

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 8:00 PM**

Virtual Meetings are subject to internet and technical capabilities.

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

Follow the prompts as directed. Be sure to set your
phone to mute until called on

Call to Order

Mayor A Riddile called the meeting order at 8:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

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

Also present at the meeting were Tow Administrator Dave Reynolds, Administrative Assistant Remi Bordelon and Town Treasurer Loni Burk.

Meeting Notice

Administrative Assistant Remi Bordelon 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 – not present.

Consultant Engineer – not present.

Items for Consideration

Councilor Leland made a motion at 8:03 p.n. to go Executive Session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402 (f)(I) regarding an interview of Karen Frye for the Town Treasurer position and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body of any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees and Executive Session (1) for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402(4)(e) concerning Town Treasurer Position. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Executive session concluded:

At the end of the executive session, Mayor A Riddile made the following statement:

"The time is now 8:28 p.m. and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were: Councilors Mariscal, Carey and Hazelton; Mayor A Riddile; Councilors Copeland, Leland and G Riddile, Town Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Treasurer Loni Burk, and Administrative Assistant Remi Bordelon. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record."

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile Made a motion to direct staff to Offer Karen Frye the Town Treasurer position for \$96k per year along with the standard benefit package. Councilor Leland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council Comments

Councilor Leland said that the dog park folks were ready to go on the fundraising. He said that he understood that Public Works Director John Wenzel will be at council with a formal budget, but Councilor Leland said he was looking for a nod from the council that a dog park will be built. The committee will start advertising that and start collecting money. Mayor A Riddile said that as long as leash fees are being collected, he agreed. Councilor Leland said that it was reported in the newspaper that there will be a reduction in property taxes, and he asked that Treasurer Burk comments on how that will affect the budget.

Treasurer Burk said that she had looked at Senate Bill 22-238 that the Governor signed on Monday which was designed to give some relief on property taxes because of what home values had done in the past year. When they assess your property, they look at the value of it, and they assign a percentage to the value to come up with the assessed value. They take the assessed value and apply the mil levy rate to it. What the bill did was reduce the residential homeowner percentage that they apply to the value from 7.15% to 6.765%. Then, they are going to allow the first \$15k in residential value to be waived.

The they will apply the lower percentage rate to that value to come up with the assessed value for which the mill levy is applied.

Treasurer Burk said she had reached out to Garfield County and gotten a lot of information, including that this year was a reassessment year, and the expectation was that the values would go up 20 to 30%, but those will be determined until after September 1. Additionally, the state will be subsidizing because they understand that it will be a hardship on municipalities and school districts, so they are prepared to backfill \$400 million in lost revenues from property taxes. Treasurer Burk said that it looked like New Castle could be subsidized up to 90% of the loss. Based on all that, Treasurer Burk said she estimated \$3,600.00. Because the values were so much more, she felt that the town may see an increase anyway.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Art Riddile



Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

