



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

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.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – VIA ZOOM

6:00 PM 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Basalt Town Council was called to order at 6:04 PM Mayor Bill Kane. Also present were Council members Bill Infante, Gary Tennenbaum, David Knight, Ryan Slack, Elyse Hottel and Glenn Drummond.

6:02 2. CONSENT AGENDA:

2A. Minutes: January 26, 2021

Jeff Stoerner had requested the comments he made at the public hearing on item 6B – Public Hearing and Consideration of Resolution No. 02, Series of 2021 - be amended. The Clerk added the following to Mr. Stoerner's comments: "To clarify Mr. Stoerner's main point of opposition: The 2003 PUD sets the height limit on Lots I and J to 30 feet. The plat map in the 2003 PUD also shows Lot J having a total of 17 parking spaces. Aaron Ward's proposal exceeds the height limit, and in turn, increases the density meant for these two lots. Using an increase of parking from 17 to 26 spaces as a proxy for density creates a greater than 50% increase in parking. Higher ceilings = higher rents, cutting into affordable housing costs. Mr. Stoerner felt the developer needed to work within the constraints defined in the PUD."

M/S COUNCILORS DRUMMOND AND SLACK THAT THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 26, 2021 MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: 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.

There were no public comments this evening.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Elyse Hottel noted that some members of the community had heard that Bow Tie Cinema was looking to lease out their space and did not want to see the mid-valley movie theater leave. Elyse asked if there was any interest from Council in putting forth a Town letter of support that the community values them here and hopes they can make a go of it.

Elyse reminded the general public that during this snow-melt season, a lot of dog poop surfaces. As a dog owner herself, she is woefully aware of how un-fun it is to pick up dog poop, but asked all dog owners to please be responsible and clean up after their pet. Elyse also noted that after the realignment of the Ponderosa Park path, the dog station may need to be put back up. Elyse complimented the Town on doing a great job of making those dog stations available.

Bill Kane recently recorded a new video posted to the web that included an update on COVID trends from Eagle County's Public Health Director Heath Harmon. Vaccinations are getting done and infection rates are dropping in the 70+ age group, but has increased some in the 30 to 40 year old group. Everyone was reminded to stay the course with masks and distancing; vigilance was paying off.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney reported that one additional volunteer was needed to sit in on the Library Board interviews. There were 4 applicants so far and 2 Council members were needed to interview them and make a recommendation to Council. Glenn Drummond had previously volunteered. Elyse Hottel volunteered to interview, and Gary Tennenbaum offered to serve as an alternate if Elyse's schedule didn't work out.

Ryan noted the Ice Sculptures that had been placed around town which were a lot of fun to see and were attracting a lot of attention.

The 2 minutes vehicle idling information will be shared via valley media in the next week in conjunction with the Town of Carbondale.

The next group set to begin vaccinations are folks 65+ and teachers.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

6A. Two Rivers Road Construction for Basalt River Park (James Lindt)

Assistant Planning Director James Lindt offered a brief overview and background for a Council check-in of the Two Rivers Road construction as it relates to the Basalt River Park development, as well as the Basalt River Park construction. The development approvals were reviewed as were the Town's purchase of the park property and non-profit parcel. The developer had indicated an intent to begin their construction project this spring. Connect One, the Town's park consultants are preparing construction drawings for the park improvements with the intent to bid in spring and begin park construction this summer. James reviewed the required improvements to Two Rivers Road that are associated with these developments including parking and chicanes for additional pedestrian improvements. The development applicants have expressed a willingness and desire to manage the Two Rivers Road improvements; staff is supportive of allowing the applicant to manage construction of the Two Rivers Road improvements. James reviewed the benefits of having the development applicants

manage those improvements and how staff envisioned that partnership. A resolution would be brought back at a future meeting if Council was amenable to this arrangement.

After general discussion and questions, staff sought council direction. Council members offered a thumbs up straw poll as general consensus in favor of the Two Rivers Road construction improvements as discussed.

7. COUNCIL ACTIONS:

7A. Appointment of Clyde Foster to BACH (Basalt Affordable Community Housing Commission) (Sara Nadolny)

Sara Nadolny introduced Clyde Foster who was interested in becoming a member of BACH. BACH currently has 3 members – Cathy Click, Doug MacDonald and Ann Baker. BACH can have up to 7 members; there are caveats concerning eligibility. Clyde works and lives in the Town of Basalt and has a close relationship with the Latino business community. Mr. Foster's appointment is supported by all current BACH members.

Clyde Foster introduced himself, relayed his background and discussed his interest in participating as a member of BACH.

After general discussion and questions from Council, a motion was made.

M/S COUNCILORS TENNENBAUM AND HOTTEL TO APPOINT CLYDE FOSTER TO THE BASALT AFFORDABLE COMMUNITY HOUSING COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7B. Resolution No. 06, Series of 2021: A Resolution of the Town Council of Basalt, Colorado, Approving an Extension of the Lease Agreement with the Art Base and Rent Relief

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney discussed an earlier meeting between staff and Skye Skinner, Director of the Art Base. The Art Base is moving to a new location on Midland Avenue, and will need some time to transition to the Three Bears Building. They are requesting consideration of rent relief for the remainder of the lease term as they are taking on a mortgage at the new location. They have asked that the Town extend their lease at the Art Base building through September, 2021 (rather than the original expiration of April 30). The Art Base would continue to pay their utilities and carry the required insurance on the building, however. If Council agrees, the rent relief would be retroactive to December, 2020.

Skye Skinner described the new location of the Art Base, 174 Midland Avenue, which they are remodeling. Skye offered tours to anyone who might want a walk-through of the new space. Skye expressed their happiness at having been tenants of the Town for a long time and she was happy the door was open for a conversation of this type.

Council comments followed. Glenn Drummond felt the Art Base was originally to be a part of the River Park development and this move changed that dynamic. Skye explained that the pandemic played a big role in their decision to move from the River Park and the sobering reality for the nonprofit sector as well as their long term fundraising capacity and commitment to be around for the long haul.

Elyse Hottel hoped someone would follow to fill the shoes of the Art Base at the River Park as they were more than a small piece of that project. Elyse wondered if the reasons for the Art Bases' move from the River Park had been communicated to the community. Skye said there had been some press around it but was open to ideas about how to productively further that conversation.

Ryan Slack wondered how the rent relief would help the Art Base do what they do – would it expand the programs or would they stay at the same level. Skye said they had to reduce their budget about 20% to weather the pandemic and they were facing a mortgage for the first time ever. The rent relief would help them to offset that mortgage. Skye reported they had also wildly expanded their free offerings this year with 1,800 their free Art Kits To-Go paid for by the Art Base or with donated supplies.

Bill Infante saluted Skye for the work done at the Art Base, surviving the pandemic as a non-profit, and thanked them for staying in Basalt, preserving an anchor destination for arts and culture. Bill Infante said the reason he voted in favor of the whole river park development was largely predicated upon the location of the Art Base on that property; he was sad that was not going to happen. Bill hoped everyone could agree that the lease extension and rent relief was a good thing and emblematic of our commitment to the arts. He hoped we would discuss the vacant space at the river park and what will we do with the Art Base building going forward. Bill Infante hoped we would find public serving uses for the properties.

Bill Kane said he had asked the Town Manager to organize a worksession for the February 23 meeting to bring Council up to speed on the River Park state-of-play; to revisit those questions just raised.

Skye Skinner said the Art Base was happy to be in the heart of historic Basalt and didn't want to be anywhere else. She believed the Town would benefit from their presence. May 28 is planned as the first opening in the new location; they were moving quickly to make that happen.

David Knight said he knew it would have been nice to have the Art Base in the River Park, but said they were making the best decision for their organization.

M/S COUNCILORS KNIGHT AND DRUMMOND TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 06 SERIES OF 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7C. Resolution No. 07, Series of 2021: A Resolution of the Town Council Basalt, Colorado, Authorizing and Supporting Submittal of a Grant Application by Pitkin County, Colorado, to the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy and Mineral Impact Assistance Funds for the Roaring Fork Broadband Middle Mile Fiber Project (Ryan Mahoney)

Ryan Mahoney introduced Jeff Krueger of Pitkin County who has joined our meeting once again to help answer any technical questions. Ryan outlined the discussion held at the last Council meeting and reviewed the proposed route for the new fiber optic build that would improve broadband options to the downtown businesses and to nearby neighborhoods. The costs and partners of the project were also discussed, as was a pole replacement and add on Library option.

Jeff Krueger noted the Town of Snowmass Village submitted for the grant first with Pitkin County, City of Aspen and Town of Basalt submitting ancillary grants. The Town of Snowmass

Village was awarded their grant a few days ago. Although no guarantees, that award is a good sign for this grant going forward.

M/S COUNCILORS DRUMMOND AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 07, SERIES OF 2021 AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

8. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8A.** Accounts Payable
- 8B.** Advanced Agendas
- 8C.** Correspondence to the Town

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

The minutes of this February 9, 2021 meeting were read and approved this 23rd day of February, 2021.

BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:

ATTEST:

By: *William G. Kane*
William G. Kane, Mayor

Pamela K Schilling
Pamela Schilling, Town Clerk



This meeting may be viewed in its entirety on the Town of Basalt YouTube channel, or at www.GrassrootsTV.org, or via this link: <https://townofbasalt.ompnetwork.org/sessions/162198?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=4045&shareMethod=link>