



**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 11, 2019**

**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.**

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

The regular meeting of the Basalt Town Council was called to order at 6:04 by Mayor Jacque Whitsitt. Council members present were: Gary Tennenbaum, Auden Schendler, Katie Schwoerer, Bill Infante, Ryan Slack and Jennifer Riffle.

**2. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**2A. Minutes:** May 28, 2019

**2B. Special Event Activity Permit:** for Market Street Dance in Willits on Friday, July 12 including closure of Market Street between East Valley Road and Grange Street. (Watkins Fulk-Gray)

**2C. Continue to June 25, 2019: Public Hearing and First Reading on Ordinance No. 10, Series of 2019 Public Hearing – Aspen Skiing Company Application** - for the purpose of considering an application submitted by the Aspen Skiing Company on behalf of the property owner, Willits Town Center, LLC for amendments to the Willits Town Center PUD to permit the Aspen Skiing Company's Willits Workforce Housing Project on Block 9 of the Willits Town Center PUD, Basalt, Colorado (Aspen Skiing Company Application) (James Lindt)

**M/S COUNCILORS RIFFLE AND SLACK TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0-1 WITH AUDEN SCHENDLER ABSTAINING DUE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE SKIING COMPANY APPLICATION.**

**3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC:**

**3A. Positive Comments and Gratitudes about Basalt**

**3B. 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.**

- Carol Hawk spoke as a member of the Eagle County Mental Health Advisory Committee to update Council on the use of the marijuana taxes being collected in Eagle County.
- Mike Kerr spoke to the recent Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) meeting regarding rules and improvements proposed to the Lake Christine Shooting Range. Mr. Kerr also read an

email from Mike Luciano to the Council related to the CPW meeting of Lake Christine Shooting Range.

- Chamber Director Kris Mattera updated Council on a number of Chamber issues including the Summer Concert Series and partnering with TACAW for the musical talent; the return of Basalsa; National Night Out; a new logo and branding for the Chamber and possibly Town of Basalt; and the Chamber's new office space.
- Police Chief Greg Knott updated Council on the information push to social media being coordinated by local public safety agencies. This will allow for consistent information to the public and help direct people to locate information related to Mud and Flood, Go Kits, debris flows, etc.
- John Locke, Willits resident, spoke to the proposed dormitory project being presented by the Aspen Skiing Company. Mr. Locke was unable to attend the next meeting at which this project will be discussed and wanted to highlight his concerns with deed restrictions and parking.

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

Councilor Jennifer Riffle offered a staff MVP to Watkins Fulk-Gray for his winning the Basalt half-marathon; and for translating into Spanish, the ~~entire master plan~~ master plan website and master plan survey (correction made by Jennifer Riffle on 06/25/19). It was noted Watkins had also covered the building department during the interim while the Town searched for a new building official.

Councilor Bill Infante commented on the recent CPW Shooting Range meeting indicating surprise that they had adopted a 7-day shooting policy. He also wanted to confirm the cameras and other safeguards proposed for the site. Bill said he also had not seen any comments on the environmental survey concerning lead contamination that had been requested in the early stages of the shooting range questions. Bill said there was some water quality monitoring the Town did separately and would like to announce whether or not the test results speak to that.

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney said the PowerPoint presentation from the most recent CPW meeting had been posted to the Town's website. There was some funding for 2019 and 2020 to work on the environmental assessment; and it also appears CPW received funding for range officers. In the short term, CPW plans to put up cameras and create a green space around the range. Range hours were reviewed and set based on seasonality. There are existing contracts, however with various shooting purveyors who are allowed to shoot at the range 7 days per week. Councilors Riffle and Schwoerer also commented on the CPW meeting as they had attended. Jennifer Riffle relayed some of the questions that had been submitted to the CPW officers for that meeting, and their subsequent responses. Katie Schwoerer noted that the extended hours seemed excessive to her. She noted that CPW was working on signs for the site but bureaucracy was keeping the signs from being posted until 2020. Additionally, at the meeting, there had been contemplation of creating a world class gun range at the Lake Christine site; talk of making it a destination.

Councilor Auden Schendler noted that Lake Christine could be a wonderful place to take kids fishing, though the area was a pit; not attractive and full of thistles. He felt Council should offer comments to CPW on this latest iteration and felt there should be an ongoing concerted effort toward relocation of the range; an \$8 million cost for an indoor range is not insurmountable and

Auden felt fundraising for that could begin immediately. Jennifer Riffle clarified that an indoor range would be limited to handguns and rifles; skeet shooting would continue to be outdoors. Mayor Jacque Whitsitt thought a bulleted list of consensus concerns should be submitted to the CPW Commission at their next meeting, in Telluride, if possible.

Councilor Infante also expressed concern that the range should be closed whenever some designation of fire hazard has been announced.

Mayor Whitsitt pointed out that this conversation had not been included on the agenda and requested that this item be included in a future agenda for public awareness and public comment.

Council also discussed the survey regarding shooting ranges that CPW posted to their website. The Town will post to Basalt.net and on the Town's Facebook page asking people to take the survey. Council also asked staff to inquire of CPW if they would extend the deadline for the survey as it was currently slated to be removed June 20.

## **5. MANAGER'S REPORT:**

### **5A. Requesting Council Support for Comments on Lifting the Pause on the Issuance of New Federal Coals Leases for Thermal Coal** (Ryan Mahoney/Auden Schendler)

Town Manager Ryan Mahoney discussed the requests for support of a couple of items:

Sign on to a letter asking BLM to provide 2 things: One, a longer public comment period, and two, a rebuttal of their assessment that an analysis regarding the federal coal leasing program doesn't have any significant impact; environmental impacts in part. Ryan explained in more detail the decision to review the Federal coal program and the leases associated with it.

### **M/S COUNCILORS SCHENDLER AND SLACK THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SIGN THIS LETTER AS A TOWN TO SUPPORT THE COMMENTS ON LIFTING THE PAUSE ON THE ISSUANCE OF THE NEW FEDERAL COAL LEASES FOR THERMAL COAL.**

Katie Schwoerer asked if this were a form letter; if so, would staff please add a summary of Basalt concerns paragraph to the front of the letter.

### **THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

The second request for support was from COPIRG (Colorado Public Interest Research Group) asking for Council members to sign on individually to advocate for continued expansion of the RFTA Bustang service.

### **M/S COUNCILORS TENNENBAUM AND INFANTE THAT COUNCIL SIGN ON TO THE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BUSTANG AND EXPANSION OF BUSTANG.**

The third request from David Johnson of RFTA, asked the Mayor to sign a letter of support for a BUILD Grant (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development), a Federal grant program, to renovate the RFTA maintenance facility in Glenwood Springs. RFTA is trying to bring the old 30 bus facility up to a 60 bus capacity; they have about \$15 million toward the grant already.

### **M/C COUNCILORS SCHEDLER AND SLACK TO SUPPORT RFTA AND THEIR 'BUILD' GRANT REQUEST. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

Ryan reported that the Sunday Market begins this weekend.

Ryan reminded all that this Saturday is the RFOV re-seeding project of the burn area. This project will count toward our in-kind contribution reaping an equivalent of something like \$14 per volunteer per hour.

After fire follow up and monitoring: The warning system is one of the most important things after our fire. Eagle County has taken the lead on having rain gauges installed on Basalt Mountain. They will be installed and monitored by the USGS. If there is an issue, it will go out over the public alert system. There was an \$18,000 delta needed to make up the cost for these gauges; the fire district committed to \$9,000 and, to keep the project moving forward, Ryan committed to find the other \$9,000.

## **6. PRESENTATIONS**

### **6A. Leash Laws/Off Leash Areas (Greg Knott and Ryan Mahoney)**

Police Chief Greg Knott and Town Manager Ryan Mahoney discussed the existing leash law and enforcement in Basalt at this time. Chief Knott presented statistics on dog bites. He noted dogs need a place to run, but people also need places to feel safe from dogs approaching them. Greg said staff wasn't looking to change the ordinance but rather provide some areas where people can run dogs off leash.

General consensus of Council was that code amendment was needed. Council also suggested that, if and when amended, the updated information be posted at all the doggie pots informing the public that enforcement of the leash law will begin.

~~Ellen Weinstein, Willits resident, encouraged caution and commented in opposition to off-leash areas.~~ **Ellen Weinstein asked that the minutes be corrected as follows (see item 2B in 07/09/19 Council Packet):**

"I would like to have a correction made to June 11, 2019 council meeting minutes, section 6A. The minutes state that I "commented in opposition to off-leash areas". This is in fact the opposite of what I said. My comments were predominantly directed to the numerous reasons I supported enforcement of the leash laws. However, in my concluding remarks, at the end I did state that "I **don't object** at all to areas that are safe and appropriate" for owners who wish to take their dogs off leash. (can confirm on Grassroots recording)"

Council discussion followed including potential off-leash areas.

### **M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND SCHWOERER THAT STAFF DRAFT AN AMENDMENT TO THE CODE TO ADDRESS LOCATIONS FOR DOGS TO BE OFF LEASH.**

Ryan Mahoney noted this was a starting point; given known locations where dogs can be off leash, people who do not wish to be a part of that can specifically avoid those areas.

**THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

### **6B. Census Presentation (Watkins Fulk-Gray and Census Representative)**

Watkins Fulk-Gray presented to Council as the Census Representative was unable to attend the meeting. Watkins explained to Council what the Census is and why it is important. Watkins

said that by all accounts the Census 2020 is underfunded which is why there is such a push at the local level to get involved. Neighboring jurisdictions have joined together to create a CCC (Complete Count Committee) to identify 'hard to count' populations and provide information that would help people to participate in the census. The Census Bureau indicated they would also appreciate a link be created on the Town's website to the temporary census jobs.

Bill Infante reported the importance of the Census for Colorado is that the state has grown very fast and could likely pick up a congressional seat and create a division of District 3 which could result in better citizen representation.

It was noted that the Census Representative would be rescheduled to a future meeting.

Council had no objection to including a link to Census jobs on the Town's website.

## **7. COUNCIL ACTIONS:**

**7A. Public Hearing and Second Reading of Ordinance No. 12, Series of 2019:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Basalt, Colorado, Establishing the Basalt Green Team as a Formal Advisory Board to the Town Council (Susan Philp)

Planning Director Susan Philp indicated this was the second reading of an ordinance that formalizes the Green Team as an Advisory Board to the Town Council; its bylaws match those of BACH and POST as closely as possible. The correction has been made that Green Team members 'shall not' present themselves as a representative of the Town.

Mayor Whitsitt opened the public hearing at 7:33 pm. There were no comments and the public hearing was closed.

**M/S COUNCILORS SLACK AND SCHENDLER THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 12, SERIES OF 2019 ON SECOND READING. THE MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

## **8. INFORMATION AND CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 8A.** Accounts Payable
- 8B.** Advanced Agendas
- 8C.** Correspondence to the Town
- 8D.** Sales Tax Report – April 2019

## **9. MOTION TO ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

The minutes of this June 11, 2019 meeting were read and approved this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019.

**BASALT TOWN COUNCIL:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jacque Whitsitt, Mayor



**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pamela Schilling, Town Clerk



This meeting can be viewed in its entirety at:

<https://townofbasalt.ompnetwork.org/sessions/108683?embedInPoint=1&embedOutPoint=5451&shareMethod=link>



**Pam Schilling**

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**From:** emweinstein@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 02, 2019 10:38 AM  
**To:** Pam Schilling; Jacque Whitsitt  
**Subject:** Correction to Council meeting minutes, June 11, 2019

Ms. Schilling, Town Clerk, Ms. Whitsitt, Basalt Mayor, and Basalt Town Council members:

I would like to have a correction made to June 11, 2019 council meeting minutes, section 6A. The minutes state that I "commented in opposition to off-leash areas". This is in fact the opposite of what I said. My comments were predominantly directed to the numerous reasons I supported enforcement of the leash laws. However, in my concluding remarks, at the end I did state that "I **don't object** at all to areas that are safe and appropriate" for owners who wish to take their dogs off leash. (can confirm on Grassroots recording)

Thank you for your attention.

Ellen Weinstein