



DATE: September 24, 2021
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Town staff have posted the annual Council discretionary grant applications on the Town's website. These are due on October 31st and staff will arrange a time with our Council sub-committee to review and make recommendations on the distribution of the money. The grant money will be distributed after the January 1st.

Town staff is sending letters to restaurant owners that have taken advantage of the expanded dining areas on public right of way. The letter will inform them that the barriers will be picked up starting Monday, October 25th. We will need to clear the rights of way to get ready for snow removal and have some additional maintenance to do in those areas before winter, such as striping the parking areas. The areas that are on the sidewalks will be allowed to operate a bit longer, until the 8th of November.

Police

School Resource Officer Jason Hegberg and police department staff are investigating several acts of vandalism, graffiti and theft of property at the middle and high schools. These acts are the result of students being encouraged, on the social media platform Tik Tok, to commit criminal acts at the schools. This trend, called the "Devious Lick Challenge," asks students to upload videos of their illegal activity to Tik Tok. This is a nationwide trend that is impacting many schools and communities. Two of our high school students have been referred to Youth Zone for their part in these criminal acts. We are currently investigating five other incidents at the schools. Both schools are educating students about this trend, asking them to not be involved and advising them of consequences that could be faced. More information about this trend can be found by searching the hashtag #deviouslick.

Since last week's implementation of the Pitkin County face covering order we have received several calls requesting guidance. We have not received any complaints. Information regarding the Pitkin County Order can be found at: <https://covid19.pitkincounty.com/mask-recommendations/>

Individuals wishing to submit complaints, regarding non-compliance with the Order, can visit the following webpage to advise Pitkin County Public Health:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeFSoQvz0-ko4tjKbg2tCvIWvxBOK2ejfM_vRbAhDkwYj_cEg/viewform

We are working with high school administration and student body to plan for next week's homecoming events. On Friday, October 1st at 2:30 p.m., the homecoming parade will take place in downtown. On Friday night we will have officers at the football game. We will also have officers at the homecoming dance on Saturday evening. Please attend the events with us to support our Basalt Longhorns!

Public Works

The last major Public Works paving project was completed this week. The areas that were repaved include East Valley Road through the heart of Willits Town Center as well as several locations along Willits Lane. The Public Works Staff did a lot of outreach to businesses well in advance of the paving. Everything went smoothly and the process limited disruption to businesses and local traffic as much as possible.

The process performed on the street was a combination of milling the surface off and replacing it with new asphalt. The first step of the project was to mill (or grind) the existing surface down by approximately 2 inches. The contractor then places an oil “tack” to the ground surface to get better adherence of the new asphalt layer. The final step is to add a new two (and in some cases three) inch layer of new asphalt. This process will extend the useful life of the roadway and is considered a best practice in asphalt preservation. It also creates a new, impermeable surface which prevents potholing and creates a smooth driving surface. Thanks to Matt Wagner for all his hard work in coordinating the project and informing the businesses.

The street stripers are scheduled to be here next week to replace and refresh existing stripes. There are two categories of stripes. One is long line, and one is short line. The long lines involve the striping you see on the edges and center of a street. The short line is the parking, crosswalks, and handicap areas. This process has to be done on a semiannual and annual basis due to the wear and tear from vehicles and snowplows.

Public Works is already planning our snow removal and holiday decorating for the season. We will be testing equipment, reviewing routes and areas that have been added this year.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle Application – The Town Council will resume its review of the Basalt Center Circle Application at its September 28th meeting.

Sopris Meadows Parcel 5 – The Town Council will resume its Council review on September 28th.

Basalt River Park Development – There is 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 completed most of the utility work and began forming for concrete and pouring concrete. The concrete flat work will continue to be poured next week.



Staff brought the contract for the landscaping design of Phase II of the Park to the Council last week for approval. Staff and Connect One Design are preparing for a design team kick off meeting next week.

Swinging Bridge Waterline – The contractor has continued installation of the watermain down Swinging Bridge Lane. The contractor has started on service connections and this work will continue through next week.

Two Rivers Road Improvements – Work continued this week on the Two Rivers Road improvements. The contractor is continuing to work on utility installation, primarily on the south side of Two Rivers Road. The focus of the work has been on installing the new stormwater system.



Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 – The Town Council approved a contract with Walters Company for the proposed work in Phase I. Work on the access improvements to the site is well under way and the contractor has begun work on the utility improvements and connections at the site.

Development Review/Applications – Staff also spent time on responding to administrative reviews, complaints and working on land use applications. Staff drafted referral comments in response to an Eagle County request for a Special Use application at 1919/2101 Cedar Drive, home to the Colorado Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute (CRMPI). The comments were primarily related to emergency vehicle and overall safe access to the site, as well as a parking plan to reduce negative impacts on the Town's rights-of-way. The P&Z reviewed the comments at their 9/21 meeting, spoke with the Applicant's representative, and instructed Staff to transmit the referral letter to Eagle County.

Basalt Early Childhood Coalition – The Coalition expressed interest in the Stott's Mill childcare center, and asked for information regarding the level of build-out, criteria for providers, etc. The Coalition is interested in being part of the RFP for finding a provider for the site. Regarding the proposed early childhood development center on Parcel 2E, the Coalition would like to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) to architectural firms for schematic level design alternatives to find a design that might be within budgets. Staff has begun drafting a scope for this RFP, which we hope to get out in the near future. Staff is working to ascertain whether affordable housing for childcare professionals may be viable on the site with a new building footprint that maintains the two-story structure and follows the natural grade. The Coalition began its budget discussion which will be continued next Tuesday through a subcommittee. The Financial Committee met to discuss remaining tuition assistance funds for 2021 and opening up the application for the remainder of the year.

East Entrance Sign – The foundation and steel framing is complete and the gabion baskets are being filled with river rock. The Chamber Sign Committee met this week and had discussions about potential landscaping around the sign.

Special Events – Staff continues to receive special event requests. The Aspen Valley Marathon is proposing to have its marathon, half marathon, and 5K races this year on October 16, finishing in Basalt. The Basalt Regional Library is continuing its outdoor programming and has a screening of Pete McBride's film "Into the Canyon" on the lawn of the library of Pete McBride's work on Friday, October 1st. The homecoming parade is also scheduled for Friday October 1st.