



DATE: May 13, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Police

School Resource Officer Jason Hegberg and Lieutenant Aaron Munch coordinated and instructed a self-defense training course for graduating Basalt High School female seniors. Eleven students attended. The training consisted of classroom instruction to teach the need for environmental and situational awareness. The second day of the training focused on practical hands-on self-defense skills.



Chief Greg Knott participated in an Opioid / Fentanyl collaboration meeting with Eagle County Public Health, Eagle County law enforcement agencies, treatment and service providers. This was the group's first meeting to discuss trends and overdose prevention efforts we could collaboratively work together on. Group members dedicated themselves to meet monthly moving forward.

Chief Knott participated at the quarterly Basalt Emergency Management Committee meeting. The upcoming wildfire season and community preparedness was discussed.

Over the weekend, officers assisted with traffic control at the Aspen Lacrosse Tournament. This was the first year the Willits rugby field was used for the tournament. Town staff will be meeting at the end of this week to discuss event impacts and plan for future tournaments.

We also participated in an informational meeting with Mind Springs Health. The purpose of this meeting was to receive organizational and capacity updates. We also participated in a Pitkin County stakeholder meeting to discuss and plan for future impacts when Interstate 70 closes due to weather events.

Last week, Chief Knott attended the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Command Course in Quantico, Virginia. This was only the second time this course has been offered. He was nominated to attend by the Colorado FBI Agent in Charge. In total, fifty chiefs who lead agencies under fifty personnel attended this free five day training.



Public Works

Public Works was busy right out of the gate Monday morning cleaning up after the windstorms in the area Sunday night. We prioritize clearing the road and hazard trees first. Public Works then comes back later and does a more detailed clean up. The trees and limbs are cut and hauled to a location where they are loaded in a roll off container and hauled to the Pitkin County Landfill to be processed into mulch.

A leak was discovered on a main irrigation line on Evans Street. The repair was challenging in that the crew had to make the repair while trying to preserve an established street tree in the median. The crew dug down very carefully with a backhoe, and a hydro-excavator to prevent as much damage as possible to the root system. It was a challenge since the irrigation was unusually deep. The repair was made and seems to be working fine.

Public Works is having a contractor paint some pipes at the Water Filter Plant. Over the years humidity has caused the main line pipes in a lower room to rust on the outside. We helped with setting up and moving out office furniture in the Planning Department this week. Public Works and the Recreation Department staff had meeting on Friday with the system control contractor to further learn how to trouble shoot issues at the pool. Public Works helped get the historic Arbaney Barn ready for use this summer.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle Application – The Applicant has submitted a final plan application and Staff has referred it out to the Town’s referral agencies for review. The Planning and Zoning Commission is scheduled to start their review of the Application next Tuesday, May 17th.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Walters Inc. has wrapped up their work on Phase I of Basalt River Park. The architects on the bandshell and bus station/restroom continue to work on the designs for those elements of the park. Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL should begin in the next week.

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – the Design Team and Town staff, have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. As part of the public outreach for the Project a pop-up booth seeking public input was manned on Midland, the Let’s Talk Basalt website was updated to provide information on the project, and a first community survey was released. The Design Team has also been meeting with various stakeholder groups, and the owners/managers of the properties along Midland to gain their input. The Design Team has formulated 3 conceptual plans which were presented to P&Z and Council in a work session on May 10th. Additionally, the concepts were presented to POST for feedback on May 11th. An

open house for the project will be held in conjunction with Motors on Midland on Saturday, May 14th. A second community survey will be published next week to gain further public input.

Green Initiatives and the Town of Basalt Photovoltaic and Energy Storage Project –Staff and McKinstry continue to work with Holy Cross Energy, the school district, CORE and members of the Green Team on the project. McKinstry has provided a cost/benefit analysis on a handful of sites for Town Staff’s review. Staff met with McKinstry and representatives of the School District this week to discuss other options for projects on School District property.

Other Basalt Forward 2030 Support – Town Planning Staff also provided support to the Manager for the Basalt Forward 2030 projects.

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4 – Phase 1A of the Project has been completed, and the landscaping has been installed. Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with final design of the foundation and building. The building construction will occur later this summer.

Basalt River Park Development LLC – A full building permit was issued on the Gallery Building which includes commercial, apartments, and the affordable housing units.

Parcel 5, Sopris Meadows Application- The Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the Parcel 5, Sopris Meadows Preliminary Plan Application on May 3rd and made a recommendation. The Council is scheduled to begin the review of the Application at the May 24th Town Council meeting.

Development Review/Applications – Staff also spent time on responding to administrative reviews, complaints and working on land use applications and building permits.

144 Midland Building Color Change – As noted previously, Town Staff received notice from the owner of the Kelly Building at 144 Midland Avenue that they plan to change the color of the building to a gray color. Town Staff notes that the Town does not regulate color of buildings in the Town Code.

Green Team – Staff met virtually with Jesse Masten of Eagle County to continue planning for the 2022 Community Recycling Event. Staff is working with the high school for the event location, and Jesse is working on securing the vendors from last year’s event. Anticipated dates are June 18th or June 25th but will largely depend on the availability of the vendors. The Green Team is interested in creating signage for the event that talks about the importance of proper recycling to be placed (or held) at intervals along Southside Drive and the High School parking lot area where cars will be queued to go into the event. Staff is meeting virtually with CORE and the Valley’s CORE communities this morning to explore opportunities for regional climate action.

BPAC – The Commission reviewed and discussed a grant application from TACAW and will invite TACAW to come to the next meeting to present before going to Council. The Commission also discussed ways to get the word out about the annual BPAC grant funds for additional applicants that may be missed. The Commission is moving forward with drafting and releasing a call to sculptors with the intent of first focusing on the space at the River Park, and secondarily the Willits area with a few possible locations in mind.

Finance

Sales Tax – The month of April increased 26.1% over April 2021. The largest increase was in the Retail Sales sector, with a 46.1% increase, the Automotive sector at 26.6%, Utilities at 28.1%, Lodging at 25.9%,

and Telecommunications at 27.2%. Year-to-date April posted a 17.6% increase compared to year-to-date April 2021. We benchmark our increases in sales tax compared to budget and inflation. The 2022 budget included a 2.14% increase in sales tax, and Mountain Plains inflation is 9.8% for the year April 2021 – April 2022. Therefore, sales tax increases are currently outpacing inflation and budget.

Hiring – We are still working to hire four positions in the Town, two in the police department, one in building, and one in planning. However, we are getting some good candidates in the door so we are hopeful these will be hired soon. Stay tuned!! Thank you for your patience as we are working to get fully staffed.

CIRSA Property/Casualty Insurance 2023 Renewal – We are currently working on the 2023 renewal paperwork for CIRSA (Colorado Intergovernmental Risk Sharing Agency). CIRSA is, as it states in its name, an intergovernmental risk sharing pool available to municipal governments. CIRSA has brought a lot of value to the Town through its reasonably priced insurance, robust training opportunities, and good customer service. We may see some increase in insurance premiums due to the increase in replacement cost for buildings and equipment, coupled with the addition of capital items due to purchases/construction. Last year, our initial CIRSA contribution totaled \$120,015.

COVID – Just a reminder that COVID is still here. We are continuing to remind employees to remain vigilant – if you are sick, then stay home and get a COVID test if you have COVID-like symptoms. The Town maintains protocols for when employees have COVID or have been exposed.