

**New Castle Town Council Regular Virtual Meeting
Tuesday, April 20, 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 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present	Councilor Hazelton Mayor A Riddile Councilor Leland (virtual) Councilor G Riddile Councilor Owens Councilor Copeland Councilor Mariscal
Absent	None

Also present at the meeting were Town Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Clerk Melody Harrison, Town Treasurer Loni Burk

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

There were no agenda changes.

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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

Girl Scout Troop 10239 Bronze Award Project - Alder Pond

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds introduced Abby Anthony, Gracie Campbell and Sylvia Duchscher, Girl Scouts Troop 10239. Miss Anthony, Miss Campbell and Miss Duchscher gave a power point presentation about the Bronze Award Project they completed at Alder Pond. The project included three microfilament recycling stations and three eco-education signs. The Girl Scouts studied the park and pond area and determined what they felt the needs were to maintain a clean and balanced ecosystem for the pond.

The council congratulated the Girl Scouts on a well-done project.

Consider a Letter of Interest from Steve Rippy for Reappointment to a Seat on the Historic Preservation Commission

Clerk Harrison told the council that Mr. Steve Rippy was interested in being reappointed to seat on the Historic Preservation Commission but unfortunately, was unable to attend the council meeting.

MOTION: Councilor G Riddile made a motion to reappoint Steve Rippy to a seat on the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilor Owens seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilor Copeland asked if there would be some way to receive communication for Mr. Rippy when he would be unable to attend meetings. She said that she had been at three meetings where he did not show. She said that she appreciated that he was on the commission, but there were so few people on it that it caused quorum issues when other members did not arrive. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Consider a Letter of Interest from Mari Riddile for Reappointment to a Seat on the Historic Preservation Commission

Mayor A Riddile greeted Ms. Riddile and thanked her for her desire to continue on the commission.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to reappoint Mari Riddile to a seat on the Historic Preservation Commission. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update: Climate and Environment Commission

Councilor Leland, council representative on the Climate and Environment Commission, introduced Denise Scheberle, Commission Chair.

Chair Scheberle greeted the council and provided an update of the commission activities for the past year. She said they began by reviewing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Plan and the town's Climate Action Plan. They subsequently rewrote the Town Climate Action plan, creating an updated set of goals, and she detailed those goals. She also described the four key strategies the commission would implement to achieve the goals. Councilor Leland and Commissioner Candriea commented that they were happy to be on the commission and looked forward to more projects in the upcoming year. Mayor A Riddile thanked the commission for their hard work.

Consider a Trail License and Management Agreement with RG Lakota III, LLC

Administrator Reynolds told the council that the purpose of the item was to consider a trail license and maintenance agreement with RG Lakota III, LLC. He said that Mr. Romero was present to speak with the council.

Administrator Reynolds said that the proposed agreement that was in the packet was like the agreements signed with Steve Craven and Aaron Atkinson to allow public use of the trails on private property. He said it was a win-win situation where residents could still use the trails and the property owners were provided some liability protections under the law. Administrator Reynolds thanked Councilor G Riddile for all the work he put into creating the trails maps and for working with the Golf Course Manager and property owner on the project.

Administrator Reynolds reviewed some details of the agreement for the council. He noted that the exhibits called out in the agreement were incomplete since they did not have titles on them, and he asked that the council consider approving the agreement with the caveat that staff would make the exhibit corrections.

Dwayne Romero of the Romero Group LLC greeted the council. He said that he was excited about the trail agreement because it was good for the community and like the Town of New Castle, the Romero Group was about building a lasting community full of vitality that connected to the natural landscape. Mr. Romero said the trails were for hiking and biking and everyone to use. In the winter people could be on the cart paths, but the trails expanded opportunities to recreate. Mr. Romero said that they invite the foot traffic and wanted the community that everyone was welcome to patronize the restaurant in the clubhouse called The Lookout.

Mr. Romero thanked Councilor G Riddile and Adam Cornely.

Councilor G Riddile said that adding the trails on the Lakota property will enhance the biking/hiking experience for everyone and that he was very excited for the partnership.

MOTION: Councilor G Riddile made a motion to approve a Trails License and Management Agreement with RG Lakota III, LLC, with minor exhibit amendments to be performed by staff. Councilor Owens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion and Direction: Colorado Brain Injury Program

Administrator Reynolds explained that the Brain Injury Program was something that had been mandated some years ago, and each speeding ticket issued included a \$15.00 surcharge. Those funds were then remitted to the Brain Injury Program, which in turn

used those funds for research related to the care and treatment of brain injury, education about brain injury, and to provide direct support for Coloradans with brain injury and their families.

Administrator Reynolds said that staff was asking for direction from the council on whether the town should continue to collect the fee and what should be done with the money: it could still be remitted to the brain injury program, or it could be kept by the town. He said that Police Chief Tony Pagni was not interested in the funds being kept by the town because he felt that would be in bad form. Chief Pagni felt that either the fee should continue to be collected and remitted to the brain injury program or should be eliminated altogether.

After a brief discussion, the council felt that more research needed to be done and Councilor Copeland said she was glad to do that and report back to council.

Consent Agenda

Resolution TC 2021-10 - Supporting a Colorado Department of Transportation Grant Application

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 told the council that the state COVID dial had been eliminated and that mask orders had also been modified. He said they were still required indoors, and staff was still wearing them, but the mask order may go away after thirty days. Administrator Reynolds said that at the last council meeting there had been an earmark discussion, and the senate had apparently decided to be silent on the issue in the current budget season, so it would go nowhere for the time being. Administrator Reynolds said that staff had been considering some changes to the town website. He said that Clerk Harrison and her team had done a great job migrating the town website to a new platform a few years earlier, and staff now felt that some other upgrades might be valuable. He told council that the cost would be around \$5k and Treasurer Burk felt comfortable with the budget and asked if the council would also be comfortable. The council agreed. Administrator Reynolds said that there had been a Facebook blowup over the weekend regarding a situation at the skatepark in Castle Valley Ranch where a woman and her five kids were confronted by two middle-school teens after she requested that the teens to turn down their music that had vulgar lyrics. The police were called and the whole incident was caught on video. Subsequently, it was posted on Facebook and got more than 100 comments before the site administrator shut it down. Administrator Reynolds said that none of the comments were directed at the town or at the police. Instead, the comments were around parenting and parenting skills. The posting person was the husband of the woman involved, and his intent was that parents needed to do parenting work. Word ended up getting to the parents of the two teens who then reached out to the police department and it ended on a good note. Administrator Reynolds said

that staff had met with the university team regarding Frank Breslin Park. He said that staff was excited about the possibilities. Staff had given feedback to the team and will refine the drawings and then it will be likely ready to roll out to the public. Administrator Reynolds told the council that Chief Pagni's new officer was on the job and he was working out well. He also said that Chief Pagni would introduce his new officer and clerk to the council at an upcoming meeting. Administrator Reynolds said that he and Administrative Assistant Rochelle Firth were working with Councilor Leland and CEC to create a product for residents on how to prepare for fire season. Admin. Asst Firth had reached out to the fire department and they are happy to assist. Administrator Reynolds said that Admin. Asst. Firth was signed up for class on incident command since she is the town's Public Information Officer. Administrator Reynolds said that he had been regularly meeting with the BLM, forest service and local jurisdictions to share information on what was going on with each agency. Part of that collaboration it was decided to do a clean-up of the gun range just outside New Castle. Administrator Reynolds said that Castle Valley Ranch had done their tree planting Friday and Saturday. Town staff had marked locations and provided irrigation but said that the timing was rough because the ditches had just opened last week, so tree watering was being done by hand until irrigation system was up and running. Administrator Reynolds said that the building and planning department will be moving into the space that was a conference room in the upstairs. He also said that the new windows had greatly improved the temperature inside the building, and it will be a much more professional setting. Administrator Reynolds said that council chambers will be utilized for meetings.

Councilor Owens asked how the bulk water station was doing. Administrator Reynolds said that he did not have the numbers ready, but it was trending towards meeting the estimated budget. He told the council that it had a sophisticated but not difficult system that accepted credit card payments. Staff also had the ability to set up pre-pay accounts.

Town Clerk – Clerk Harrison told the council that she had made an offer to an applicant for the Administrative Assistant to the Town Clerk position and that offer had been accepted. She will start with the town on May 3. Clerk Harrison said that she and Deputy Town Clerk Mindy Andis had been discussing what the Administrative Assistant position would look like going forward with the intent for that position to carry a higher level of responsibility in the department to provide a greater balance in the department. Clerk Harrison said that she had been very busy reviewing applications and conducting both phone and in-person interviews. Clerk Harrison said that with the recent changes in staff for different departments, there had been some challenges with programming the desktop phone system but that she had received an on-the-fly training with technical assistance and now had better knowledge of how the system worked. She noted that although she had been provided administrative access to the system, she had learned that system on her own which had been difficult at times. Clerk Harrison said that she had spent some time studying Colorado liquor law for some questions that had come up recently about licensing alternatives in town, specifically entertainment districts and alcohol consumption in the community center. Clerk Harrison said that she and Deputy Andis had been recruited to organize the beer tent for Burning Mountain Festival and once Ms. Bordelon was on board, they would begin planning in earnest. Clerk Harrison said that Spellebration

will be held on Friday, April 30 and the event will be virtual. She said that unfortunately, both herself and Administrator Reynolds would be out of town, so if anyone on council wanted to put together a virtual Spellebration team to let her know as soon as possible. Clerk Harrison said that she would be out of town starting Thursday, April 22 returning Monday, May 3, 2021. Councilor Owens asked if Clerk Harrison had thought about adding some HR responsibilities to that position, since Clerk Harrison had expressed interest in the past of taking on the HR responsibilities. Clerk Harrison said she had not considered it, but would certainly be interested.

Town Treasurer – not present.

Town Planner – not present.

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.

Senior Program – nothing to report.

RFTA – nothing to report.

AGNC – nothing to report.

GCE – nothing to report.

EAB – nothing to report.

Council Comments

Councilor Leland said that the owl meeting camera was fascinating. He described what it was like to watch, saying it had seamless performance. Councilor Leland said that he did have trouble hearing some people, so thought perhaps the microphone could be adjusted. Councilor Leland said that he hoped someone would volunteer for Spellebration. Besides the event being virtual, there would also not be any team elimination. All teams will spell all the way through.

Councilor Mariscal thanked Administrator Reynolds for handling the skate park issue.

Councilor Mariscal said that the Attorney General (AG) would be in Meeker and she had hoped to get him to come to New Castle, but he will not be able to do that. She said that the AG will speak at the AGNC meeting about the wolf reintroduction and she will attend to listen. Later the AG will go to Youth Zone and apparently will be offering them funding. Councilor Mariscal said that Senator Hickenlooper's team had reached out to her but she did not yet know what they wanted to speak about.

Councilor Mariscal said that County Commissioner Mike Samson had mentioned that he was interested in hosting a group that consisted of Latino members from each municipality to better understand the Latino community. She said that she would take the lead on that and reach out to Commissioner Samson.

Councilor Hazelton asked if the Rollie Gordon Trail could be part of the wildfire mitigation conversation. Administrator Reynolds agreed it could.

Mayor A Riddle read thank you card from Garage Lodge for the stimulus money given to them. He noted that the council had not seem very many thank you from everyone to whom they gave stimulus money and he felt that was sad.

Mayor A Riddile read thank you from River Bridge.

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

Mayor A Riddile read thank you from River Bridge.

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

