



DATE: October 7, 2022
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Ryan Mahoney, Town Manager
RE: Weekly Update
CC: Department Heads

Police

Fall is here and we have a least four bears, in different areas of Town, looking for easy pre-hibernation meals. Only use approved bear resistant trash containers if your container is stored outside of an enclosed and secured structure.

In January, 2021, the police department applied for and received certification, by the Colorado Peace Officer Standards and Training Board, for meeting the requirements of the United States Department of Justice "Safe Policing for Safe Communities" executive order. This certification makes our department eligible to receive federal discretionary grant funds. This week we completed a re-certification audit and were informed we continue to meet the mandatory standards. Standards include policy, procedures and best practices regarding use of force, choke holds, de-escalation, community engagement and officer performance tracking and evaluation.

School Resource Officer Jason Hegberg met with the Basalt Elementary School Parent Engagement Group (PEG). The group discussed school safety, the police department's response to incidents, school district mandated fire and evacuation drills and how overall safety and security can be enhanced at the school. Jason will be meeting with parent groups at the middle and high school in the future.

The Bureau of Reclamation has a new emergency manager for Ruedi Reservoir operations. This week, Matt Walz visited our area and met with Chief Greg Knott, Chief Scott Thompson, Sheriff James Van Beek, the Emergency Managers for Pitkin and Eagle Counties, the Executive Director for Ruedi Water and Power Authority, and representatives from the Roaring Fork Conservancy. In the meeting we discussed the possibility of creating flood inundation mapping for specific incremental releases from the reservoir and the possibility of installing a Fryingpan River stream gauge in Basalt. The Bureau of Reclamation and Roaring Fork Conservancy are interested in collaborating on these projects. We will continue our discussions to identify opportunities to make these public safety projects a reality.

This week, Chief Knott also attended meetings with the Pitkin County Public Safety Council and the Pitkin County Regional Emergency Dispatch Center and Emergency 911 Communication Boards.

Planning

Basalt Center Circle (BCC) Application – The Application received second reading approval on August 23rd. Town Staff and the Applicant reviewed the "lightning bolt" sanitary sewer line concept and cost sharing proposal with the Basalt Sanitation District Board -- deal points were established for the Council's review. Town Council reviewed and approved the presented deal points on the cost sharing proposal at the September 27th Council meeting. The Town approved deal points have been sent to the Sanitation District's attorney for further discussion with the Sanitation District Board and potential formulation of an agreement.

Basalt River Park Improvements – Work on Phase II of the Basalt River Park by RMCL is well underway. RMCL has installed the irrigation, planted a significant portion of the trees and perennials, and installed sod. RMCL is now working on the western extent of the park near the river. Fabrication on the park signage has also begun. Building permit plans for the bandshell have been reviewed and a building permit is ready for issuance.

Staff readvertised the bus shelter/restroom facility project for Construction Management/General Contractor (CM/GC) services to refine the design and construction schedule to build the project within budget. One bid was received from FCI and Staff is working with the architects and FCI to meet the Town's budgetary requirements.

Midland Avenue Streetscape Project – The Design Team and Town Staff have been moving the Midland Avenue Streetscape Project forward. On August 9th P&Z and Council provided direction to move into design of the preferred conceptual plan. This week the Planning Staff met with the Public Works Staff to evaluate the current design drawings related the water system, snow storage, and landscaping. The Planning Staff will be meeting with a 3rd party fire engineer next week to review the current design as it relates to effective life safety and fire protection as part of the design. The CM/GC Team is working on developing a proposed construction phasing plan. The Design Team and staff will return to P&Z and Council with the 30% level in October/November.

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 made a presentation to staff and representatives of the school district to discuss preferred options. The final report summarizing the site analysis and preferred options is being finalized, and the selected sites are now being developed to a 30% design level. Staff and McKinstry submitted a DOLA grant application for the project. The project was presented to Council in early September.

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

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

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

Mid-Valley Center Lot 4/Public Works Facility –Town Staff and Gould are moving forward with the construction of the building. The building has been ordered, utility connections have been made, and the foundation was poured last week. The pre-engineered steel building erection will start next week.

Water Utility Master Plan – Town staff issued an RFP for the development of a Basalt Water Utility Master Plan which will serve to inform the planning of capital improvements, operations and maintenance, and rate increases that may be necessary to help fund the water enterprise. Staff received two proposals for this work from well qualified teams. The Council approved a contract with JVA, Inc. Staff has also been working on a Colorado River District grant application to help fund some of this work. A kick-off meeting for this project is being scheduled for later this month.

Linear Park Irrigation – Town staff received two bids for the rebuilding of the Linear Park irrigation system. The project was awarded to RMCL by Council and work is well underway.

Whitewater Park Construction - Pitkin County started construction on improvements to Fisherman's Park and the area around the Whitewater Park. The improvements being made include improving the condition of the Fisherman's Park Boat Ramp, constructing a boardwalk between the Whitewater Park and the boat ramp, and improving the shoulder of Two Rivers Road by the boat ramp for better access to the boat ramp. Additionally, Pitkin County will be clearing sediment from the Whitewater Park structures and making slight adjustment to the in-river wave structures.

Community Events – The Annual Leaf Drop Event is set to begin the weekend of October 15th and 16th and will run for five consecutive weeks through November 12th and 13th. As in previous years, the event will have venues between Arbaney Park, Willits Rugby Field, and Southside Park. More information on the event can be found on the main page of the Town's website. Flyers are being hung at locations around town, and information has been posted on the Town's facebook page and the Basalt Community page. EverGreen Zero Waste is also hanging banners in locations around town to inform Basalt residents of the event.

BPAC – The Commission reviewed updates to a BPAC grant request, discussed ideas for the ice sculptures, and performed an initial review of a River Park sculpture submission. The closing date for the Call to Artists for the River Park sculpture is November 15th. Staff has heard from three artists expressing interest in submitting. BPAC will do another push out of the information to try and produce additional submissions.

Green Team – Staff is attending a board meeting of the Eagle County Climate Action Collaborative later today. Anticipated discussion items include planning for a Board retreat, updates on Eagle County's benchmarking program, a debrief of the Mountain Towns 2030 conference, and the Collaborative's goals and election of chair/co-chair positions.

BACH- Katie Erickson was elected as the new chair of BACH by the Commission. BACH also discussed a temporary stop gap concept of adding a provision to the Community Housing Guidelines that permits existing tenants of affordable housing to use the average of their income on their last two tax returns to requalify for their respective affordable housing unit in the instance that they receive an increase in income that puts them over the maximum income for their unit. This discussion was initiated because it has been brought to Staff's attention that some tenants of affordable housing are receiving organization-wide increases in pay to combat inflation and it is causing difficulty for some to requalify for their affordable housing units. BACH will review language for this concept and then it will be provided to Council for review.

Public Works

This week the new Public Works Project had insulation added to the outside of the concrete slab to increase the insulation efficiency and help reduce moisture wicking up through the concrete. Once the insulation was in place Gould Construction backfilled and compacted the fill material. The building for the pole barn should arrive next week and erecting will begin.

The first phase of the Pinion Tank Project is complete. The first two tanks have been reconditioned, inspected, and put back online. The third tank will be reconditioned in 2023.

The improvements on Liner Park irrigation system are moving along. The contractor is installing vaults to contain valves and controls and has installed a large amount of irrigation line.

Public works staff has been busy this week trimming Willits trails. They have also done some clearing of the access road to the Basalt Springs. The Parks crew are busy blowing out irrigation lines and fertilizing the turf for next year. The facility staff had to reroute some duct work on the Planning building and get the

heater ready for winter service. The Streets Department is using the sweeper to pick up leaves to keep them out of drainages and they had some grease fittings added to the Hook Truck so they could grease the boom service it better. The Distribution Department is working with a homeowner and their contractor to get a water service replaced. Also, Distribution did a flow test to ensure enough water capacity for a sprinkler system in a new house in South Side neighborhood.