

**New Castle Town Council Regular Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, December 15, 2020, 7:00 PM**

Due to concerns related to COVID-19, the meeting was be held 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 Mariscal
	Councilor Hazelton
	Councilor Owens
	Mayor A Riddile
	Councilor G Riddile
	Councilor Leland
Absent	Councilor Copeland

Also present at the meeting were Town Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Clerk Melody Harrison, Town Treasurer Loni Burk and members of the public.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to excuse Councilor Copeland's absence. Councilor Leland 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

Clerk Harrison told the council that she wanted to remove the October 6, 2020 minutes from the consent agenda. The reason was because she had mistakenly added them in for approval, but they had previously been approved at the December 1, 2020 meeting. The council agreed to remove them.

Citizen Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no citizen comments.

Consultant Reports

Consultant Attorney – not present.

Consultant Engineer – not present.

Items for Consideration

Discussion and Direction Regarding COVID-19 Restrictions

Administrator Reynolds said that during the past ten months, in reaction to the COVID-19 national pandemic, the Town of New Castle had taken actions to protect Public Health and Safety among residents while also working to address the needs of the economy as represented by the many local businesses. He said the town had managed to keep its economy strong in the face of great challenges while also taking part in efforts to keep the residents protected in the face of serious health threats. He noted that businesses struggled to remain viable but had continued to move forward based only on their great determination and the community's willingness to stand behind them. Administrator Reynolds said that many had witnessed acts of kindness as residents worked to support one another in a common fight against the pandemic.

Administrator Reynolds said that both the Colorado Department of Health and the Garfield County Department of Health had been instrumental in providing information that had helped the town shape responses and policies. The town had used both State Health Department and Garfield County Health Department guidance for direction to accomplish the town's goals of protecting public health while also protecting local economy.

Purpose:

Administrator Reynolds said that the purpose of the agenda item was to discuss to following :

- The most recent move by the Colorado Department of Health to move Garfield County from the Orange Level to the Red Level on the State COVID-19 Protection Dial.
- The most recent news from Garfield County related to how the County wished to follow areas of the State COVID-19 Protection Dial.
- The most recent news from Garfield County related to how the County may, for the benefit of the local economy, choose to deviate from the State COVID-19 Protection Dial.

- Review of the differences between the various levels on the State COVID-19 Protection Dial. Business groups which are considered by definition within the State Covid-19 Protection Dial as either Critical Businesses or Non-Critical Businesses.
- Possible implications of movement within various levels of the State COVID-19 Dial on Public Health, Town Businesses, and Town Services.
- State Senate Bill 20B-001 which makes grant funding available to small non-critical businesses who are directly affected by mandated COVID-19 shut downs.
- Possible avenues by which the Town can continue to show support to our small business community regardless of the COVID Dial Level.

Administrator Reynolds said that the local area had recently experienced a serious increase in COVID-19 spread, and as changing times during the pandemic may require a review of policies and direction, it will be good to have Council review and discuss the above items. He also said that he had included the most current State COVID-19 Protection Dial Chart levels green through purple, a summary page of Level Red, and Public Health Order 20-36 Dec 7, 2020. He said that staff wanted to discuss various portions of the documents, as well as items of recent news in order to inform Council on the subject.

The council and staff discussed it in depth. Topics included business grants available to assist businesses, remaining CARES Act funds available to the town; the COVID-19 dial and the states' definitions; a resolution to be considered by the county the following day that redefined 'critical business'; the Five Star Program being used in Mesa County, Colorado; and a potential Five Star Program for Garfield County.

John Webber, Owner, 88 Grill. Mr. Webber said that his business partner ran several restaurants in Grand Junction, Colorado, which was in Mesa County. He noted, as Councilor Hazelton had, that the Five Star program in Mesa County was very different from the program being proposed for Garfield County. He felt that there were several reasons. When the program was implemented in Mesa County they had a very minimal COVID-19 problem and are not necessarily a tourist destination, so they had a much gentler curve. They reopened quickly and that turned out to be an issue. Mr. Webber said that he was aware that a restaurant qualifying in Mesa County for the Five Star Program was very easy at the time it was implemented. In reviewing the state guidelines for the Five Star program in Garfield County, he said the two programs were significantly different. Mr. Webber said he felt that everyone should be very careful in implementing a Five Star Program in Garfield County and that municipalities should be cautious of jumping on board to get it done because it will be very difficult for restaurants to do. In addition, he said qualifying could take months. Mr. Webber said that some of the requirements for a restaurant in the proposed Garfield County Five Star Program were fiscally prohibitive. He also said that some of the non-required items that could assist a restaurant in qualifying for Five Star status were fiscally prohibitive in the proposed program for Garfield County, while the Mesa County program was very lenient. He encouraged the council to use caution before agreeing. To make matters worse, Mr. Webber said that when the article in the Post Independent came out, it was just like what happened in March. He said his phone blew up with

employees worrying about their jobs and he had to get on Facebook and let the public know 88 Grill was still open. The article was devastating, and with Glenwood Springs closing all their restaurants, it negatively affected the restaurant businesses throughout the valley. Mr. Webber said that he felt the five star program idea came from the restaurants in Glenwood saying that the program needed to be implemented so they could reopen. He did not feel that was the appropriate order, rather, he felt that the Glenwood Council should let the restaurants reopen and then they could work on implementing a five star program.

Mr. Webber said that he applauded the County Health Department, the New Castle Town Council and the County Commissioners who had done nothing short of amazing.

Mr. Webber said that he would attend the Board of County Commissioners meeting the next day.

Mr. Webber offered to participate in any way, and offered to give advice as a restaurant owner.

The council thanked Mr. Webber for his comments.

The council agreed that they would not take a position for orange or red dial status, and wanted the restaurants to choose whether they stayed open or not and what the risks were.

Consider Health & Welfare Grants to Outside Agencies

Administrator Reynolds said this was the first round of grants to non-profit agencies. The second round will take place mid-summer. He said for the 2021 budget there was \$20k allocated to the grant process. That number was lower than in previous years and the reason was because the River Center funding had been taken out of the health & welfare budget and put in the 2021 budget as their own line item.

Administrator Reynolds said that staff was suggesting the first round of awards to go out at \$10,650.00, leaving \$9,350.00 for the second round.

Administrator Reynolds quickly reviewed each of the applications and the staff recommendation for funding.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the Health & Welfare Grants to Outside Agencies as presented. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed on a roll-call vote: Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor G Riddile: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Councilor Mariscal: yes; Councilor Owens: yes; Mayor A Riddile: yes.

Consider Ordinance TC 2020-8 - An Ordinance of the Town of New Castle, Colorado summarizing additional expenditures for the Utility Fund, Conservation Trust Fund and Cemetery Fund, and adopting a supplemental budget for the Town of New Castle, Colorado, for the calendar year beginning on the first day of January, 2020 and ending on the last day of December, 2020 (2nd reading)

Administrator Reynolds said that there had been no change to the ordinance since first reading.

Treasurer Burk said that the supplemental budget was to approve monies spent that were more than the approved budget. She said that the increase in the utility fund was because

the cost of the bulk water station was a bit higher than what was budgeted. The Conservation Trust fund increase was because there were additional funds spent for the engineering design of Burning Mountain Park. The Cemetery Fund was increased because they did not know until the end of the year what the expenses would be for the curator and they wanted to make sure there was enough to cover those.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve Ordinance TC 2020-8, An Ordinance of the Town of New Castle, Colorado summarizing additional expenditures for the Utility Fund, Conservation Trust Fund and Cemetery Fund, and adopting a supplemental budget for the Town of New Castle, Colorado, for the calendar year beginning on the first day of January, 2020 and ending on the last day of December, 2020 on 2nd reading. Councilor Leland seconded the motion and it passed on a roll-call vote: Councilor Hazelton: yes; Councilor G Riddile: yes; Councilor Mariscal: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor Owens: yes; Mayor A Riddile: yes.

Consent Agenda

~~October 6, 2020 minutes (removed)~~

October 20, 2020 minutes

November 3, 2020 minutes

November 17, 2020 minutes

Lazy Bear Restaurant Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the consent agenda, excluding the October 6, 2020 minutes. Councilor Leland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynolds said that the bulk water station was up and running, and he invited the council to try it out if they needed bulk water. He thanked everyone who worked on the project. He said that because there had been some glitches in the system the opening had not been advertised, but it will be in the newsletter, on the town website and on Facebook. Administrator Reynolds said to update the council, there had been some staff out with COVID, and some staff family members out with COVID. As part of CARES Act money, staff had ordered forty more rapid test kits for town hall. Administrator Reynolds said that the Snowman Contest will start up soon, and it will run longer before the contest concludes. Administrator Reynolds said the Administrative Assistant Debbie Nichols' last day would be Friday. Her replacement, Rochelle Firth, is doing well and will be introduced at a council meeting soon. Administrator Reynolds said that advertising had been done for a support position for finance and planning. The interview process will take place through mid-January and hopefully they will have someone on board in February. Administrator Reynolds said that he would be out of the office beginning Thursday, December 17 through Christmas. Administrator Reynolds said that town hall was open to visitors, but was requiring face coverings and only one person in the foyer at a time. No visitors will be allowed upstairs, and hand-sanitizer and other sanitizing products are available.

Town Clerk – Clerk Harrison said that her office was working on year-end, and year beginning. Clerk Harrison said that her Administrative Assistant Bart Mendoza had taken over door coding for all town facilities. Clerk Harrison said there would be a Historic Preservation meeting on Monday, December 21 so she was working with Admin. Asst. Mendoza to get back up to speed on MuniCode Meetings. Clerk Harrison said her office had been working on a couple phone issues, and she was training Admin. Asst. Mendoza to administer the phone system.

Town Treasurer – Treasurer Burk said that the Christmas money had been put into payroll and backed out so that proper taxes were paid. Treasurer Burk said that there was a council payroll calendar for 2021. Treasurer Burk thanked the council for approving the budget for the additional help in finance and said that she was looking forward to the help. Treasurer Burk said her office was preparing for year-end reporting.

Town Planner – not present.

Public Works Director – not present.

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – Mayor A Riddile said that two meetings ago was public comments, and at the last meeting was board comments and questions for the applicant. He said that Chair Apostolik wisely adjourned the meeting when it seemed to be not going well, and the meeting was continued until January. Mayor A Riddile said that Chair Apostolik asked the commission members to study the application and to come back with ideas. Mayor A Riddile said that at the next meeting he hoped they would be able to come to a vote.

Historic Preservation Commission – nothing to report.

Climate and Environment Commission – nothing to report.

Senior Program – nothing to report.

RFTA – Mayor A Riddile said that RFTA had discussed the budget. He also told the council that he would no longer be the Chair, but would remain on the RFTA board.

AGNC – nothing to report.

GCE – Councilor Leland said that GCE had primarily discussed the budget.

EAB – nothing to report.

Council Comments

Councilor Leland said that there was a new coffee house opening in the New Castle Plaza. He asked if anyone knew anything about it. Mayor A Riddile said that if it was the same person he was aware of, he had been looking for a location in New castle for some time. Councilor Leland said that the City Market had their staffing back and apparently they had been short-staffed because of employees that had been in contact with COVID-positive persons, but none of the employees had it.

Councilor Hazelton wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and said that it had been a pleasure working with everyone through some very bizarre times. He said he appreciated everyone.

Mayor A Riddile said that Beth Sass who sat on the Panning & Zoning Commission e-mailed him to thank the council for the gift to P&Z.

Mayor A Riddile said there were many thank you cards to the council from the girl scouts, boy scouts, the motel owners and senior programs.

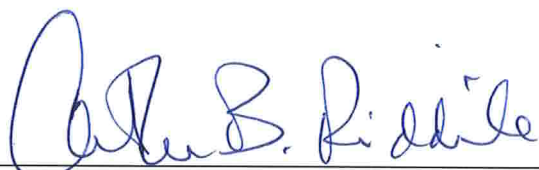
Mayor A Riddile said that he wanted everyone to go look at a website: thepromiseofcastlevalley.com. He said there was a for-sale sign on the Craven property and the website was related.

Mayor A Riddile wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor A Riddile



Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

