

**New Castle Town Council Regular Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 7:00 PM**

**Due to concerns related to COVID-19, the meeting was open to
the public as a virtual meeting only.**

**To join by computer, smart phone or tablet:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7096588400>**

**If you prefer to telephone in:
Please call: 1-346-248-7799
Meeting ID: 709 658 8400**

Call to Order

Mayor A Riddile called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present	Councilor Hazelton Mayor A Riddile Councilor Copeland Councilor G Riddile Councilor Leland (arrived at 7:01 p.m.)
Absent	Councilor Mariscal Councilor Owens

Also present at the meeting were Town Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Clerk Melody Harrison, Town Treasurer Loni Burk, Town Planner Paul Smith and Assistant Town Attorney Haley Carmer.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to excuse Councilor Mariscal's absence. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve Councilor Owens' absence. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meeting Notice

Town Clerk Melody Harrison verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2020-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Agenda Changes

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There were no agenda changes.

Citizen Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no citizen comments.

Consultant Reports

Consultant Attorney – present for agenda items.

Consultant Engineer – not present.

Items for Consideration

Proclamation Honoring Colorado River Fire Rescue Chief Randy Callahan

Mayor A Riddile said that he thought what Chief Callahan was doing was very noble.

Mayor A Riddile read the proclamation into the record.

Colorado River Fire & Rescue Chief Randy Callahan thanked the council and said that he was very surprised. He said that everything about his profession was an honor. He introduced Chief Sackett who will step up as Fire Chief upon his departure. He also introduced Chief Moon.

Discussion: 2021 Budget

Administrator Reynolds said that the budget had been in front of the council several times, each one with some changes.

Town Treasurer Loni Burk said that the only changes in the budget this time were in the general fund. Indicating her memo that outlined the changes, she reviewed them for the council.

Consider Ordinance TC 2020-7 - an Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Amending the Town Municipal Code to Add Chapter 17.74, Wireless Communications Facilities and Equipment (2nd reading)

Planner Smith said that the ordinance had not changed since 1st reading. He quickly reviewed the proposed regulations that the ordinance will put in place. Planner Smith said that if the ordinance was approved he would include information on the town website about the regulations.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve Ordinance TC 2020-7, an Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Amending the Town Municipal Code to Add Chapter 17.74, Wireless Communications Facilities and Equipment on 2nd reading. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed on a roll-call vote: Councilor Leland: yes; Mayor A Riddile: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Councilor G Riddile: yes; Councilor Copeland: yes.

Consider Resolution TC 2020-31 - a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of New Castle, Colorado Adopting a Directory of Fees and Charges

Clerk Harrison thank Dave Reynolds for having written a memo for the item since she had not been able to. She told the council that there were several changes in the fee schedule including deposits for land use applications, updates water rates for 2021 and fees related to 5G facility permitting. She noted that the changes were in the schedule in red and

offered to go through them if the council wanted her to. Mayor A Riddile said that he felt that was not necessary.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2020-31, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of New Castle, Colorado Adopting a Directory of Fees and Charges. Councilor Leland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Feather Petroleum Company (Stop-N-Save) FMB Liquor License Renewal
Grove's Black Dog Saloon Inc Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynolds said that the police department was experiencing issues with COVID, which seemed to be common in other agencies throughout the valley. He said that Police Chief Tony Pagni and Police Clerk Jessica Hernandez were working from home and several officers were quarantined, but that shifts were being covered, and backup had been arranged with other agencies if needed. Currently he said the offices in the PD were empty. Administrator Reynolds said that at the beginning of the pandemic, council had put into place a COVID sick-time protocol, giving employees paid time off if they were not feeling well, and not charging that time off against the employee's accrued sick time. He said that the pandemic had gone on much longer than expected but that staff was still abiding by the protocol set in place by the council. He asked if the council wanted to revisit the COVID sick policy or leave it as it was. The council felt that the COVID policy should stay and that the work-at-home option be continued as well. Administrator Reynolds said that there were several laptops available for those who wished to work from home, and there was another laptop on order. Administrator Reynolds said that the AGNC meeting was the following day and he was going to try to attend that meeting. Administrator Reynolds said that he had made an offer to someone for Administrative Assistant position. Rochelle Firth will start around December 1. Administrator Reynolds said that he and Administrative Assistant Nichols had hand-delivered checks for the business assistance grants the previous week, and every owner was very appreciative. He also said that many had stated that they were not doing as well as they hoped. Councilor Copeland asked about those who were given more than they asked for. Administrator Reynolds said they were pleasantly surprised, and he did not expect the funds would be returned. Administrator Reynolds said staff had several discussions with CLEER regarding the solar panel buyout and there was a meeting set for Thursday to discuss it further. CLEER will attend the December 1 council meeting to review it with the council. Mayor A Riddile said that RFTA had signed a solar subscription agreement and the company had gone bankrupt, forcing RFTA to purchase the array at a cost of \$400k and there was no way they could use the array. Councilor Leland said that the same had happened to Carbondale and the Rifle Airport. Administrator Reynolds said that the Capital Needs Committee would meet the following day to discuss a list of potential projects. Administrator Reynolds said that the COVID cases continued to escalate in Garfield County. The County Commissioners held a special meeting earlier in the day where they called in a representative from the state and they spoke very frankly about not wanting the county to go from yellow to orange. The state said that by the

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numbers, the county had been in orange status 26 days earlier, and in red for the past week. The County Commissioners made an appeal to the state that for numerous reasons about damaging businesses they did not want to move into orange. There was no conclusion, but the state rep said she would be in touch with the County Health Department soon. Administrator Reynolds said that major thing moving into orange status would affect is the town restaurants because they will have to go to 25% capacity. Administrator Reynolds said that a move to orange would likely mean a change in how the community center was used. The council and Administrator Reynolds briefly discussed the types of gatherings that may need to be cancelled. Councilor Hazelton asked how the '25%' capacity was determined for a restaurant because 'capacity' was not defined anywhere. Administrator Reynolds said that has been unclear since the beginning and he did not have an official answer. The council agreed that town council meetings could be virtual in December. Administrator Reynolds told Councilor Copeland Happy Birthday, and Happy Birthday to Councilor Mariscal whose birthday was the following week.

Town Clerk – Clerk Harrison said that she had been putting together application/reporting packets for each of the tobacco retailers in town. The packets will have the new collection rates for 2021, and she and Administrator Reynolds will visit each retailer personally. Clerk Harrison said that the town had some computer equipment that was still being leased from Executech and that lease arrangement was moved to the current IT company, ProVelocity. The new equipment had arrived, and ProVelocity was making arrangements to install it. Clerk Harrison said that her Assistant, Bart Mendoza, was resurrecting the Snowman Contest for this year, so hopefully there would be snow. She said he will also be training with Administrative Assistant Nichols on programming the electronic door locks on Thursday. Clerk Harrison said that she had completed the FMLD grant agreements for the town hall window upgrades and the sludge bakery and gotten them returned to the FMLD. Clerk Harrison said that in the fee schedule adopted in November were the new rates for 2021, and her office was working on notices to the residents that will go in the utility bills. Clerk Harrison said that because the following week was a short week due to Thanksgiving, she would be completing council packet on Wednesday instead of Friday.

Town Treasurer – Treasurer Burk said that the town had applied for the second reimbursement for CARES Act funding. The total was \$244k and included the \$156k for the business assistance grants. Treasurer Burk said it was the busy time of year for finance with budget, year-end, 1099s and more.

Town Planner – Planner Smith said that the filing 11 application was under review at P&Z on Monday, November 23. Planner Smith said that the town zoning map was an important instrument used by the town, and it needed significant updates. He said staff had already met with Town Engineer Jeff Simonson about it. Planner Smith said he had been brainstorming something for 2021 and would need a team of people to consider a temporary ice rink, probably in the industrial zone district or River Park areas. Mayor A Riddle said he thought that a temporary ice rink had been considered for Burning Mountain Park. Administrator Reynolds said that Burning Mountain received a lot more sunshine than on the other side of the river. Unfortunately, the kits would not be available until the beginning of the year and was probably too late to happen in the upcoming winter season. The council thought it was a great idea.

Public Works Director – not present.

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – nothing to report.

Historic Preservation Commission – nothing to report.

Climate and Environment Commission – nothing to report.

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Senior Program - nothing to report.

RFTA – Mayor A Riddile said that RFTA was trying to increase bus capacity to 75% for the busy upcoming ski season, but it did not sound like that would happen. Mayor A Riddile said that RFTA was doing a major study about continuing the bus rapid transit (BRT) from 27th Street to the bridge. They were considering using an adjacent railroad corridor by the river trail, and eliminating parking in the downtown so they could have continuous bus lines. He said there was push back on both issues.

AGNC – nothing to report.

GCE – Councilor Leland said the big discussion was the solar mapping project. They were working on identifying locations that had a good sun, and when Xcel or any other service provider wanted to explore solar farms CLEER could give them a map. Councilor Leland said that he learned that there were several New Castle residents who had taken advantage of the \$150 rebate towards an energy audit of their homes. Councilor Leland said there were additional funds available for electric vehicle charging stations, and those funds were available to businesses or residents.

EAB – nothing to report.

Council Comments

Councilor Leland said that the Lions Club would be serving their annual turkey dinner as a drive through on Saturday from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. He said that many people came to the dinner for the social aspect, and he expected that many people would not come to the drive through. He said that the reason the Lions Club went through the long process of getting the event approved was because they figured it was perhaps the only way some people would get a Thanksgiving dinner.

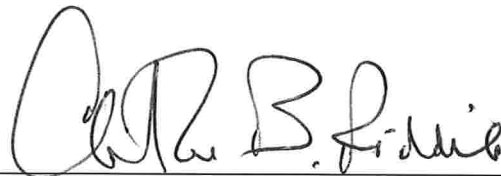
Mayor A Riddile read a thank you card from Garfield County Libraries for proclaiming September as Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Mayor A Riddile thanked the council members who added comments to his 70th Birthday Book.

MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to adjourn. Mayor A Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor A Riddile


Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

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