Whitsitt said she attended the 6 o'clock meetings and the 10 o'clock meetings at the Incident Command Post. It was a county incident; nothing burned in Basalt. The people at the Incident Command relied so much Chief Knott and Chief Thompson. Ryan attended also; we were covered at these events. Jacque relayed how proud she was of everyone. The Incident Command people indicated over and over that they had not seen this kind of cooperation among agencies. Jacque said there was a feeling that so many people had of helplessness - a need to help. The other message was thanks and gratitude – a party – and we are addressing

that for the future. Jacque said there has to be a major discussion about the shooting range and we need a public process to help us decide how we deal with that rural/urban interface. Jacque expressed that there was a level of gratitude she never thought she would feel. She urged that we help those in need. She thanked everyone in the room and all the great help this community received.

Barbara O'Toole remembered that Ed Simonson, who had been a lawyer in town, had tried for years to close that range and he never succeeded.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

5A. RFTA Notice to Seek Elector Approval to Impose a Mill Levy of Up to Five Mills (.005) – Opportunity for Comment

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney discussed the RFTA proposal of a mill levy increase of up to 5 mills. RFTA sent notices of a public hearing for comments at the public meeting to be held on August 9. The notice does not indicate they will pursue 5 mills, but they will take public comments.

Ryan noted the Town had been on Stage 2 Water Restrictions since last week, but would cut back to Stage 1 tomorrow. There had been some issues of lower water levels in town due to those who left their sprinklers running when they evacuated. Stage 1 will likely stay in place until we get monsoonal moisture.

Ryan discussed the wildfire risk of contamination to the drinking water system. Ryan had just signed a Scope of Work to have someone come in to do some amendments to our water plant to be ready for that. Our biggest worry was ash getting into the system. We haven't had issues with our drinking water; it is safe to drink.

Looking ahead to recovery after wildfire, we have a meeting with various agencies – mapping, flooding hazard risks, meeting with the State hydrologist to help with mitigations.

FEMA has a preferred risk policy – a flooding policy – for people who don't reside in a flood prone area. This can be written by any insurance agent. There is a 30-day wait period for this to kick in, however, if a flood emanates from federal lands, they can waive that requirement. The flood insurance is only authorized through July 31; after that Congress will need to reauthorize. If they do not, you will not be able to get a policy and lapsing policies will not be renewed.

The East Valley Road project is underway with milling along linear park. The project is anticipated to take 3 months. Should there be an issue, people would still be able to evacuate. For the time being, people should travel via Willits Lane rather than East Valley Road to get to Willits; don't avoid the Willits commercial center.

6. COUNCIL ACTIONS

6A. Emergency Ordinance No. 12, Series of 2018: An Emergency Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado: Amending the Basalt Municipal Code to Add a New Section Article X under Chapter 7, Health, Sanitation and Animals, Regarding Fire Restrictions

Chief Greg Knott discussed this item with Council noting that there was currently nothing in the code under which people could be charged if they violated fire restrictions.

M/S COUNCILORS SCHENDLER AND SCHWOERER THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 12, SERIES OF 2018 AS AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

6B. Resolution No. 15, Series of 2018: A Resolution of the Town Council of Basalt, Colorado, Ratifying and Continuing Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney said he had declared a State of Emergency in Basalt on July 4 and if this State of Emergency continues for more than 7 days, it is to be ratified by the local governing body. It allowed the State and Federal governments to come in and assist and it will also help with the financial aspects of the fire for Basalt and Eagle County.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND INFANTE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 15, SERIES OF 2018.

M/S COUNCILORS TENNENBAUM AND SCHENDLER TO CONVENE AS THE LOCAL LIQUOR AUTHORITY. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

6C. Public Hearing for New Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License – Wienerstube

Town Clerk Pam Schilling and applicants Vlad Djordjevic and Nemanja Ilic were present for this hearing.

Mayor Whitsitt opened the public hearing at 7:40 PM. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND INFANTE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE THE NEW LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE WIENERSTUBE RESTAURANT LOCATED AT 351 MARKET STREET AS PER STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

M/S COUNCILORS TENNENBAUM AND SCHENDLER TO ADJOURN THE LOCAL LIQUOR AUTHORITY AND RECONVENE THE COUNCIL. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

7. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE

- 7A. Accounts Payable
- 7B. Advanced Agendas
- 7C. Correspondence to the Town

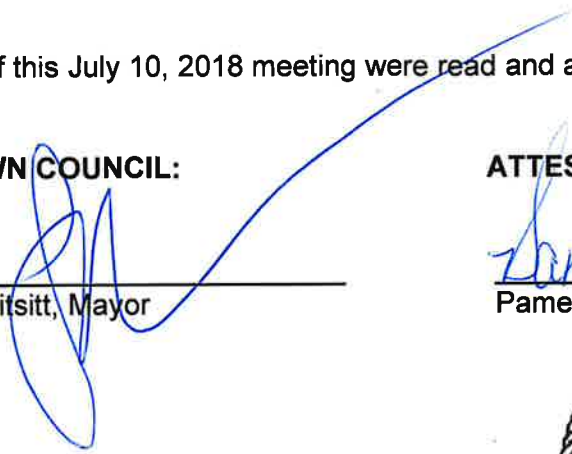
8. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

The minutes of this July 10, 2018 meeting were read and approved this 24th day of July, 2018.

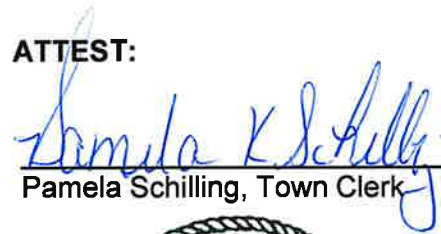
BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:

By: _____
Jacque Whitsitt, Mayor



ATTEST:

Pamela Schilling, Town Clerk



This meeting can be viewed in its entirety at:

<https://townofbasalt.ompnetwork.org/sessions/45551?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=6388&shareMethod=link>