



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

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.

This regular meeting was held in person.

4:30 EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Bill Kane called the Executive Session to order at 4:50 PM. Present for the Executive Session were Mayor Bill Kane and Council members Glenn Drummond, Gary Tennenbaum, Ryan Slack, Elyse Hottel, David Knight and Bill Infante. Also present were Town Manager Ryan Mahoney, Town Attorney Jeff Conklin and Assistant Planning Director James Lindt.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND DRUMMOND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF: A. DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT ARE OR MAY BECOME SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(E), MORE SPECIFICALLY BASALT VISTA, AND B. TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE, ACQUISITION, LEASE, TRANSFER, OR SALE OF REAL PROPERTY INTERESTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH C.R.S. 24-6-402(4)(A), MORE SPECIFICALLY TO DISCUSS BASALT FORWARD PROGRAM - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT POTENTIAL PROPERTIES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Council held a brief break beginning at 6:05 PM.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL:

Mayor Bill Kane called the regular meeting of the Basalt Town Council to order at 6:22 PM. Also present were Council members Glenn Drummond, Gary Tennenbaum, Ryan Slack, Elyse Hottel, David Knight and Bill Infante.

2. CONSENT AGENDA AND MOTION:

2A. Minutes: February 8, 2022

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND DRUMMOND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments this evening.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Gary Tennenbaum attended the recent RFTA Board meeting in place of Mayor Kane. Gary said the meeting went well with the big issue being RFTA trying to figure out how to move forward with their retreat. The only issue he had was the RFTA seemed to get into the weeds on their green initiatives study. Gary challenged RFTA to consider things could be done now to address some of the environmental concerns rather than doing another study on how many more green buses they could buy, etc. Gary suggested RFTA green while they look at ways to further green.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney asked Council to add March 7 to their calendar for a Meet and Greet of the new council-elect members. Normally, we would hold a debate with the candidates, but since the election was cancelled and the candidates declared elected, this would be an opportunity to meet the candidates-elect and get to know them, their reasons for wanting to serve on Council, etc. The event will be at the Basalt Regional Library from 5:30 to 6:30 on Monday, March 7.

The next calendar dates to be aware of are March 29th and 30th for meeting and interviewing the finalists of the Planning Director position. March 29, will be a community forum held at the Basalt Library, sometime between 4 and 7 PM with specific time yet to be determined. March 29th will be an opportunity for Council, P&Z and other committee members, and the public to meet the finalists. The finalists will be asked to make a presentation on an issue that the Town will devise for them. More formal interviews will follow on March 30th.

The Emergency Declaration that was put in place to allow us to go back to virtual meetings has now been signed away by the Town Manager; we are no longer in an emergency declaration phase. Eagle and Pitkin counties have eliminated their public health orders, and no longer have mask mandates in place.

Ryan Mahoney said that Basalt Connect has had about 1000 downloads of their app now and they are seeing more and more people catch on. The Town has placed banners around town, information has been put in both up-valley papers, on the Town's Facebook page, the Basalt Community page, and the drivers are handing out cards with information as well. Ryan has been invited to attend the Spanish mass at the Catholic Church to talk about Basalt Connect; working to get more exposure with the Spanish community.

Elyse Hottel asked what the plan was for filling Watkins' position. Staff noted that there had been some interviews and would be another one this week. Staff hoped to get that position hired soon.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

6A. Hope Center Presentation and Report (Tobacco Tax use)

Michelle Muething, Executive Director, shared the Hope Center's 2021 Annual Report with the Council.

Michelle reported that it was hard to see that the numbers of people in crisis had gone up, but the fact that the Hope Center has the ability to respond so quickly and serve so many is what they are proud of. The biggest thing in 2021 was the number of kids in crisis. In speaking with the clinicians, the kids have their stressors, but they are finding the parents have less bandwidth to help hold the kids together.

The Hope Center is able to relieve law enforcement from the scene of various incidents, but the partnership with Basalt is tight and the PD tends to not want to leave the Hope Center people behind and will stay with them.

The Hope Center purchased their building in Basalt in 2021 and are now a permanent Hope Center in Basalt. Michelle said the funding they had received from the Town of Basalt is monumental in their ability to thrive.

Gary Tennenbaum said he was bummed to see the tobacco tax bringing in so much money to Basalt because that meant that tobacco and nicotine product use was still high, but he wanted to see that money used. He asked Michelle what she might use more funding for. Michelle said she would use it for training and research. Michelle puts together training and does research on best practices for crisis, but there is little research out there. The Hope Center was founded on a 2009 research study conducted by the Depression Center and is the only free standing crisis center in the State of Colorado. Michelle would like to do research that would be added to school based and crisis based research which is lacking.

For the first time, the Hope Center hired a Program Director, a second bookkeeper, and an operations director – Michelle is putting money toward administrative positions that support the program. Michelle said it was going to be a game changer for the organization.

6B. RE-1 School District Presentation and Report (Tobacco Tax Use)

Anna Cole, Chief of Student and Family Services for the RE-1 School District. Ann reported that the in response to the world around us, the school district realized they needed some additional non-academic support in schools including mental health, integrated health services, etc. Anna shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of the outcomes from the Town's investment that helped fund a mental health provider from the Hope Center to the Basalt Elementary School. Eagle County funds a mental health provider at Basalt Middle and High schools. The ability for a sixteen year old to seek help in school is very different than for a six-year old in school. There has been some one-on-one kind of check-ins with the elementary school provider, but also more co-teaching, pushing into the classroom and talking about social-emotional skills, and trying to get a little ahead of talking about emotions and talking about how we're feeling, etc. One thing the community has struggled with is the bilingual/bicultural connections, but the reassuring aspect of the Hope Center data from 2021 shows that the kids accessing mental health providers are reflective of the local demographics, and they have been finding work-arounds when it comes to language barriers. Educators get little to no training in crisis management, but having the Hope Center support has been an incredible asset to the schools.

Gary Tennenbaum said that even though he won't be on council much longer, he would hope we could make a stronger commitment to them so they don't have to fight for funding every year. Finance Director Christy Chicoine noted there was approximately \$1 million in tobacco tax in the town's coffers. Town Manager Ryan Mahon noted we were fortunate to have those funds to share.

7. COUNCIL ACTIONS:

7A. Public Hearing and Second Reading Ordinance No. 04, Series of 2022: An Ordinance Authorizing the Financing of the Acquisition of Certain Real Property to be Used by the Police Department and in Connection Therewith Authorizing the Subsequent Leasing of Certain Town Property and the Execution and Delivery by the Town of a Site Lease, A Lease Purchase Agreement, and Other Documents Related to the Financing (Ryan Mahoney/Christy Chicoine)

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney said this was the financing mechanism for us to acquire the Umbrella Roofing property, adjacent to the new public works facility. The Umbrella Roofing property will be used for a new PD building in the future. This funding will put the property title in ownership with UMB Bank holding that for the term for three years while we pay the lease payments. At the end of three years the title to the property will be the Town's. There are Certificates of Participation similar to what was used for pool improvements last summer. Finance Director Christy Chicoine noted the interest rate is around 2% for the three years.

Elyse Hottel clarified for the public that the pool COPs came from the POST fund; the Umbrella Roofing property COPs will be repaid from the General Fund.

Mayor Kane opened the public hearing at 6:56 PM. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND KNIGHT THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 04, SERIES OF 2022 ON SECOND READING. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1 WITH COUNCIL MEMBER INFANTE OPPOSED.

7B. Public Hearing and Second Reading Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2022: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Amending the 2022 Budget and Providing for a Supplemental Appropriation for Carryover of Funds from 2021 Budget to 2022 Budget for Various Projects and Additional Funding for the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project (Christy Chicoine)

Finance Director Christy Chicoine discussed the carryover funds as she had explained them at the February 8 council meeting. The color coding of the items helped identify the different types of amendments to the budget: pink were the carry-overs – some revenues/inflows and some expenses/outflows; purple were actual increases to the budget; and blue highlighted additional pass-through funds from grant revenues.

Mayor Kane opened the public hearing at 7:00 PM. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

M/S COUNCILORS KNIGHT AND DRUMMOND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 05, SERIES OF 2022 ON SECOND READING. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7C. Resolution No. 16, Series of 2022: Resolution of the Town Council of Basalt, Colorado, Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement Between the City of Aspen, Town of Snowmass Village, Town of Basalt, Pitkin County, and Aspen Valley Hospital to Provide Detoxification and Withdrawal Management (Ryan Mahoney/Greg Knott/Jeff Conklin)

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney noted this IGA had been in effect for a few years now. Each participating agency pays a pro-rata share based on population, utilization and number of liquor licenses. One of the changes in the document will be that initially, the population considered for the Basalt portion of this IGA was based on the portion of population on the Pitkin County side of Basalt, even though it was utilized through all of the town. This amendment would update that language to include the entire Basalt population. Also, rather than naming a specific vendor, it would generalize that, so in the event the vendor were to change over time, we wouldn't need to re-do the IGA.

Ryan discussed the 9% IGA share that will be Basalt's responsibility beginning in 2023, though Basalt will continue one more year at their existing rate. The IGA allows the PD to take folks to the detox center rather than the hospital, unless they are injured. Utilizing detox can provide a continuum of care – services that allow folks to obtain help and maintain their home and work lives; it is an awesome community asset for the Town. The program is located in Aspen at the Health and Human Services building next to Aspen Valley Hospital.

M/S COUNCILORS DRUMMOND AND SLACK THA THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO 16, SERIES OF 2022. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7D. Resolution No. 17, Series of 2022: Resolution of the Town Council of Basalt, Colorado, Approving a Letter of Intent Regarding the Greater Roaring Fork Housing Coalition (Ryan Mahoney)

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney explained this Letter of Intent (LOI) re-engages the Town in the housing coalition IGA that we had signed with to think about affordable housing and how we might work regionally to begin addressing affordable housing in communities that might not have been as engaged in the past. The idea is to support workforce housing, senior housing, community housing. There was a study completed in 2019 which the Town contributed \$10,000 toward that gave us some good information about our housing needs and gaps. Locally, part of what we will do is update those numbers for Basalt Forward 2030. During COVID, the Coalition paused and just recently started up again. There was also another local government effort that received State grant funds coming out of COVID for the Resiliency and Recovery Roadmap. The aim was to help stabilize the workforce and affordable housing was a big piece of that. These efforts were running parallel to one another and are now working in unison. The Coalition, as an area non-profit, could serve as a local administrative entity and clearinghouse for affordable housing opportunities. They are asking us to sign on, making a contribution toward the framework of getting this affordable housing non-profit going. This was budgeted for in 2022.

Elyse Hottel emphasized that when there was a realization there were several groups going – a 'roadmap' group, a coalition group going, and a third party through the Aspen Institute who was hoping to organize a housing retreat – they decided to merge these groups and they have been convening for the last month and a half as one group. This LOI helps the groups merge with more power as a unified applicant to obtain some of the grant funds. This is a valley-wide issue that cannot be solved by one entity or municipality by itself. Pitkin County BOCC and City of Glenwood Springs have both signed on as well. Conversations are ongoing along the Colorado River Valley Corridor with Eagle County Coalition, and with the Towns of Rifle and Parachute.

Dave Myler is at the helm at this point in time, but there will be a board of directors that will be responsible for running the organization.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND HOTTEL THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION 17, SERIES OF 2022. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Council members also received a copy of the media release that has gone out to the Aspen Daily News and Aspen Times in case anyone has questions.

7E. Resolution No 18, Series of 2022: A Resolution of the Town Council of Basalt, Colorado, Regarding Reimbursement Intention Related to an Equipment Lease/Purchase Agreement with Vectra Bank for a Dump Truck (Ryan Mahoney/Christy Chicoine)

Finance Director Christy Chicoine noted the Town just received the new dump truck that had been ordered in 2020. Staff sought three local bids for companies that would do a lease purchase agreement with the Town. Vectra Bank came back with most favorable bid, but there is a timing issue and we need to pay for the dump truck while they complete the lease purchase documents. The approval of the Resolution allows the Town to get reimbursed for that payment. This is the first new dump truck the Town has had in 20 years.

M/S SLACK AND DRUMMOND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 18, SERIES OF 2022. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

8. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE: **8A.** Accounts Payable; **8B.** Advanced Agendas; **8C.** December 2021 Sales Tax Report; **8D.** January 2022 Sales Tax Report; **8E.** Correspondence to the Town

There were no comments or questions related to the Information and Correspondence section of the agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:21 PM.

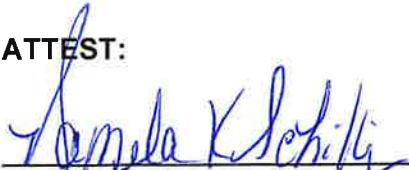
The minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting were read and approved this 8th day of March, 2022.

BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:

By: 
William G. Kane, Mayor



ATTEST:


Pamela Schilling, Town Clerk

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety on the Town of Basalt YouTube channel, or at www.GrassrootsTV.org, or by using this link: <https://townofbasalt.ompnetwork.org/sessions/238733?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=3731&shareMethod=link>