



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 28, 2023**

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 PM 1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The regular meeting of the Basalt Town Council was called to order at 6:08 PM by Mayor Bill Kane. Also present in person were Elyse Hottel, Dieter Schindler and Glenn Drummond. Council members Angela Anderson and Ryan Slack attended remotely via Zoom. Council member David Knight was absent.

2. CONSENT AGENDA AND MOTION: **2A. Minutes:** March 14, 2023; **2B. Resolution No. 12, Series of 2023:** Resolution of the Town Council of Basalt, Colorado, Granting Approval for the 2023 Basalt Sunday Market on Midland Spur and Lions Park in Downtown Basalt (Sara Nadolny); **2C. Resolution No. 13, Series of 2023:** Resolution of the Town Council of Basalt, Colorado, Approving Five Opioid Settlements (Doug Pattison)

M/S COUNCILORS DRUMMOND AND SCHINDLER THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Laura Maine thanked Council for meeting to take public comment tonight. Laura said she had no desire to adversarial with Council, rather that everyone be at Tempranillo having a margarita or a glass of wine than being here. Laura said she presented a pretty comprehensive petition from the Midland Avenue businesses only asking that work not happen during the summer months. Laura said she felt responsible to the people who were unable to attend the meetings but have expressed concern about construction during summer months. Their one concern is to have construction in spring and fall, but not summer. Laura said since we were all together a couple of weeks ago, they had learned the sewer line on Midland Avenue was fine and didn't need work, it was not going to be an emergency any time soon. In her mind, that was a big development. Laura said she also read the Town wanted to do the water line work on the south side of Midland Avenue because there were more businesses on the north side. Laura said she also learned last week that the water line being installed does not serve the south side of Midland, just the north side. Laura said that staff had been responsive in explaining that there

needed to be a 10 foot space between the sewer line and the water line, but she didn't see what that was. If you install the water line on the south side, you need to close the road to connect to the north side where the water is actually going. Laura said those were some questions that she had. The other conversation Laura said she's had with more than a few businesses is their desire to be compensated if they take huge losses this summer. Laura thought Council had been pretty firm about that and we will know at the end of the summer what our financials look like. We all have plenty of financial records from previous summers; if it shows a big difference they would come back to the town seeking compensation. Laura said if you seriously consider and can do the work in the spring and fall instead of the middle of the summer, she would not pursue anything because I think that is reasonable for the completion of the project. But the middle of the summer is anticipated to be a big hit.

Mayor Kane thanked Laura for her comments. He noted Ryan Mahoney was on (the meeting) so we'll be conveying these comments to staff and will have a few things to say at the conclusion of the public comment tonight if you can hang on there.

Ted Guy, 167 Swinging Bridge Lane, thanked Stutsman Gerbaz for filling a lot of puddles and they'd had a week of fairly smooth gravel; but Ted said, it was time for them to do it again. The second thing, the water line in the south lane, you're going to have to close both lanes at least 12 times this summer to make the connections. Ted didn't know the exact offset from the existing water line, but it seemed to him that they needed to try harder to put that new water line on the north side, then the south side would be open all summer long. Ted said that during the worksessions, they kept asking for a vote. Ted said the comment was we approved the parallel parking when we voted for the money. Ted said 'we didn't'. There were three options: parallel parking, moving loading zones into the diagonal parking, or leave the diagonal parking. So if two of the three had diagonal parking, that's what was approved, not parallel parking. Ted said we have a horrible problem in this community - a deep, deep hole because we don't have enough parking and you guys are digging it much, much deeper. Ted told council you need to stop digging and start filling it in. Bring back the diagonal; it is very easy to back out of a diagonal parking space if somebody's parked in the loading zone. Ted said he had done it numerous times. Last, it seems that you guys are listening to folks who aren't on Midland Avenue who want this done as soon as possible. They don't live or work or own businesses on Midland Avenue. You really need to be talking to or listening to the people on Midland Avenue. It's really discouraging to see that your impetus seems to be to bring back the Sunday Market and destroy the year round businesses; you need to change.

Bill Kane offered some thoughts on behalf of the Town. Bill began by saying that none of the seven council members wanted to see a business fail. We are profoundly sympathetic with the argument that said the retailers in downtown Midland Avenue were faced with the challenge of Willits, the 2018 fire, the pandemic, and now this construction. We're not thick-skinned bureaucrats here. When you say we should be talking to people on Midland Avenue, we talk to them every day. The staff talked with Mod, Javier, Annabelle - they've talked extensively with Rene, and obviously Laura. We're in intense, almost daily communication with everybody on Midland Avenue. With Greg Jorgensen of the Brick Pony. We are very familiar with their concerns, we are familiar with their business plans, we've had years of accommodating them for outdoor dining and use of town equipment to erect barriers and help those guys out. It's been a long cooperative process and we think we have a pretty good sense of the community relative to Midland Avenue; we're not sitting back in an ivory tower working on this thing. I think we sincerely believe that the best solution for all is going to come from working intensely together on this. We're going to constantly evaluate the schedule, timing, calendar and do our damndest to make sure that access is preserved. We're going to have a pretty amazing music program

with the park completion and new amphitheater. We are studying, and will hopefully implement, a shuttle service so that people can get to their favorite restaurant. We can shuttle cars out to remote locations at the elementary school and new parking on the spur. We remain flexible to look at the schedule. Working with Stutsman, we have guys that are of the community and really understand the problems that we all face.

Glenn Drummond said he wanted to point out that Stutsman Gerbaz just won a national award for being contractor of the year. The fact that we've got somebody of that professional skill level, skill set, that level of expertise, you've got to trust in the process. We're very, very fortunate, but they do this for a living. We're taking guidance from them. There's no guarantee; they don't want to close any business down. You're dealing with the utmost professionals, contractor of the year for the entire nation is working on this project, not to mention you've got SGM, Cushing Terrel, Connect One – a level of professionalism trying to execute this project. We've got to focus on the positives. It's going to be hard, it's going to be tough but we've got to focus on the positive. We've got one of the best teams you're ever going to have that's going to execute this and we've got to trust them because they know more than we do.

Angela Anderson said she wanted to speak to what Bill was saying. Angela thought a lot of us are used to not seeing our needs and what we want reflected in the actions of higher levels of government at this point. Angela thought all of us have an experience where there's something that we would like to be done that's not being done and it feels like we're being overlooked. She said she'd only been on this Council for a year and could say, to speak to what Bill was saying, we're not in an ivory tower, we're not bureaucrats, we're not politicians – we're just volunteering our time and my experience> Over the last year of being on this council and working with the Town of Basalt there's just so much foresight. Angela said she felt she had gotten a lot of emails this week accusing us of not having the foresight or not looking out for people. She said she knows it's really easy to feel that way about anybody that's in the government role, but it feels like there's a lot of thought that's gone into this project, a lot of intentionality. Everyone is really doing their best and doing their best on behalf of everyone that's going to be impacted. She wanted to say no one's concerns are being overlooked, no one's being ignored. Sometimes the hardest thing is the best thing and we hear all of you that are going to be impacted. If we could do this without impacting anyone, that's what we would do because we're community members just like you.

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney said one of the things that staff has been working on this week, based on a lot of the conversations we've been having with businesses on Midland, was an idea of putting this second phase out to bid. And we have prepared the documents to be able to do that. The focus of that would be to insure we're getting the best price on the project overall, but also to take a look at the timing and allow contractors to bid on a project that would not work in the summer months. And we've been hearing that pulling off of a project is expensive and we believe that to be true, but based on this spirit of cooperation we're hearing from Bill and Laura's words earlier, we do want to see what is possible as far as schedule. We would be prepared to send that out and come back with a contract that would give council the ability to make an informed decision. It will take several weeks to try to get bids back. We could get bids from other contractors. We love the work that Stutsman Gerbaz has done so far, but we do believe that other contractors will bid on it. And with that comes the risk of not knowing those contractors or knowing how well they'll work with the public. But, we've worked with a number of different contractors over the years and they've done good work. We know that Stutsman would also bid the project. Nonetheless, if we do that, the timing is such we get it back and we would be able to either start this summer or, if there's a cost that comes back that's favorable to

delay for a month or two, Council would be able to make that decision. We wanted to make sure that you all heard that.

Laura Maine said thanks, she did hear that; you guys are working on that. I appreciate this is your job as town manager and town council , to save the town money and be the most cost efficient as you can, but please consider the cost in relation to what businesses will lose by work being done this summer. We're on board with being inconvenienced, but it's also a business. Laura closed with thanks and we'll talk soon; appreciate this.

Ted Guy said that's very positive.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Bill Kane said he moderated a couple of panels for the housing conference in Aspen last week and thought it was pretty revealing. There was representation from the entire valley, statewide – DOLA, and lots of participants. Bill said it was a pretty comprehensive review of where we stand in terms of housing shortfall and there were lots of ideas focused about how we try to make a dent in this enormous kind of housing deficit we have.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Mahoney said he had no report today.

6. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE: 6A. Accounts Payable; 6B. Advanced Agendas; 6C. Sales Tax Update – Revised January, 2023 and February 2023; 6D. Correspondence to the Town

6:30 7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 PM.

The minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting were read and approved this 11th day of April, 2023.

BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:

By: William G Kane
William G Kane, Mayor



ATTEST:

Pamela K Schilling
Pamela K 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/265197?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=2101&shareMethod=link>