

**New Castle Town Council Regular Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, March 16, 2021, 7:00 PM**

Due to concerns related to COVID-19, this 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 Mariscal (arrived at 7:02 p.m.)
	Councilor Hazelton
	Mayor A Riddile
	Councilor Copeland
	Councilor Leland
	Councilor G Riddile
Absent	Councilor Owens

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

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to excuse Councilor Owens' absence. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed with Mayor A Riddile voting no.

Meeting Notice

Town Clerk Melody Harrison verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2021-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Agenda Changes

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Clerk Harrison told the council that she wanted to remove the March 2, 2021 minutes from the consent agenda because she had not completed them. The council agreed.

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: Public Opinion Survey - Bill Ray, WR Communications

Mr. Ray greeted the council. He said that he had been working with the staff team to understand the town's budget challenges, the sources of revenue, where those were being prioritized and where the needs were. The purpose was to use that information to create a narrative to share with the community on where the town was with the budget and where there were issues that were of concern. He said that it was important in keeping the lines of dialog and information flow open with the community, especially since community feedback was being sought in relation to the condition of the town infrastructure for roads and parks.

Referring to the narrative in the packet, he briefly reviewed it for the council. He also discussed the draft survey that was in the packet, noting that it utilized some of the same questions used in the 2019 survey that led to two successful ballot issues. He said that the reason for using similar questions was to create a time-series about how the community felt about the issues and to understand if the community's feeling about the town's performance was improving or not.

Mr. Ray said that the council had all the information in their packet, and he was glad to hear any immediate feedback or questions. He also invited the council to provide their feedback via e-mail if they preferred.

Mayor A Riddle asked how many questions had been on the 2019 survey.

Mr. Ray screen-shared the survey from 2019 and reviewed it for the council. He said it was quite a lengthy survey but there had been great feedback.

The council and Mr. Ray discussed the 2021 survey briefly. They also discussed the timing of a ballot issue in 2021 on the tails of a pandemic and the difficulty in getting issues passed that funded streets.

Mr. Ray said that the timeline goal was to get the survey drafted and received council feedback by the end of the week. The materials will be translated into Spanish. He said that an article would be in the April newsletter so that the citizens had a heads up that the survey would be coming. The final version was planned to be mailed to residents in early April and Mr. Ray said he hoped to be sharing the survey results with the council in early to mid-May so they could consider what the next steps might be. He told the council that the deadline to notify the county of an intent to place something on the November ballot was in July, and final ballot language will be due the first week of September so there was time for the council to consider whether to move forward with a ballot issue.

Councilor G Riddile said that he felt the town budget was in good shape, and it appeared that the town would be receiving federal stimulus monies as well. He said that he felt that a ballot tax issue was not necessary.

Councilor Copeland said she agreed that it was not a good year to put anything on the ballot but felt that the public survey was a great tool, and it was nice to hear from the public.

The council agreed that they would wait until the survey results were back before they decided what the next steps would be. They thanked Mr. Ray for his presentation and expertise.

Presentation: LoVa Trail from New Castle to Silt - Jeanne Golay

Jeanne Golay, Executive Director, LoVa Trail. Ms. Golay greeted the council and told them that she wanted to talk to them regarding the LoVa/Coal Ridge Trail. The trail will connect New Castle and the Town of Silt. She said that she had heard from the county commissioners several times that they were interested in that section of trail, so she had reached out to the two Town's mayors to begin conversation and gauge interest.

Ms. Golay gave a power point presentation that described the conceptual idea of the trail. She said that the county was agreeable to being a fiscal agent for potential grants for the project, and she suggested that application should be made for Garfield County conservation trust funds which could be utilized as match money for a Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) planning grant. The CPW grant application period would be in October, and Ms. Golay felt that it would be a strong application, however, she also thought that it may require a regional coalition to accomplish.

The council voiced concern that the New Castle staff was quite busy and already managing the LoVa Trail projects between Glenwood Springs and New Castle, and they felt that if the county and the Town of Silt were willing to take the lead on the proposed Coal Ridge portion, New Castle would certainly be a supporter.

The council told Ms. Golay that they appreciated her presentation and agreed that the trail was needed.

Consider Ordinance TC 2021-1 - an Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Adding Sections 1.16.050 TO 1.16.070 of Chapter 1.16 to Title 1 of the New Castle Municipal Code Pertaining to Elections (2nd reading)

Clerk Harrison said that the ordinance had not changed since first reading, with the exception that a duplicate statement had been removed.

Clerk Harrison said that the ordinance provided the clerk's office and attorney with some leverage in the event a candidate violated a portion of campaign finance law or a complaint was made about a candidate's campaign. She clarified and said that in her ten years with New Castle, she had not had any issues with a candidate, but that it would be good to have code in place, nonetheless.

MOTION: Councilor G Riddile made a motion to approve Ordinance TC 2021-1, an Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Adding Sections 1.16.050 TO 1.16.070 of Chapter 1.16 to Title 1 of the New Castle Municipal Code Pertaining to Elections on 2nd reading. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed on a roll-call vote: Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Mayor A Riddile: yes; Councilor Mariscal: yes; Councilor Copeland: yes; Councilor G

Riddile: yes.

Consent Agenda

~~March 2, 2016 minutes~~ - removed

Hong's Garden Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

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

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – not present.

Town Clerk – Clerk Harrison gave each council member a copy of a support letter that Administrator Reynolds wanted them to consider, and that was a support letter for the Middle Colorado Watershed's application to the Colorado River District's Partnership Project Funding Program to support a post-fire water quality monitoring project to mitigate the impacts of the 2020 Grizzly Creek Fire. Clerk Harrison told the council that her Administrative Assistant, Bart Mendoza, had put in his notice because he would be moving out of state. She said that his last day would be March 26.

Town Treasurer – Treasurer Burk said that she had received the sales tax report for January 2021, and it was up 12% from 2020. Treasurer Burk said that the tobacco tax for January was over \$31k, and that did not include City Market. Treasurer Burk said that her department had been dealing with several fraudulent unemployment claims which was quite complicated.

Town Planner – not present.

Public Works Director – not present.

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – nothing to report.

Historic Preservation Commission – Councilor Copeland said that at the last meeting the commission had reviewed the town engineer's report on the condition of the museum. She said they had also discussed what opportunities there were to obtain funds for the repairs.

Climate and Environment Commission – nothing to report.

Senior Program – nothing to report.

RFTA – Mayor A Riddile said that ridership was increasing for RFTA.

AGNC – nothing to report.

GCE – Councilor Leland said that the Solarize Garfield County program had started, and 250 people had signed up and 9 systems had been sold.

EAB – nothing to report.

Council Comments

Councilor G Riddile said that he thought it might be a good idea for the council to put a conversation on an agenda regarding future growth and how to manage it. He said he had some concern about developers making multiple applications to the town for subdivisions but were not building anything. The council felt it may be good to discuss with staff and the town attorney.

Councilor Leland said that he had received a mailing from the 'New Castle Emergency Appeal for the National Police Association'. He said it stated that money would be spent opposing Black Lives Matter. Councilor Leland said that he did not think that New Castle Police Department (NCPD) had an emergency to oppose a social movement. After some

research, he said it appeared to be a scam, and he was concerned that if anyone else in town received the mailing and did not read it closely that they would believe it was from the NCPD asking for money.

Councilor Hazelton asked if there might be a better way of communicating vacations because a lot of staff effort went into organizing council meetings, and it was important that council members attend.

Mayor A Riddile said that Riverside Middle School had sent a thank you to the town thanking the town and community for their continued support through the pandemic.

Mayor A Riddile said that Cub Scout Troop 221 held their Pinewood Derby the previous weekend. He said there are 35 members in the troop which was amazing. Troop Leader John Harcourt did a great job and was passionate about scouting. Mayor A Riddile suggested that if anyone saw Mr. Harcourt to thank him.

Councilor Leland said that the police department had entered the derby.

Mayor A Riddile said they had built a derby car and entered the race. Chief Pagni, Sergeant Burrows and Officer Rubio served as race judges. He said there were pictures on the Visit New castle Facebook page.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor A Riddile


Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC