



DATE: May 1, 2020
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

This week marks the first for our newly sworn Council members. Congratulations to Mayor, Bill Kane and Counselors, Glenn Drummond, Elyse Hottel and David Knight. Staff has been working with the new Council for several weeks to begin training and on-boarding. We will continue with the training throughout the month of May with four separate training opportunities.

Today, the new Council passed a resolution requiring masks be worn in public places where social distancing cannot be achieved. This would mainly be aimed at indoor places, such as grocery stores and other retail establishments. This will not apply in non-public indoor spaces, such as offices, where one can maintain social distancing. The only time a mask would need to be worn outdoors is when social distancing cannot be maintained. This does not include walking or riding past someone. It does include longer durations when you cannot maintain six-foot distance.

The Town Council has begun reaching out to local businesses to hear about concerns related to COVID-19 and its effect on their operations. Each Council member will reach out to a handful of business owners by sector. Not all businesses will be contacted in this first round of outreach. We hope to gather useful insight that may help inform the Town's or the regional response to assisting businesses as they are able to re-open or adjust to a different business climate.

The Town is still urging residents and visitors to refer to the pitkincounty.com and ecemergency.org for the most up to date information on the public health orders. We also urge residents and business owners to check the Chamber of Commerce

Public Works

Street Maintenance: Monday May 4th the contractor will be crack sealing the streets. This process involves filling the cracks in the streets with a molten tar solution to keep water from penetrating the asphalt and expanding causing damage.

Wednesday May 6th and Thursday the 7th we will have a contractor doing a spray injection process that involves spraying a tar emulsion mixed with rocks to repair and fill in low spots in the streets.

On Tuesday May 5th and Wednesday May 6th an excavating contractor will be replacing a water valve on Homestead Drive. Traffic will be reduced to one lane. Notices have been handed out to the neighborhood and variable message boards changed to reflect this work.

Holy Cross Energy will start an undergrounding project on Monday May 4th on West Sopris Drive. Their goal is to eventually underground all their power lines in Basalt to better protect them and make the area more aesthetically pleasing. This project will also follow our new shadow conduit ordinance requiring the installation of conduit to be used for broadband and other uses. There are two conduits that will be installed, one for Cedar Networks and the other for the Town's use.

Public Works assisted Brian Passenti, Recreation Director, at the pool to remove, fold and store the pool winter cover. The pool has a winter and summer cover. Public Works helps, on an annual basis, to remove and store both.

A new door was installed on the Art Base this week. The door installed is more energy efficient and is quieter than the one replaced.

Members of the Public Works crew came in early this week, to remove rock and dirt buildup on the Frying Pan Road. The material rolls down the steep bank and becomes a road hazard if it is not maintained.

Police

The police department assisted at the weekly food distribution site. This week, 8500 pounds of food was given away to 350 families. The food distribution is held every Thursday, 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at the middle school. There is also a food donation opportunity that occurs every Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at the middle school. The Food Bank of the Rockies will continue the weekly food distribution as long as families need assistance.

We continue to educate residents and businesses on the changing public health orders and the requirements of the State of Colorado, Pitkin and Eagle County orders.

Chief Greg Knott submitted his final report for the Peace Officers Mental Health Grant. The \$130,000 grant funded our co-responder program over the last year. The Hope Center is committed to continuing their support and assistance with our co-responder program for response to mental health calls.

We are pleased to announce that Officer Justin Clayton was sworn in this afternoon. We had a Zoom meeting so his family could attend. As you can see from the photo, this was a social distancing success. He has begun his field training program as of last Sunday. Justin recently completed his state certification academy at Pikes Peak Community College in Colorado Springs. Justin has moved to the New Castle area with his fiancée and two children.



Planning

Construction/Development –Updates on the requirements for construction in Basalt for both the Pitkin County and Eagle County portions during COVID19 is provided on the Town’s webpage – www.basaltcovidconstruction.com. The Building Official has reviewed and approved site safety plans for 17 building sites in Pitkin County. Construction in the Pitkin County portion of Basalt started Monday for the sites that had approved plans. Eagle County construction has continued under the site safety plans those contractors had prepared under the Eagle County rules.

Willits Town Center – Considerable time this week was spent working on construction related items, such as parking by construction workers. Aspen Skiing Company is operating under a full building permit. Block 11 North has a foundation permit.

Other Development Review/Applications – Work continues on other building permits including TACAW, Steadman Clinic, some building remodels and development applications, such as St. Vincent Church’s planned expansion and a car-wash application in Southside.

2020 Census – The Aspen to Parachute Complete Count Committee (A2PCCC) sent out a press release describing the importance of Census data for COVID-19 response and reporting that county response rates are currently low. However, the press release identifies two reasons originally stated by Census Bureau

workers for this low response rate: second homes and the inability of Census workers to do their door-to-door work. People have until October 31st to respond.

BPAC – The Basalt Public Arts Commission met on Thursday to hear presentations from grant applicants and to make their recommendations to Town Council regarding grants. BPAC will present to Town Council on May 12 with their recommendations and also to discuss its 2020 budget and work plan.

EOTC – The Elected Officials Transportation Commission (EOTC) met on Thursday. The EOTC includes officials from Pitkin County, Aspen, and Snowmass Village. Basalt has been observing the EOTC meeting. Meeting topics this Thursday centered around the Brush Creek Park and Ride. The first item's discussion was regarding the use of COVID-19 stimulus funding use, should any become available. Projects would need to be shovel ready. A discussion around Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) funding determined that the best use would be to expand the paved area at the Brush Creek Intercept Lot. Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding project options were gained as a result of public outreach. Those that rose to the top include restroom and parking cameras, call boxes, in-pavement snowmelt boiler, and solar panels. Full support from representatives from Snowmass, Aspen and Pitkin County was given to the 70% plan and extended paving, with favor to prioritizing solar. Other discussion items included long-term parking at the Brush Creek lot (all voted in favor to explore long term parking parameters at a future meeting), and more discussion around a small-scale commercial operation (food truck/coffee cart) at the lot (also receiving unanimous approval to continue the discussion). The last two items require unanimous approval of the EOTC and written consent of CDOT to move forward. There is now a webpage for the EOTC that is under the Pitkin County's website.