



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 14, 2020**

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

NOTE: The Town Council met electronically as Town Hall was closed due to the on-going stay at home health orders in place for the State of Colorado to help lower the curve of the COVID-19 virus.

Mayor Jacque Whitsitt called the regular meeting of the Basalt Town Council to order at 6:02 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2020. Council members present were Auden Schendler, Jennifer Riffle, Katie Schwoerer, Ryan Slack and Gary Tennenbaum. Council member Bill Infante joined the meeting at approximately 6:10 PM.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

2A. Minutes: March 17, 2020

2B. Minutes: March 24, 2020

2C. Arbor Day Proclamation

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

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.

There were no public comments presented this evening.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

Gary Tennenbaum thanked Town Clerk Schilling and all the judges for the an extremely smooth election.

Katie Schwoerer echoed Gary's sentiments in thanking staff for their work on the election.

Ryan Slack thanked the Public Works crew for continuing work around town; Ryan thought they were doing an awesome job.

Jennifer Riffle thanked the community and offered gratitude to those wearing facial coverings and choosing to stay home. She added that it was an honor and privilege to be a part of this community.

Jacque Whitsitt congratulated all the candidates who ran noting it took tremendous courage to put oneself out there. Jacque thanked the council members stating it had been unbelievable to work with people who are really smart and committed; this council has been through a lot together – fire, floods, finances and now COVID-19. She added that she was very proud of the Town's staff; it is a small tight group that gets everything done. Jacque thanked the community that has hung in there with this council during all of these times and for their great turnout at this most recent election. Lastly, Jacque noted it had been a tremendous honor to serve the past 8 years as Mayor, and 'a million years on council'. She said it was a good learning experience and she had been proud to work with every council she had been honored to sit with.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

5A. 2019 Accomplishments: Ryan Mahoney outlined the 2019 Accomplishments developed by the Council out of the strategic plan, annual work plans, budget and the CIP (Capital Improvements Plan).

5B. Infante Letter of Support for Small Businesses: Council member Bill Infante had worked with Town Manager Ryan Mahoney to draft a letter of support for small businesses in light of the COVID-19 closures. Bill Infante explained that part of the struggle of small businesses was their insurance did not cover events related to viruses; this letter will be forwarded to State and Federal representatives to try to do what we can. This letter follows a similar letter sent by the Chamber. CML (Colorado Municipal League) and the NWCCOG (Northwest Colorado Council of Governments) have also been active in this vein.

A second letter was added this evening directed to the Governor and Jill Ryan of the Colorado Department of Health and Environment and seeking equitable distribution of funds to communities through the CARES Act (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act).

There was no objection; general consensus of the Council was to send both letters out.

5C. Update on Annual Parks and Gardens Contract: Town Manager Ryan Mahoney updated the Council on the annual parks and garden contract to mow lawns and tend gardens. Staff did cut back on the contract and will do our best to take some of that work on in-house.

5D. Update on Streets Contract: Town Manager Ryan Mahoney updated the Council on the streets contracts with paving to take place first, followed by chip-sealing and then short and long line striping. The first part of the contract will probably begin in May.

Ryan then offered an update on a Regional Economic Recovery Task Force that he was working with. The participants include local Chambers of Commerce; they are making good progress in addressing how to respond to short, mid and long term financial impacts as well as other impacts such as mental health, over time. They have looked at tourism, workforce development, small business support, construction and at how to get individuals and families back to self-sufficiency. The group is looking at working with a facilitator help pull this together.

6. PRESENTATIONS: 6A. Budget Projection and March 2020 Sales Tax Report (Christy Hamrick/Ryan Mahoney)

Finance Director Christy Hamrick and Town Manager Ryan Mahoney have been speaking with colleagues to find out what impacts people have been seeing in their communities and reaching out to their respective listservs through CML. Staff wants to be conservative and set the Town up for the long haul. Staff wants to ensure the Town has police protection, water utility, etc. This is a 3-year revenue model that will be adaptable as each month passes.

7. COUNCIL ACTIONS:

7A. COVID 19 Update – Direction from Council: Discussion and direction of Eagle County Health Order regarding construction sites (Ryan Mahoney)

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney updated council on the 2 Health Orders the Town received from Pitkin County and from Eagle County; both managing the COVID 19 issues differently. A matrix was created by Town Attorney Jeff Conklin and Police Chief Greg Knott outlining what’s allowed in Eagle, Pitkin and State; it helps to explain things a little better.

These public health orders are being driven by public health staff; the Town doesn’t have the data or ability to make these determinations. Ryan said he spent a lot of time discussing with Eagle County their reasons for leaving construction sites open.

Council had no specific direction for staff. Mayor Whitsitt state she felt her concerns had been alleviated with RFTA and construction sites as she had been seeing social distancing and face coverings become more prevalent.

8. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE:


- 8A. Accounts Payable
- 8B. Advanced Agendas
- 8C. VALE Board Minutes - March 18, 2020
- 8D. Correspondence to the Town

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:13 PM.

The minutes of this February 25, 2020 meeting were read and approved this 10th day of March, 2020.

BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:

By:  _____
Jacque Whitsitt, Mayor

ATTEST:

 _____
Pamela Schilling, Town Clerk

This meeting can be viewed in its entirety here:
<https://townofbasalt.ompnetwork.org/sessions/129432?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=12611&shareMethod=link>