



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – MAY 11, 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 VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING

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

Mayor Bill Kane called the meeting to order at 6:01 PM. Council members present were Ryan Slack, Elyse Hottel, Ryan Slack, Glenn Drummond, Bill Infante and Gary Tennenbaum.

6:02 2. CONSENT AGENDA:

2A. Minutes of April 27, 2021

2B. VALE Board Grant Awards from Tobacco Tax

2C. Special Event Activity Permit for Basalt Half Marathon and Relay (Watkins Fulk-Gray)

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

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: There were no public comments presented at this meeting.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS

David Knight reported on the Roaring Fork Conservancy's Fourth Grade River Days held May 5 and 6. The pond is well stocked for any kids who want to fish. Also, the Conservancy's Frying Pan River Clean up attracted about 250 volunteers.

David Knight also wanted to amplify a message of an emergency broadband benefit. Not actually related to the Town, but the FCC is offering a temporary discount for low income households of up to \$50 per month on service and equipment rentals – visit www.getemergencybroadband.org to register.

Bill Kane said he had contact with Steve Humble who will be the owner of the new restaurant on the River Park who has expressed some anxiety about the timing of park grass and amenities. This was handed off to staff and Ryan Mahoney will report on that process under his report.

Bill Kane said the Council will be providing a series of videos on a variety of topics including the River Park, environment, and more.

Bill Kane reported that an application has been filed for the redevelopment of the Clark's Market site. No details are available at this time and Council members cannot take a position; this is in the land use process.

Bill Kane said he had had numerous communications relative to the parking in the downtown area. Word is Aspen is sold out for the summer and Bill said he has been hearing similar comments here in Basalt.

Bill Infante updated Council on the United States Forest Service (USFS) hearing related to the property behind Crown Mountain. He congratulated Eagle County for spearheading that review and engaging the public and preparing a general overview of community concerns. The County presented the findings from the recent listening sessions. The issues of concern ranged from promoting recreation, promoting conservation, constructing affordable and/or senior housing. There is some urgency in that the 2018 Farm Bill sunsets in 2023. Bill said we should move quickly to take advantage of the enabling legislation that allows the Department of Agriculture to convey property under a lease or purchase. Bill thought it was important for the Town of Basalt to occupy a seat at the table and participate in the process. The next step was for the County to reach out to the USFS regarding the prospects of a direct sale versus a lease. They are to update us as they have more information.

Ryan Slack reported that Ruedi Reservoir has been open for the past 10 days. The Reservoir is slowly filling. Ruedi will likely only fill to about 90% this year; Ryan will be updated on that later this week at the RWAPA (Ruedi Water And Power Authority) meeting. They will be working on the ANS (Aquatic Nuisance Species) inspection program again this year which is supported by the Town and other municipalities.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT: and Capital Needs Committee Update

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney reported that the full list of participants on the Capital Needs Committee was complete. Ryan listed the members from the various citizen boards and committees who would be the primary members of the Capital Needs Committee: Mike Kosdrosky of Basalt Affordable Community Housing (BACH), Yuani Reece of the Basalt Chamber of Commerce, Leroy Duroux of the Basalt Emergency Management Committee (BEMC), Liz Bell of Basalt Public Arts Committee (BPAC), Cheryl Ruppel of Basalt Finance Advisory Board (FAB), Pranav Lakhina of the Green Team, Eric Vozick of the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z), and Paul Hiltz from Parks Open Space and Trails (POST), and Joe Bauer from Victim Assistance and Law Enforcement (VALE). The Committee is scheduled to meet for the first time on May 17 for an introduction to the process, a review of the Committee's bylaws, an overview of the Master Plan; Cushing Terrell will be present as will Bill Ray. A press release was put out Monday to formally kick off Basalt Forward 2030.

Ryan Mahoney had included in the Manager's Report a letter of support for the DOLA (Department of Local Affairs) Regional Resiliency and Recovery Roadmap to COVID-19 Recovery. The State will be broken into 16 regions. The focus is to try to pair regions of commonality, i.e., a resort economy. Basalt will be most directly involved in the Aspen to Glenwood region. They want to pair each region with a technical assistance firm to work for 18 to 24 months to develop and implement a plan of economic development. There is not a lot of detail on this as yet, and no funding attached to it, but there may be down the road.

Ryan updated Council on the filming updates. Topics for this series of mini videos include the broadband project, the environment and green initiatives, a pool update, and Basalt River Park update. Following the communications strategy discussion, there will be shorter video snippets to be posted on the Town's website and Facebook page; Grassroots TV will air them as well.

Ryan said he'd received some good news today on a grant on the heels of purchasing the Public Works Facility - the Town is to receive \$150,000 from DOLA for that project. The region also received \$800,000 from DOLA for the broadband project.

Ryan reviewed the Tobacco Tax grant recipients (as included under the Consent Agenda of this evening's meeting agenda). The VALE board reviewed the requests and awarded \$72,500 to local non-profits to be "...used for the specific purposes of financing tobacco related education and tobacco related health issues, and addiction and substance abuse education and mitigation." The Town previously provided \$100,000 to the School District for a counselor in the elementary school and the Hope Center received \$150,000 toward counseling for businesses and community members. One of the applicants was Assaf Dory seeking funding for the Mt. Elbert Challenge. The VALE Board felt it wasn't enough of a nexus to the tobacco tax, but suggested the use of \$2,500 of discretionary funds as a donation. Staff is in communication with Assaf about that.

With the weather turning nice and the counties lifting COVID-19 restrictions, the question of resurrecting the Coffee with Council was raised. The Town Clerk is to gather generic Council availability information; the Town Attorney will review the rules for such a gathering of Council.

6. PRESENTATIONS: 6A. Review First Quarter Financial Statement

Finance Director Christy Chicoine noted the report was rather uneventful, which was a good thing. She answered some questions related to local property tax collections. Christy reviewed the location of the Town's investment funds, and discussed the taxes that were coming in slightly stronger than anticipated. Christy discussed expenditures in the restricted funds which were being used toward projects that were improving the town. She also discussed the bond and water funds.

Christy reported staff was completing the audit report for 2020 which should be out to Council at the June 8 meeting.

7. COUNCIL ACTIONS: 7A. Interview and Appointment to Roaring Fork Valley Regional Planning Commission (RFVRPC)

Planning Director Susan Philp introduced Karen Barch to Council and discussed that the intention of this item was for Council to recommend that Eagle County appoint Karen Barch to the Eagle County Regional Planning commission as a full time member as Charlie Spickert's seat opens.

Karen Barch introduced herself and described her involvement in the community and interest in serving on the RFRPC. Karen reported on her background and familiarity with Sunshine laws and working on public committees. Karen felt she would do a good job representing our part of Eagle County.

Council members asked questions of Karen related to her self-introduction and interest in serving on the Commission.

M/S COUNCILORS INFANTE AND DRUMMOND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL RECOMMEND APPOINTMENT OF KAREN BARCH TO THE ROARING FORK VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0

7B. Public Hearing and Second 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

Jeff Conklin explained this was a second reading of this ordinance and would require a public hearing. This building has commercial space on the ground floor with the 2nd and 3rd floor residential units. The Town currently owns 7 units in this building. The Town was able to enter a contract with the seller of this unit at \$365,000. One provision of the contract was the contingency for an appraisal. Given the current market, an appraisal was simply not available, but an Opinion of Value from Real Estate Broker Ted Borchelt was a viable option. Ted Borchelt's opinion was that this was a good purchase price for a unit with deed restrictions and modest finishes. Another contingency was that the existing tenant remain as the tenant for a period of time. As the existing tenant falls within the Town's affordable housing category guidelines, this did not create an issue. There were no concerns as a result of the title work, and an inspection of the unit revealed it was in good condition. Staff was supportive of purchasing the unit and expanding the affordable housing inventory.

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

M/S COUNCILORS TENNENBAUM AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 03, SERIES OF 2021 ON SECOND READING. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7C. Public Hearing and Second 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 noted this Ordinance provided for a supplemental appropriation of funds for Unit 333 of the Basalt Riverside Condominiums, as well as funding for Basalt 2030 project and the additional \$110,000 TACAW funding.

Mayor Bill Kane opened the public hearing at 7:05 PM. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND DRUMMOND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 04, SERIES OF 2021 ON SECOND READING. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7D. First Reading of Ordinance No. 05, Series of 2021: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Approving a License Agreement for the Encroachment of a Berm and Landscaping in the Town's Right-of-Way for the Property Located at 10 River Oaks

Assistant Planning Director James Lindt described and reviewed the license agreement which proposed a berm to serve as visual and sound barrier from Willits Lane traffic and pedestrians.

Applicant representative Ben Niefeld explained the need for the berm and the reasons for the location of the berm.

Bill Infante was concerned that a recent encroachment onto Town property had been turned down by the Council for a trash enclosure and it now seemed Council was reversing gears.

Glenn Drummond said his opposition to the previous encroachment was due to the process. Glenn said the 10 River Oaks applicant was doing their due diligence and following the process.

Gary Tennenbaum said he agreed somewhat with Bill Infante. He also believed that people should stay on their property for improvements. Gary felt approval of this encroachment would set another precedent and he would most likely not vote in favor of it.

Elyse Hottel said she voted against the encroachment in the last issue because of the applicant's failure to follow due process and not following the process.

Bill Kane felt this was a dilemma. He didn't want to encourage 'bermification' of the valley, but from the perspective of a biker or walker on the trail along Willits, this would be an improvement; it would have a more natural feeling, a sensible grading plan and a net positive result.

M/S COUNCILORS DRUMMOND AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 05, SERIES OF 2021 ON FIRST READING AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING FOR MAY 25, 2021. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-1 WITH COUNCIL MEMBER TENNENBAUM OPPOSED.

7E. First Reading of Ordinance No. 06, Series of 2021: An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Approving Water Rate Charges Pursuant to Section 13-47 of the Town Code

Finance Director Christy Chicoine noted that during the 2020 audit, discrepancies in the water rates had been noted. The rates had been increased prior to 2019 but were not reflected in the water rates ordinance. The rates being charged in the Caselle billing software were correct, but an increase between the prior ordinance and the 2019 ordinance was not reflected; this is merely a clean up of the ordinances.

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney explained the rates for the in-town users were the appropriate rates. There appeared to be an interim increase captured in a previous budget but not referenced in the 2019 ordinance or code. The correct amount is being billed for in-town customers. There are about 20 out-of-town customers whose rates have been undercharged for the past few years. There won't be any back charges, but their rates will increase a bit going forward.

Council members asked to see the discrepancy in the old and new rates for the out-of-town water users prior to second reading.

Town Attorney Jeff Conklin noted that a rate increase occurred in 2019, and a prior rate increase had been based on a rate study done for the Town; that rate increase was consistent with the results of that rate study.

M/S COUNCILORS KNIGHT AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 06, SERIES OF 2021 ON FIRST READING AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING FOR MAY 25, 2021. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

8. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8A.** Accounts Payable
- 8B.** Advanced Agendas
- 8C.** VALE Board Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2021
- 8D.** Correspondence to the Town

Mayor Kane reminded everyone that there is one more Zoom meeting before we resume our face to face meetings. Elyse Hottel wanted to keep some hybrid version of a Zoom and in-person meeting to allow some folks to participate that wouldn't otherwise.

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney explained staff was working on a form of hybrid meeting. Ryan noted that on June 8, we would still have the mask mandate in place.

Glenn Drummond noted that if everyone was fully vaccinated, we would be good to go.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

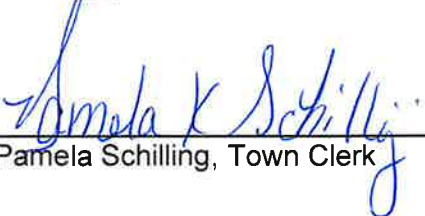
The minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting were read and approved this 25th day of May, 2021.

BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:

By: 
William G. Kane, Mayor



ATTEST:


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 here: <https://townofbasalt.ompnetwork.org/sessions/179314?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=6100&shareMethod=link>