



DATE: August 20, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town staff will schedule a second Council worksession to discuss the Basalt Forward 2030 project on Monday August 23 at 5:30 pm. The goal of this worksession is to provide Council an opportunity to further discuss the projects that may be forwarded to the ballot for this November.

The Council will need to decide whether to place a question on the ballot for the upcoming November election by August 24th. The worksession will give Council the opportunity to ask questions, discuss the merits of each project and provide direction to staff regarding ballot language.

The Council has supported extensive public outreach, including a community-wide survey, open house, media releases and established a citizen-led Capital Needs Committee. The goal was to determine the public's interest in implementing the projects identified in the 2020 Master Plan and Facility Needs Study.

The source of funds proposed would come from a continuation of an existing property tax. The debt associated with the current tax will be paid off, starting this year. There is an opportunity to ask voters to maintain the property tax, without an increase, to begin implementing the projects identified by the community during the Master Plan process and by the Town's consultants in the Facility Needs Study.

Police

On 8/13, Lt. Munch completed the FBI Defensive Tactics Instructor course. This is an intensive 40-hour course to teach other officers techniques in safely arresting a subject and/or protecting themselves from attacks.

The High School began classes on Monday (8/16), while the Middle and Elementary schools began on Tuesday (8/17). Officer Hegberg, our School Resource Officer, reported the week has gone well with no issues.

This week, 8/16-8/20, Chief Knott is attending the FBI LEEDA course in Grand Junction. This course is designed to advance leadership skills through training, education, and networking among police professionals.

Public Works

Public Works and the Swinging Bridge contractor, JCI, were able to get the tee and isolation valve installed in the town homes driveway. The water service was only interrupted for a short period due to everybody working together. In a situation like this the water main must be excavated. The main is then cut and every piece to be installed must be disinfected prior to installation. Once the new fixtures are installed the new connection must be flushed and tested for chlorine residual. The install was a success - we had no leaks and a good chlorine residual.

Public Works is working with the contractors in River Park to install new water mains, new irrigation and to protect the infrastructure that is already in place. Walters Company Inc., the Towns contractor, installed sewer lines this week. United Companies did a hot tap (the water does not get shut off) to an existing water main and Aspen Diggers continued to extend our watermain to the new construction on the site.

Public Works is working with Finance and Planning to develop our 2022 budget. The process takes several meetings to forecast the budget. We are having to anticipate what prices are going to be on services and equipment in 2022 and this year it is extra challenging. The availability of labor and supplies have been a big driver in estimating budgets this year and it looks like it will carry over to 2022.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle Application – The Town Council starts its review of the BCC application on August 24th. The P&Z made a recommendation to approve the sketch plan application at its August 3rd meeting.

Sopris Meadows Parcel 5 – The P&Z made a recommendation to approve the Parcel 5, Sopris Meadows Sketch Plan Application also on August 3rd. This item currently is scheduled to begin its Council review on September 14th.

Basalt River Park Development – With a couple of changes that are expected next week all of the entitlement documents will have been finalized. Building permit applications have been under review for some of the townhome units on the west side of the development. A foundation permit is expected to be issued shortly.

Staff created a page on the Town's website that provides some further detail on each of the construction projects that are underway, along with their general schedule:

<https://www.basalt.net/629/Current-Construction-Projects>



Basalt River Park Improvements – Walters Inc. has continued work on the Phase I work for Basalt River Park. The contractor has been working on the utilities and will start on the grading of the site next week.

Two Rivers Road Improvements – Work continued this week on the Two Rivers Road improvements. The contractor formed and poured the curb, gutter, and sidewalks along the north side of Two Rivers Road this week, while working on deep utilities along the south side of Two Rivers Road. The contractor worked with the Town on maintaining traffic flow during this week’s school re-opening. The Town was awarded a grant from Charge Ahead Colorado for the installation of 2 new electric vehicle charges that will be incorporated into the Two Rivers Road project. Staff has been coordinating with Holy Cross Energy on the installation of both of these EV chargers.



Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 – The Town Council approved a contract with Walters Company Inc for the proposed work in Phase I. Work is expected to begin in approximately two weeks. Staff has been working with the Architect on the bid documents for the Pole Barn which is currently scheduled for advertising next week.

Building Permit Coordination – Mitch Miller started as the Building Official this week and had a busy week getting permits out and getting ready to submit others in the near future. Mitch was previously with the City of Aspen, lives in the mid-valley and came highly recommended.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition discussed how to proceed with plans for the early childhood development center and community space at Parcel 2E without having been a priority for the Basalt Forward 2030 initiative. Staff will be releasing a childcare needs survey in the coming days similar to the survey previously executed by Kids First and Snowmass Village. A subcommittee is interested in convening to examine the current plan and design with the intent of reducing the size, if supported by the survey results. Staff is meeting next Wednesday with the Aspen Skiing Company who has expressed interest in being a funding partner on the expansion of childcare in Basalt.

Development Review/Applications –Staff spent considerable time working on items associated with the construction activities. Additionally, Staff has been working on numerous administrative development review applications that take Staff time but that do not require review by the P&Z or Town Council. Staff also spent time on responding to complaints and working on land use applications.

Green Initiatives – Staff met with CORE and Holy Cross Energy to discuss support for the installation of Level 2 EV chargers at the Basalt High School.

East Entrance Sign – Excavation was completed this week and the foundation is in-process, with status dependent on weather. G .M. Johnson Construction was the contractor selected for the sign.

Special Events – The Art Base’s annual fundraiser and gala is this Saturday at their new location. Staff is working to permit additional events in the coming weeks as well.