



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES - TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 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.**

**1. WORKSESSION: RFTA Destination 2040** – Kurt Ravenschlag, RFTA Chief  
Operating Officer (Susan Philp/Ryan Mahoney)

Present for the Worksession were: Mayor Bill Kane, Council Members David Knight, Ryan Slack, Bill Infante, Elyse Hottel, Glenn Drummond and Gary Tennenbaum. Also present were staff members Ryan Mahoney, Susan Philp, Jeff Conklin, Christy Chicoine, Greg Knott and Pamela Schilling.

Kurt Ravenschlag, COO of RFTA, was present to discuss this item with Council. Mr. Ravenschlag directed attention to the RFTA website. Kurt reviewed the RFTA Destination 2040 projects listed there, and discussed their various stages of planning, review, construction, or completion with Council.

A brief recess was held with the meeting to reconvene at 6:00 PM.

**2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Bill Kane called the Virtual Regular Meeting to order at 6:02 PM. Also present were Council members David Knight, Ryan Slack, Bill Infante, Elyse Hottel, Glenn Drummond and Gary Tennenbaum.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA AND MOTION:**

**3A. Minutes:** April 13, 2021

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

**4. 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. Assaf Dory and Shannon von Driska joined Council this evening to apprise them of the Mt. Elbert Challenge they will be participating in. Assaf, a Basalt resident at 213 E Homestead Drive, a Habitat for Humanity home recipient, Habitat for Humanity Board member and Board member of Challenge America Program, shared his personal history and background related to

the loss of his leg that eventually lead to CRPS (Complex Regional Pain Syndrome) which is a disorder of the nervous system. It is a disease that affects his whole leg; it is called a suicide disease and something he has been dealing with for a long time. Assaf lost 4 deputy sheriff friends to suicide last year. Shannon von Driska, an Army Veteran, shared that she has struggled with mental health issues related to PTSD and with CRPS, as well. Shannon said they want to show that it is okay to reach out and ask for help; to erase some of the stigma of seeking help. Assaf and Shannon along with two other Veterans, - Dash Wong and Steven Fotion - will tackle Mt. Elbert, the highest peak in Colorado in September, 2021. From the <https://mtelbert.funraise.org> website "...In sharing their journey, the team hope to inspire Veterans and others who struggle to overcome their physical and psychological scars." A high percentage of the funds raised through Challenge America support these programs.

When asked what the Town could do to help, Assaf suggested the Town could help get the word out about what they are trying to achieve, and to wave when you see us training. Elyse Hottel suggested the Town offer a Proclamation in support of this endeavor and event. Glenn Drummond wondered how much money the Town has given to the Aspen Hope Center, a great resource for this type of situation. Mayor Kane asked that Assaf keep in touch with Town Manager, Ryan Mahoney, as they formulate their plans.

## **5. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS**

Elyse Hottel, as the representative to the Colorado Office of Resource Efficiency (CORE), reported they had gone to Aspen City Council to request their 2022 budget request. The budget will be smaller than previous budgets. CORE will be working with Eagle County to try to service the non-Pitkin County portion of the valley. Elyse said CORE was still open to suggestions and ideas for fundraising or fees for service as well.

Bill Kane reported that that he had attended the Basalt vs Glenwood Springs football game. Basalt was downed by Glenwood Springs but are now in the finals and playoffs.

Bill Infante followed up Elyse's suggestion for an off-site later this spring or summer to share thoughts about the future, strategies, the Basalt 2030 Plan, etc. Bill also asked for an update of the Capital Needs Committee and who's been nominated and appointed from Town committees and the Chamber.

Bill Infante reported on his visit to the proposed Ascendigo location on Missouri Heights where they have their sights set on a 126 acre parcel. They are moving forward with planning and their director, Dan Richardson, has done a good job addressing the neighbor concerns about water, transportation and fire. The proposal goes to the Garfield County Commissioners in May. The educational purposes for which Ascendigo will use the property is already approved under the zoning; the Commissioners are not rezoning, but simply reviewing the proposal. If Ascendigo is approved to go forward, it will help to address the provision of mental and health services in the valley which is something Basalt has taken up in the past.

Ryan Mahoney addressed Bill Infante's questions related to composition of the Capital Needs Committee with most appointments having been secured. Ryan noted that there would be a kick-off meeting of the Capital Needs Committee on the 17<sup>th</sup>. An off-site strategic planning session was not planned as part of the Basalt Forward 2030 program, but generally is a part of the budget planning. Council is integrated into the process of working with the Committee, the surveys, the in-person sessions and follow up for Council feedback. If we want to take that up, we would probably need to re-tool the plan of attack for Basalt 2030.

Bill Infante said there had been an opportunity for Council to meet and discuss strategy and vision in the past and felt there was a lot of value in that type of opportunity. He felt whether Basalt Forward 2030 was discussed or not was irrelevant, especially since it is facilities based and not conceptual things like the investment in prospective things like mental and human health, arts and culture, or economic development.

Gary Tennenbaum said Council would need to meet together to talk about how to put the Basalt Forward 2030 out to the public. There is already a work plan and a strategic plan, but there will need to be focus on the priorities for the 2030 plan. Gary looked forward to getting together with everyone to discuss those things. Ryan Mahoney said that type of meeting was programmed into the process – with council input and input from the public. there was no offsite meeting to redo the strategic plan or vision, but there would be a retreat later in the summer as we usually do.

Bill Kane said he envisioned at least a worksession environment to review the progress. Ryan Mahoney said at the next Council meeting perhaps members of the Committee could be invited to tune in and say hello with a short presentation.

David Knight asked if Council was still on track for getting back together in person in June. Ryan Mahoney said that was intended. Staff has a meeting with Grassroots TV to begin investigating the feasibility of hybrid meetings. We also need to clarify with the Attorney the legal aspects of continuing to vote remotely and how the public joins the meetings.

## **6. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Ryan Mahoney reported that before COVID, in the first quarter of 2020, staff had been working with an outside consultant to have a salary and benefits study prepared. We have that document and are updating it. The Town was able to institute some of the benefits such as a health and wellness benefit, a reimbursement for continuing ed, and some personal days out of existing sick leave. The document will be brought forward to Council at the end of June.

Ryan provided an update on the Basalt mini-grants. Council members Knight, Hottel and Drummond helped to work through those applications last fall. A small amount of money was held back and subsequently used to provide the Basalt Middle School with some funds for their music program. Last week, Ryan got a call that the school was doing some teacher appreciation. They had \$700 for their program and Basalt was able to match that funding for the teachers and staff who will all get some \$20 each in local business gift cards.

## **7. PRESENTATIONS: 7A. Proclamation and Arbor Day Projects**

Town Arborist and Horticulturist Chris Beiser, introduced the 2021 Arbor Day Proclamation. There are 2 Arbor Days, a National Arbor Day (Friday, April 30), and State Arbor Day (the third Friday in April, or April, 16 2021.)

Chris presented his planting plans for official Arbor Day trees at Town Hall and near old Pond Park. Chris said he had been working with the 5<sup>th</sup> grad class at the Middle School to get them excited about Arbor Day by doing a walk around, and tree-facts and clean up tour.

Chris discussed his other plan for planting trees around town including the berm on Valley Road. Chris encouraged everyone to get out there and start their spring clean up in their gardens and with tree plantings.

**7B. Discussion of Draft Pre-Audit Information for 2020** (Ryan Mahoney/Christy Chicoine)

Finance Director Christy Chicoine summarized the excess revenue over expenses in the General Fund. The budget shows an excess of approximately \$725,000 available to spend the purchase of the BC building affordable housing unit, for the Basalt Forward 2030 Project or other projects.

**8. COUNCIL ACTIONS: 8A. First Reading Ordinance No. 03, Series of 2021:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Approving a Contract to Buy and Sell Real Estate with Howard Deluca for the Purchase of Unit 333, Riverside Plaza Lot BC Condominiums, Basalt, Colorado

Town Attorney Jeff Conklin noted this was an opportunity for the Town to expand its affordable housing inventory. The Town currently owns 7 of the 8 units in the building which it leases to qualified employees under the Basalt Affordable Housing Guidelines. The Town has right of first refusal on the purchase of the unit. The seller of the property, Howard Deluca, had planned to list the unit with the condition that it be leased to the current tenant for 2 years. The Town would prefer to lease the unit to a qualified employee, and it appears the existing tenant would qualify under the Town's guidelines for a Category 3 income and rental rate. The Town would lease for 1 year and reserve the right for future uses by the Town. The property has a fair purchase price of \$360,000 for the unit. Getting a timely appraisal has been difficult, but was to be included to confirm the value of the property. Some alternate analysis of the valuation of the property may be appropriate and could be presented at second reading.

After some further general discussion among staff and council, a motion was made.

**M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND TENNENBAUM THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 03, SERIES OF 2021 ON FIRST READING AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING FOR JUNE 8, 2021. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.****8B. First Reading Ordinance No. 04, Series of 2021:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Amending the 2021 Budget and Providing for a Supplemental Appropriation Related to Basalt Forward 2030, TACAW Contribution, and the Purchase of Unit 333 in the Riverside Plaza Lot BC Condominiums

Finance Director Christy Chicoine reviewed this Ordinance with Council which recommended a supplemental budget for a couple of items: additional funding for TACAW - \$110,000; Basalt Forward 2030 \$82,000; and the Cushing Terrell contract for Basalt Forward of \$126,200.

**M/S COUNCILORS KNIGHT AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 04, SERIES OF 2021 ON FIRST READING, AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING FOR JUNE 8, 2021. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.****8C. Resolution No. 19, Series of 2021:** (Face Coverings – Sixth Extension) A Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Adopting an Amended Public Health Order Regarding Face Coverings

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney said at the end of May, the State is planning to roll-back their COVID regulations and turn the responsibility over to local governments, namely the counties, to determine their own COVID restrictions. Continuing the local face covering restrictions to

June will allow the Town to better understand where the counties are in regard to face coverings and other restrictions, and whether we want to align with the counties or maintain our own control. There was some discussion of vaccination rates as well.

**M/S COUNCILORS HOTTEL AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 18, SERIES OF 2021 AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

Additional Item:

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney report that staff wanted to get Council direction on an item related to vacancies on the Mid Valley Regional Planning Commission. There are 8 people applying for the Board, 3 of whom are from Basalt. Staff thought they would interview the 3 candidates from Basalt and make a recommendation for appointment to the full Council. Staff said they would work with Glenn Drummond, the Basalt Council representative to the Vista Project of the Eagle County Stewardship Team, on the interviews and recommendation.

**9. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE**

- 9A. Accounts Payable
- 9B. Advanced Agendas
- 9C. Correspondence to the Town

There were no questions or comments of Information and Correspondence.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

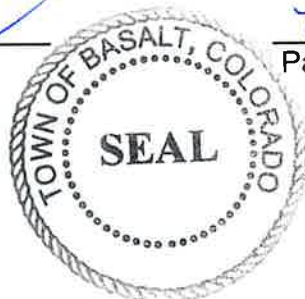
The minutes of this March 23, 2021 meeting were read and approved this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:**

**ATTEST:**

By:   
William G. Kane, Mayor

  
Pamela Schilling, Town Clerk



This meeting may be viewed in its entirety on the Town of Basalt YouTube channel, or at [www.GrassrootsTV.org](http://www.GrassrootsTV.org), or via this link: <https://townofbasalt.ompnetwork.org/sessions/177960?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=8886&shareMethod=link>