



DATE: December 6, 2019
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

It is officially holiday season in Basalt. The decorations have been set and tree lighting ceremonies are scheduled. The first of which is tonight in Triangle Park in Willits. It is scheduled from 4 – 6 PM. Next Friday evening, the tree in Lions Park will be lit. That is also scheduled from 4 – 6 PM.

Staff has met several times with a number of our partner agencies in the Roaring Fork Valley to discuss broadband. We have been learning more about the opportunities and challenges that exist with getting a more robust fiber optic network built in Town. I would say that there is good cause for optimism but it's going to take time. It seems like all parties are interested in working together to find solutions. I have added a letter of support to the Council packet to support Holy Cross' investment in fiber. This may be a way for the Town to improve services within Town. We will be looking toward a regional meeting after the New Year to begin discussions with the policy makers. This could be a great opportunity to learn more about our existing services and the potential for building on what we have today.

We are getting closer to wrapping up the flood mitigation work. The contractor was adding "trash racks" to the culverts this week and finalizing some of the punch list items in the hill district. They are moving to El Jebel and should finish that project in a few weeks. Our deadline is approaching so we will push hard to get our billings paid and complete last minute items.

Public Works

An initial walk through on the Two Rivers sidewalk project was done this week. There were only a few issues that need attention and some rail modifications were suggested to make the sidewalk safer and more pedestrian friendly. The sidewalk is now open for public use.

The Ponderosa Trail improvements should be complete soon. The contractor has been cutting back, leveling and removing under growth and small trees as he progresses down the trail. The contractor said he hopes to be finished this week.

Public Works has decorated, got the sleigh out of storage and gathered the fire pits. All we need is for Mr. and Mrs. Claus to show up at Triangle Park at 4 pm today.

Public Works staff received additional radio training this week in Aspen. Matt and Boyd attended a drug and alcohol awareness training in Rifle to be in compliance with new policies.

Police Department

The police department assisted at the Basalt Gobble Wobble 5k race on Thanksgiving Day. It was another wonderful community event.

Police applicant Xavier Portillo is progressing through his background investigation. He will have his mandatory polygraph, psychological examination and medical examinations in the next two weeks. We hope to have Xavier working with us by the end of this year. We still have two open police officer positions. We will begin advertising and hiring for these positions after the first of the year.

We are wrapping up 2019 by completing employee evaluations and closing out cases. We have also been making year end purchases to close out the 2019 budget.

Chief Greg Knott attended the fourth quarter meeting of the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police in Denver. Greg currently serves as the 2nd Vice President for the Association. He will be the 1st Vice President in 2020.

Planning

Basalt Master Plan – Connect One Design (C1D) is finishing its work on compiling the results from the Fall Open House and the follow-up online survey made available for those who were not able to participate in the questions asked at the November 13th Open House. The Master Plan team is working on the final master plan document which incorporates the input gathered throughout the entire process. The Council is currently scheduled to review draft materials at its January 14th meeting.

Special Events – The Willits Tree Lighting Celebration will be held Friday, December 6, and the Downtown Tree Lighting Celebration will be on Friday, December 13.

Basalt River Park and Basalt River Park Development –Staff has referred the application out to the Town’ referral agencies. BACH will be looking at the application at its December 12th meeting. The P&Z will begin its review in early January.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition’s recent request for \$10,000 to compete a needs assessment will be discussed prior the Council’s adoption of the 2020 budget. The Coalition has also sent a proposal to a handful of local companies to perform geotechnical and soil analysis at Parcel 2E proposed for a Child Development Center. Staff received three bids which will be reviewed with a subcommittee of the Coalition early next week.

Basalt Public Arts Commission (BPAC) – The Commission met on December 5 and discussed the Arts Master Plan and the timing of future grant cycles. The Council is scheduled to review BPAC’s recommended grants at its December 10 meeting.

Eagle County Referral – 10 Acre PUD. The Roaring Fork Valley Regional Planning Commission (RFVRPC) held a public hearing on the 10 Acre PUD Development Application on November 21st. The Application proposes to subdivide a 10-acre property located on the west side of Willits Lane that is just south of the River Ranch Subdivision into five (5) lots for the development of up to five (5) single-family houses and four (4) ADUs. The RFVRPC tabled the application review until January 2nd but provided direction to the Applicant to try and work with the adjacent property owner to the south to obtain the necessary consent to line the subdivision access road up with the existing Meadow Drive/Willits Lane intersection. The Town P&Z previously provided two rounds of referral comments on the application. If the Applicant is able to obtain the necessary consent from the neighboring property owner to line up the access road with Meadow Drive per the RFVRPC’s direction, then the Town P&Z will reconsider their referral comments. The Applicant requires an access permit from the Town since Willits Lane is a Town street.

Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee – Watkins attended the Complete Count Committee’s Latinx Focus Group meeting, where the group brainstormed barriers to Latinos in participating in the 2020 Census, as well as strategies to deal with those barriers.

Arbaney Park – The POST Committee met on December 3 with the Connect One Design (C1D) Consultant team for the Arbaney Park Pool project in preparation of the December 10th Worksession with Town Council. Public outreach, improvements to the locker rooms, an updated entrance, and other pool enhancements were presented and discussed with POST. The Green Team is scheduled to discuss the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing aspects of the pool project at its meeting on Monday.

Green Team – In addition to the Arbaney Pool project, the Green Team will discuss the Renew Our Schools competition and student involvement, the potential future of the recycling center in West Basalt, and updates on various meetings, including the Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative that Sara will attend on Monday morning.

Sara attended the Youth Water Leadership Summit as a representative of the Town and the Basalt Green Team on Thursday, which took place at the Third Street Center in Carbondale. The Summit included 33 presentations from area students (Aspen to Glenwood Springs), which explored a variety of topics related to protecting the local watershed and sustainability. The Summit was also attended by Pitkin County Staff and elected officials, a staff member for Scott Tipton, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado River District, Pitkin County Healthy River board members, and the Town of Carbondale Mayor Dan Richardson.