

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, March 01, 2022, 7:00 PM**

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

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

Meeting Notice

Town Clerk Melody Harrison verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2022-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes.

Citizen Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no citizen comments.

Consultant Reports

Consultant Attorney – present for items on the agenda.
Consultant Engineer – not present.

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Items for Consideration

Consider an Agreement with the US Department of Interior Geological Survey for Installation and Maintenance of a Water Gauging Station

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds told the council that the request from the U.S. Geological Survey was to install a water gauging station at Rollie Gordon Park. Bryan Moore, U.S.G.S. Supervisory Hydrologic Technician. Mr. Moore screen shared a power point presentation that detailed U.S.G.S.'s Next Generation Observing System project which will provide an opportunity to improve regional water prediction in snowmelt dominated systems. The project identified the need for water monitoring or gauging waterflow of Elk Creek as a major tributary of the main stem of the Colorado River. The gauging stations will aid in short and long-term predictions of annual run-off and water supply.

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds said that there was electric available in the planter box in Rollie Gordon Park and if that was acceptable, then there would be no need for the solar panels as shown in the images. Mr. Moore said that would be fine. He also said that there would be no cost to the town for installation or maintenance of the gauging station. Mr. Moore told the council that information gathered by the station would be available online for anyone to review.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the agreement with the US Department of the Interior Geological Survey for Installation and Maintenance of a Water Gauging Station. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider Funding Request from Mind Springs Health for Regional Detox Center

Administrator Reynolds said that Debbie Wilde of Mind Springs Health had come to the council to explain that Mind Springs Health, working with Garfield County and municipal partners, was hoping to open a detox center in a facility they had purchased in Glenwood Springs. He noted that Mind Springs had committed to returning to each municipality to discuss how the facility might be run and what each town may be interested in contributing.

Administrator Reynolds introduced Roger Sheffield of Mind Springs Health.

Mr. Sheffield greeted the council, and offered apologies for Debbie Wilde who was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Sheffield said that Mind Springs Health moved into their new facility a year earlier. He said that there is a space on the back of the building slated for the detox facility. He said that a committee had been formed that included the department of human services, members of the county and others to look at the need for a detox center. Mr. Sheffield said that they had been able to secure approximately \$700k for construction costs and initial start-up for the facility. Mr. Sheffield said that they had been working on the annual operational costs of the facility for the next five years which they would share with the council. He said that there was a gap in the various funding sources.

Mr. Sheffield introduced the following Mind Springs staff: Felicia Romero, in charge of Mind Springs 24/7 program for crisis and outpatient. Megan Navarro, who ran the inpatient, 90-day facility which was the Circle Program for men and the Women's

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Recovery Center in Clifton, Colorado. Doug Pattison, current interim CEO, and permanent CFO of Mind Springs Health and West Springs Hospital, and he works at the Mind Springs Foundation. Hans Lutgring, Garfield County Program Director.

Mr. Sheffield said that the grant funding would not be paid directly to Mind Springs, rather it will go to the group that oversees the project.

Sharon Longhurst-Pritt, Director of Garfield County Department of Human Services.

Director Longhurst-Pritt said that the money was secured through the Office of Behavioral Health and was grant money that would be paid to the County and subsequently to Mind Springs as a sub-contractor for the buildout of the detox center.

Doug Pattison reviewed the proposed layouts of the detox facility on a screen-shared document. In addition, he shared a preliminary five-year pro forma that showed figures for operating costs that came from a number of funding resources. He explained that there was a funding gap that needed to be filled by ten entities: Valley View Hospital, Grand River Hospital, Town of Silt, City of Rifle, Town of Carbondale, Town of Parachute, City of Glenwood Springs, Town of New Castle, and Garfield County. He was uncertain where Parachute fell in the plan, but he said that they were trying to get ten entities to collaborate in filling the operational funding gap. He felt the collaboration would fall under an IGA. Mr. Pattison said he wasn't asking for any money, rather he was hoping for a sense of whether the council understood their vision of the project. Mr. Pattison said that he hoped the council understood how the project might play out on a timeline and that it was something that everyone could commit to, because Mind Springs could not move forward with construction until they had financial commitments to close the funding gap. He shared the proposed amounts that each municipality might be able to pay to fill the gap.

Ms. Felicia Romero and Ms. Megan Navarro gave detailed descriptions of the process by which clients would be admitted to the detox center and the various programs available. Mayor A Riddle said that he felt the detox center project was great and something needed in the area.

Mayor A Riddle asked the New Castle Police Chief Tony Pagni to comment on New Castle's need for a detox facility. Chief Pagni said that his answer was two-fold. First, he said that the people that the department typically made contact with were those involved in criminal activity. At that point, he said the officers will either order an M-1 hold or charge them. He felt that the town may have on or two people per year that would be eligible to go to detox. Second, Chief Pagni said that there had been talk for more than a year about the Recovery Continuum of Care which he felt was important because there were those who were repeat offenders who would get cleaned up, then go back out and cause the same problems and end up back in the system. Chief Pagni said that there was no help for that person, and the Continuum of Care will provide help.

Mind Springs staff provided information about how the detox facility operated in Mesa County, and comparatively, how the facility in Garfield County would operate in regards to patient admittance. Councilor Hazelton said that he had not fully followed the pro-forma, but would like to see some comparisons between Mesa and Garfield counties regarding the amount of funding that small municipalities in Mesa County contributed. Mr. Pattison said that there was not an IGA that governs the detox center in Mesa County.

Administrator Reynolds asked if there was a pro-forma that showed a gap analysis with speculation of what the partner shares would be. Mr. Pattison said that it was the same model he had shared with the council earlier, but that he had hidden the rows so as not to upset anyone over the numbers. Mr. Pattison unhid the rows that showed the best-case

scenario and said that he understood that the towns would be receiving opioid money and he suggested that the towns could contribute their opioid money to the detox facility. The council questioned why the amount for New Castle was so much higher than Rifle or Glenwood Springs. Mr. Pattison said the numbers were a guess, but they had also tried to determine what the amounts of opioid funding each town would receive and they based numbers on that.

Councilor Mariscal said that she was on the Mind Springs website and it showed that there were 142 positions available, and she was concerned how a detox center could be opened or maintained with such a staffing issues.

Ms. Romero said that Mind Springs typically kept detox positions listed on their website all the time, whether the position were available or not so that people interested in getting into the field of detox and recovery always had a chance to apply. She further stated that they were fully staffed in Grand Junction and did not have a problem being fully staffed even though there were positions listed. Ms. Navarro said that she used the same model and although they were also fully staffed, they listed positions which made it look as if there were many positions available. She also said that they liked to grow people in the company and when someone moved up they liked to have the positions available to keep the hiring process going.

Mayor A Riddile thanked Mind Springs for their presentation and said that the council will give it some thought. He said he felt it was a terrific project and something needed in the area. He asked Mr. Sheffield what the timeline was.

Mr. Sheffield said that Glenwood Springs Manager Debra Figueroa was working with her city attorney creating an IGA. He said he thought it might be several weeks before it was ready for review, and at that point they would put the numbers in it.

Mr. Sheffield told the council that he was local and offered that they should reach out to him if there were questions.

Mayor A Riddile thanked Mind Springs for their presentation.

Review and Consideration of a Letter of Intent from the Greater Roaring Fork Valley Housing Coalition Steering Committee

Administrator Reynolds said that there was a group in the valley, Roaring Fork Housing Coalition Committee, that had teamed with another group in the valley which was working on a recovery road map, which was a DOLA grant opportunity that was applied for by the towns of Glenwood Springs to Aspen. Both groups independently identified that housing was an issue in the valley. They came together and asked how they could take a regional approach to housing issues in the valley, leaving nothing out.

Administrator Reynolds said that one of the things the two groups was looking at was forming a non-profit organization for the purpose of directing housing projects from Aspen to Parachute.

Administrator Reynolds said that the American Rescue Act monies will give the state \$450 million dollars to put into housing projects. The group felt that it would be appropriate to for a non-profit because the money from the state is able to go to non-profits as well as municipalities. Administrator Reynolds said they were in the process of forming the non-profit with a board of directors, who will then review what projects were viable between Aspen and Parachute and then determine where there might be opportunity to obtain money from that \$450 million.

Councilor Leland said that he felt that New Castle needed to stay involved with the group because he was concerned that workers from up-valley may take up all the affordable housing in New Castle, leaving nothing for New Castle workers. Administrator Reynolds said that was a topic of conversation with the group and they all agreed that housing for workers needed to be where they worked to reduce commuting. In addition, down-valley managers had met and agreed that they needed to focus on how to grow the down-valley economy to bring in business so that down-valley residents did not have to commute. Administrator Reynolds said that the group felt that starting with municipalities was the best place to begin the conversations, and eventually it will expand to include some of the larger up-valley employers. Administrator Reynolds said that other down-valley municipalities were not likely to pay the \$10k at this time but will attend the meetings and see how the project progresses.

The council and staff discussed it briefly and agreed that Administrator Reynolds would continue to attend the meetings and would keep the council informed.

Capital Committee Report

Councilor G Riddile screen-shared a power point presentation that was a detailed report on the town's capital projects. The report was the result of the Capital Projects Committee's work.

Councilor G Riddile gave an in-depth review of the report with assistance Administrator Reynolds, who detailed the grant strategy for the next few years.

The council and staff discussed various projects identified in the report in detail. The council thanked Councilor G Riddile for the presentation.

Recess the Town Council Meeting, Convene as the Water & Sewer Enterprise

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile Made a motion to recess the town council meeting and to convene as the Water and Sewer Enterprise. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider Ordinance E 2022-2 - an Ordinance of the Town of New Castle Water & Sewer Enterprise Amending Chapter 13.20 of the New Castle Municipal Code Concerning Tap Fees (1st reading)

Administrator Reynolds reminded that at the prior council meeting, Public Works Director John Wenzel had provided a rational nexus study report regarding the town tap fees and how much they should be. After hearing the study, council had directed staff to bring an ordinance back for consideration that increased the taps from the current \$6,000.00 per tap to \$9,700.00 per tap. He said that staff was also directed to adjust out-of-town taps fee by the same percentage, which would increase those to \$16,200.00 per tap.

Administrator Reynolds said that the ordinance under consideration made the adjustments to the higher rates.

Councilor Leland noted that there was a correction to the ordinance that he saw as necessary. He explained them for the council, and Town Attorney David McConaughy agreed and said that the correction will be made before second reading.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve Ordinance E 2022-2, an Ordinance of the Town of New Castle Water & Sewer Enterprise Amending

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Chapter 13.20 of the New Castle Municipal Code Concerning Tap Fees on 1st reading. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed on a roll-call vote: Councilor G Riddile: yes; Mayor A Riddile: yes; Councilor Owens: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor Copeland: yes; Councilor Mariscal: yes.

Adjourn the Water & Sewer Enterprise, Reconvene the Town Council Meeting

MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to adjourn the Water & Sewer Enterprise and to reconvene as the town council meeting. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider Ordinance TC 2022-5, an Ordinance of the Town of New Castle Town Council Amending Chapter 1.16 of the New Castle Municipal Code Concerning Elections (2nd reading)

Attorney McConaughy said that the ordinance was to make a code change that was contemplated by state statutes that said the election could be cancelled if there were no more candidates than seats to be filled, including write-in candidates. He said that the code change will not affect the April 2022 election because there are more candidates than seats, but it could in the future.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve Ordinance TC 2022-5, an Ordinance of the Town of New Castle Town Council Amending Chapter 1.16 of the New Castle Municipal Code Concerning Elections on 2nd reading. Councilor Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed on a roll-call vote: Mayor A Riddile: yes; Councilor G Riddile: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Councilor Owens: yes; Councilor Copeland: yes; Councilor Mariscal: yes.

Consider Resolution TC 2022-10 - a Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Ratifying Resolution TC 2022-8 and Resolution TC 2022-9 Heretofore Approved by Town Council

MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2022-10, a Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Ratifying Resolution TC 2022-8 and Resolution TC 2022-9 Heretofore Approved by Town Council. Mayor A Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

February Bills of \$443,388.98

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

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynolds reminded the council that the Meet the Candidates Night will be on Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Center, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. Administrator Reynolds said that bids for the LoVa project are close to being done. He said that they had met with contractors about it, and the bid opening will be the following week. Administrator Reynolds said that the Snowman

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Contest was over, trophies had been delivered and the kids were thrilled with them. Administrator Reynolds said that there was an unnamed donor who was donating park benches for Mt. Medaris. Staff was working through the options with the donor. Administrator Reynolds said that he was involved in a group that was looking at mental health care in the valley. They were putting out a survey to the voters to see if they would be interested in a sales tax or property tax to fund mental health care. Administrator Reynolds said that New Castle Trails (NCT) was requesting that the town go to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to ask for \$10k from the county Conservation Trust Fund. The BOCC is only able to give conservation trust funds to municipalities, not to private groups. He said he was working on a presentation for the funding request.

Town Clerk – Clerk Harrison told the council that TABOR notices for the ballot issue had gone out on Monday. She said she and Deputy Town Clerk Mindy Andis had created a training and reference manual for the election judges. Clerk Harrison said they were still looking for a few more election judges. Clerk Harrison said that ballots will be mailed on March 14. Clerk Harrison said that the town will use the ballot box that Garfield County had installed outside the town hall. Clerk Harrison said that election day was the same day as a council meeting, so the meeting will be moved across the street to the Community Center, and that she and her staff were working on some logistics to manage both events. Clerk Harrison said that the main printer in the admin office had literally blown a fuse the previous day, but due to supply chain issues, no fuses were available, so staff was hoping that a loaner printer would be available soon. Clerk Harrison said that New Castle had hosted the Senior Programs meeting in chambers the previous Friday. She said that Senior Programs had been meeting virtually for about 24 months, and last week was their first hybrid in-person/virtual meeting. She said that they were hoping the county would provide the same meeting technology for Senior Programs. Clerk Harrison said that the Black Dog Saloon was closed, and she was not certain why. She said there had been a transfer of the liquor license to a new owner in process, but that had been withdrawn and she had not other information. Clerk Harrison said she was working through the certification process with CBI to be able to obtain fingerprint background results for liquor licensing. She said that the state had gone to third-party vendors for fingerprinting and had rescinded authority from the police department to receive the results. Clerks were now responsible to become CBI certified for liquor licensing background investigations. Clerk Harrison told the council that the Historic Preservation Commission had applied for a grant that would pay for the historic building survey, and Administrative Assistant Remi Bordelon had received word earlier in the day that they had been awarded that grant. Clerk Harrison said that there was a new permitting process through the state only that allowed some classes of liquor license holders to apply for what was called a festival permit. That permit would allow, for instance, an H&R license to apply their ability to serve alcohol at another location for a 'festival', and no notice to or approval from the local authority was required. Clerk Harrison said she was studying the issue to determine whether the town should consider a permitting process for the festival permits.

Town Treasurer – nothing to report.
Town Planner – not present.
Public Works Director -

Commission Reports

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Planning & Zoning Commission – Mayor A Riddile said P&Z had talked about some code revisions for streets and sidewalks.

Historic Preservation Commission – nothing to report.

Climate and Environment Commission – Councilor Leland said CEC had worked on Earth Weekend activities. He said they suggested that neighborhoods clean up their streets from winter trash, similar to what Apple Tree Park did. He said they will need some garbage bags and will pay for them from their budget. Councilor Leland said that CEC will have Ever Green Zero Waste at the Earth Weekend event and they will provide information about composting and will give away free compost as well.

Senior Program – Clerk Harrison said that Senior Programs was looking at changes to the recently signed IGA because of changes to their budgets, so they may be coming back to the council for reconsideration. Clerk Harrison said that there was a free program that helped seniors get their taxes done, and anyone interested needed to make an appointment soon because appointments were limited.

RFTA – Mayor A Riddile said they met at the RFTA maintenance facility. The Secretary of Transportation was there as well as Senators Hickenlooper and Bennett, all of whom toured the RFTA facility and they observed the conditions in Glenwood Canyon. Mayor A Riddile said he was able to speak to CDOT Director Shoshanna Lew regarding the roundabout, and to Senator Hickenlooper about the LoVa Trail because he was the one who put the 16 by 16 program together that was not funded. Senator Hickenlooper said the town should speak to the Governor because the state had a lot of money.

AGNC – Councilor Hazelton said the Director Shoshanna Lew was the guest speaker at AGNC and there was nothing new.

GCE – nothing to report. Nothing to report.

EAB -

Council Comments

Councilor Mariscal said that on March 9 there will be the Garfield County Latino Community Committee Meeting in the county commissioner meeting room. She said that the topic will be 911 emergency services and feedback from the Latino community about needing Spanish-speaking dispatchers.

Councilor G Riddile said that in Administrator Reynolds' manager report there was something about a community survey about a Garfield County ballot issue and he asked what that was about. Administrator Reynolds said that it was a private group of healthcare providers and some council people from up and down the valley, and the idea was to figure out the community's feeling about funding mental health care.

Councilor Hazelton said that he noticed that there had been some work done at the furniture shop and it was not what he recalled it was originally supposed to be.

Administrator Reynolds agreed that it was a surprise and said that it was part of their lease agreement to do some work to the building. The tenants had thought they would be able to simply remove the metal panels from the roll-up garage door and replace them with glass, but the door company said that it would not work, and a new glass door would be thousands of dollars. So, the tenant improvised, removed the garage door, framed in the space and installed French doors.

Councilor Leland said that the new manager for senior housing was going to come to a council meeting but ended up sick. He asked if she could be rescheduled. Administrator Reynolds agreed that she would be rescheduled.

Councilor Leland said there was a new administrator for the library district and a new branch manager in New Castle. He asked that they come to council.

Councilor Leland said that Public Works Director John Wenzel will be holding a community meeting on March 16 to discuss a possible dog park.

Councilor Leland said there was a new business in town called Wrap and Roll which was a sandwich deli in Ritter Plaza. He said they did not have a firm opening date.

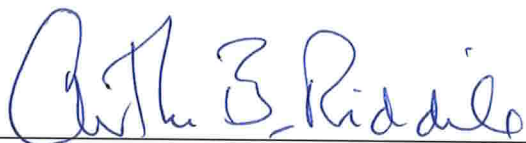
Councilor Leland said that it was interesting to read about Elk Creek Campground. He said something similar had happened years ago when the campground was turned into a man-camp and was threatening the town water supply. He said it was not a man-camp again, but there were permanent residents there which was not allowed. He said that the county had finally noticed.

Administrator Reynolds said that the county commissioners were going to pursue action against the owner. The residents had gone to the commissioners because they were essentially innocent victims because they did not know it was not a year-round campground, and the owner did not want to refund any money and they had nowhere to go. In the meantime, the town's concern was the town water supply. He described the issues which include an inability for staff to access the headgate, trash in and around the town holding pond and inadequate sewer disposal in the campground. He said that hopefully there will be some solutions soon.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Art Riddile


Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

