



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 26, 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.

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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

The regular meeting of the Basalt Town Council was called to order at 6:04 PM by Mayor Bill Kane. Also present were council members Dieter Schindler, Glenn Drummond, David Knight, Angela Anderson Elyse Hottel and Ryan Slack.

2. CONSENT AGENDA AND MOTION:

2A. Minutes: September 12, 2023

M/S COUNCILORS SCHINDLER AND SLACK TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments presented this evening.

4. MAYOR AND COUNCIL REPORTS/COMMENTS:

Ryan Slack extended a big thanks to staff for undertaking the Sunday Market this year; it was a big undertaking with more vendors, new park, and parking challenges.

4A. RFTA Update - Year to Date Ridership (Bill Kane)

Bill Kane wanted to share an overview of RFTA ridership, pre Covid July 2019 and post-Covid July 2023. Ridership was down an average of 22% between 2019 and 2023. Bill noted there were many reasons that could explain this decline. There were service issues, and some people have now reverted to driving their own vehicle again. RFTA feels if they can get staffed up this year, they may approach the July 2019 pre-Covid numbers of 5,000,000 riders. People are likely willing to ride the bus as long as there is a seat and they don't have to stand on their ride. RFTA also voted to increase starting driver salaries to \$30 per hour, which is the market price these days. There are 42 units of affordable housing underway at the Rodeway Inn in

Glenwood Springs; clean, well serviced, broadband and state of the art appliances which should help a lot. There is still a lot of support for expanding first and last mile services so Basalt may have a clear future for Basalt Connect on a year 'round basis.

5. MANAGER'S REPORT

There were no items reported this evening.

6. PRESENTATIONS:

6A. School District Update: Mental Health Outcomes (Ryan Mahoney/Anna Cole)

Anna Cole, Chief of Student and Family Service and Interim Superintendent for the Roaring Fork School District, came to speak to the Council this evening on the use of the Town's tobacco tax funds for the mental health counselor provided at the elementary school. The Town is in year three of a three-year contract with both RE-1 School District and the Hope Center. Staff would like to bring back contracts in the near term and propose continuing those again. Michelle Muething will come before council at a future meeting to present their outcomes from the tobacco tax funding as well.

Anna Cole discussed the need and importance for creating and continuing partnerships for projects such as these. The commitment creates the stability to recruit and fill staff positions that allows students to access mental health resources in the Roaring Fork schools.

Anna discussed the information presented in a PowerPoint with data coming from both the Hope Center and School District. The data is evidence based and allows them to look at continuing trends going back to 2017.

Council commented and asked questions related to program opportunities. Anna shared a recent discussion she had had that revealed the youngest students are learning that mental health is just as important as physical health, and that is helping to release the stigma around mental health issues. Kids are actually coming into schools seeking those mental health resources.

The data was discussed in terms of various groups and their mental well-being and the challenges of understanding the underlying causes of those groups who struggle most. After school programs and activities were discussed, as well as the challenges that families face in trying to get their children access to those activities.

6B. Midland Streetscape Project: Monthly Update (Dave Detwiler, Catherine Christoff)

Owner's Representative Dave Detwiler and Town Engineer Catherine Christoff presented their update on the Midland Streetscape project. The Spur is open for use though there is some landscaping and electric work to be completed. The next steps will be to connect the newly completed water main to the buildings with work anticipated through November, weather dependent. The project is still on track budget-wise, and Stutzman is still on track to finish this phase in November. There have been no new surprises or change orders this past month. The team continues discussions to value engineer the Phase 2 work. The documents will be updated and brought before Council in November.

There will be a closure at the east end of Homestead and Midland next week – daytime hours on Monday and Tuesday – to complete a connection to the main at that intersection.

There was some discussion concerning the final elevations of the fire hydrants, maintenance of the dirt areas to keep the dust down, and the risk of finding unknown elements when making the service connections.

6C. Solar Project Update (Catherine Christoff)

Town Engineer Catherine Christoff was present for this discussion and introduced Shayli Volk of McKinstry, who joined via Zoom.

Catherine reviewed the solar installation that had been identified as a priority in the 2020 Master Plan. McKinstry had been engaged to do the study which progressed to contract to design and installation of 5 projects: Basalt Public Works building, Basalt Elementary School, Basalt High School Concessions building, Basalt Bus Barn and the Basalt High School ground mount.

Catherine shared a PowerPoint and discussed the project costs covered by the Basalt Forward project funds, with additional funds from Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). Catherine displayed a graphic of the project construction schedules and locations of each project. She emphasized that the RE-1 School District and Holy Cross have continued to be integral partners on this project, and McKinstry has worked hard to keep the project moving forward.

Council questions and discussion followed concerning offsets from this project, the kWh anticipated to be produced and how they can be monitored through a portal on the Town's website once all are installed.

Council was reminded that the energy savings funds will be split with the school district and the Town will have those funds to reinvest in future green projects.

Planning Director Michelle Thibeault added that the Green Team will also follow these projects and share the information through their newsletter.

6D. Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC): Grants Update (Sara Nadolny)

Senior Planner Sara Nadolny was present to provide Council with an overview of the 2023 BPAC grant program and recipients. The program is in its fifth year with the intent to encourage artists within the Basalt community and to cultivate partnerships that will support achieving the Town's public arts goals. Council had allocated \$65,000 in the 2023 budget for the grant program. BPAC received eight grant applications. BPAC ultimately chose to fund seven of the eight applications including TACAW for the Pumpkin Jazz event, The Art Base for a mural at the Library and digital lab upgrades, HeadQuarters for a youth summit, workshop s and in-school education series, Art Williams for an oral history project of the Basalt-area Latinx population; VOICES for Nuestras Voces Spanish language theater production at TACAW, Aspen Film for in-school programming and summer documentary film cap; and the Aspen Dance Connection for a dance production in support of Gail Folwell's Basalt River Park Sculpture.

Sara closed noting that there were to be some updates to the BPAC webpage highlighting the grant recipients of 2023, and to update information on those projects that might have a performance date or other to help generate excitement around those.

7. COUNCIL ACTIONS:

7A. Resolution No. 33, Series of 2023: Resolution of the Town Council of Basalt, Colorado, Authorizing Town Staff to File a Commitment of Six (6) Homes Per Year, or Eighteen (18) Total Homes by December 31, 2026, Allowing the Town to Apply For and Receive Colorado Proposition 123 Grant Funds (Michelle Thibeault)

Planning Director Michelle Thibeault presented information through a PowerPoint on Colorado's Proposition 123 Grant Funds which was an outcome of the November 2022 election to dedicate 0.1% of state income tax revenue to fund the State Affordable Housing Fund. The 2022-2023 fiscal year estimates \$160M available and \$318M estimated for 2023-2024. There are multiple programs designed for residents, developers, non-profit organizations, and municipalities. The program has a lot of conceptual ideas and is still in the early working stages. To be eligible for funding, municipalities must opt-in by establishing a baseline that establishes eligibility for the residents, developers, non-profits and the Town to apply for funding, and it will allow Basalt opportunities to partner with other jurisdictions and agencies to achieve local or regional affordable housing goals.

Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) is working out the details on what will be required from each municipality to obtain funds. A baseline calculation tool factors data such as household size, inflation, available unit count, unit sales, rental units, AMI, American Community Survey data and such variables to create an Affordable Housing Baseline for the Town and establish a commitment to increasing that baseline annually or per cycle. If the goal is not reached during the established 3-year cycle, the applicant must sit out the next 3-year cycle and reach the goal to be eligible for future funding. Basalt's baseline and commitment was discussed.

Much council discussion and questions followed regarding the program, Basalt's commitment, baseline, etc.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND KNIGHT THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 33, SERIES OF 2023 WITH THE AMENDMENTS PRESENTED BY A HANDOUT THIS EVENING REQUIRING TWO HOUSES PER YEAR, 5 TOTAL PER THREE-YEAR CYCLE. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7B. Public Hearing and Second Reading Ordinance No. 20 , Series of 2023: Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Granting Special Review, Site Plan Review, and Slope Review for the Construction of a Single-family Residence and an ADU at 144 W. Homestead Drive, Lot C, Mables Subdivision, Basalt, Colorado (James Lindt)

Council Was ahead of schedule and the applicant had not yet arrived.

Assistant Planning Director James Lindt described the project which sits between Homestead Drive and Tucker Lane for a single family home with a detached garage hosting an ADU above the garage.

Council reviewed the application and discussion items at their previous meeting on September 12. The Planning and Zoning Commission recommended approval with the conditions as drafted in the Ordinance.

Mayor Bill Kane opened the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

M/S COUNCILORS SCHINDLER AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 20, SERIES OF 2023 ON SECOND READING. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

7C. Public Hearing and Second Reading Ordinance No. 21, Series of 2023: Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Granting an Extension of Vested Rights for the Site Plan Approval, Southside Floodplain Reach II ESA Review Approval, Community Housing Review Approval and a License Agreement for an Automated Carwash Located at 115 Southside Drive, Lot 1, of the Basalt Business Center West Subdivision, Basalt, Colorado (James Lindt)

Assistant Planning Director James Lindt review the project application seeking an extension of vested rights for an automated car wash to be located at 115 Southside Drive.

Applicant representative Mitch Haas and owner John Belkin were present to discuss their case for a three-year extension.

James Lindt noted the draft Ordinance includes a 1-year extension of the vested rights.

There was discussion about when the vesting period would begin with the applicants asking for the new vesting period to expire one year from tonight's meeting.

Council discussion followed and included the question of the start date of the new vesting period.

Mayor Bill Kane opened the public hearing at 7:48 p.m. There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND HOTTEL THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 21, SERIES OF 2023 ON SECOND READING WITH THE AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE THE VESTING PERIOD TO EXPIRE ONE YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE ORDINANCE. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The effective date of the ordinance was identified as being October 19, 2023.

7D. First Reading of Ordinance No. 22, Series of 2023:

Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Vacating a Portion of a Waterline Easement and Approving an Easement Agreement for a New Waterline Easement at 124 Swinging Bridge Lane, Basalt, Colorado (James Lindt)

Assistant Planning Director James Lindt introduced applicants Richard and Pamela Rosenfeld who were present requesting to vacate a portion of a waterline easement that is no longer needed and dedicate a new water line easement on the property at 124 Swinging Bridge Lane.

James Lindt offered background on the easement at 124 Swinging Bridge Lane. The main water line that ran through that easement and served adjacent properties was relocated in 2021; there is no longer any service line through that easement. In exchange for vacating that portion of the water line easement, the applicant has agreed to dedicate a new water line easement.

The applicant wishes to vacate the easement in case they want to build a garage or shed in the future.

General council discussion and questions followed. The water lines had already been moved in 2021; this action cleans up the easements associated with the new water line locations.

M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND DRUMMOND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE ORDINANCE NO. 22, SERIES OF 2023 ON FIRST READING, AND SET THE PUBLIC HEARING AND SECOND READING FOR OCTOBER 10, 2023. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS HELD. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

8. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE: 8A. Accounts Payable; 8B. Advanced Agendas; 8C. July 2023 Final 2023 and August 2023 Draft Sales Tax Updates; 8D. Correspondence to the Town

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

The minutes of the September 26, 2023 meeting were read and approved this 10th day of October, 2023.

BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:

ATTEST:

By: 
William G. Kane, Mayor




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/277586?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=7456&shareMethod=link>