

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 19, 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 (virtual) Councilor Carey Councilor Hazelton Mayor A Riddile Councilor Copeland Councilor Leland (virtual) Councilor G Riddile
Absent	None

Also present at the meeting were Town Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Clerk Melody Harrison, Town Treasurer Loni Burk, Recreation Director Hannah Bihr, 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 – not present.

Consultant Engineer - not present.

Items for Consideration

Update: Middle Colorado Watershed - Executive Director Paula Stepp

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds introduced Middle Colorado Watershed Executive Director Paula Stepp, and Board Member Steve Kressner. He said that they would make a presentation regarding the overall condition of the Colorado River and how recent wildfires and landslides have affected it. Administrator Reynolds said that Director Stepp had the great privilege of protecting that river resource as well as the tributaries that flow into the river. He said that Director Stepp was present to provide the council with an update and to let the council know what opportunities were available to them.

Mayor A Riddile noted that Director Stepp was also a Glenwood Spring City Council Member.

Director Stepp greeted the council and said that she was careful to keep the two positions separate, although there was sometimes overlap, but her presentation had nothing to do with Glenwood Springs City Council.

Director Stepp handed out booklets to the council members, telling them it was one of the watershed projects and she wanted each of them to have one. She explained that it was a river access map that spanned the river from Glenwood Canyon to Debeque. She said that the map was a gift, but also it will show the variety of things the watershed council did.

Director Stepp and Board Member Kressner gave a detailed power point presentation that described the watershed council's responsibilities and opportunities.

Director Stepp said that the primary reason she was addressing the council was to ask for their continued support. She described the Adopt-A-Mile program and noted that if they could get support from each municipality, it helped them with match funding for grants, operations, and the River Watch program at the schools. The ask was a three-year commitment, and Director Stepp said that she understood that municipal budgets were done year by year and said that she would come back each year to ask if continued support would be possible.

Mayor A Riddile asked if the town had supported the watershed in the past few years. Administrator Reynolds said he did not recall.

Mayor A Riddile said the council will consider it, but he was uncertain about the three-year commitment considering the current economic situation. He felt that one year would be fine with an annual reconsideration.

Councilor Hazelton said that he and Councilor Copeland sat on the committee for the redesign of Frank Breslin Park, and he thought it would be great to have Director Stepp come to a committee workshop. Director Stepp agreed and told the council that they had been able to secure some funding for the Silt boat ramp and could also assist with revegetation and the like.

Director Stepp said that Mr. Kressner was the New Castle board member, and he was going to be moving back to the front range, so she asked if anyone with the town or a resident of New Castle wanted to participate, she would be grateful for the representation. The council thanked Director Stepp and Mr. Kressner.

Recess the Town Council Meeting, Convene as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to recess the town council meeting and to convene as the local liquor licensing authority. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider Resolution TC 2022-16, A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Approving an Application from Black Bear Bar & Grill, Inc. for a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License

Clerk Harrison told the council that the purpose of Resolution TC 2022-16 was to consider approving a liquor license application for a hotel & restaurant liquor license for Black Bear Bar & Grill, Inc.

Clerk Harrison said that the prior license holder, Grove's Black Dog Saloon, completed a state wholesalers' affidavit as well as a New Castle affidavit of transfer, effectively and temporarily transferring the Black Dog Saloon's hotel & restaurant liquor license to Black Bear Bar & Grill. Staff determined that the application was substantially complete and issued a temporary license to Black Bear. The temporary license is good for 120 days and may be extended if necessary.

Clerk Harrison said the applicant has paid all fees and submitted all required documentation. CRS 12-47-307(3)(c) requires that the applicant submit to fingerprinting. The applicants fingerprint results have not been received to date.

Clerk Harrison said that staff recommended approval of Resolution TC 2022-16, approving an application from Black Bear Bar & Grill, Inc. for a hotel & restaurant liquor license, provided the applicant's background check nets appropriate results to allow them to hold a liquor license.

Clerk Harrison said that Councilor Hazelton had asked her two questions. The first was whether a person can hold more than one liquor license and the second was about

managers. The co-owner, Francisco Vasquez, does have ownership in two other liquor licenses in Garfield County: Lazy Bear in New Castle and Las Margaritas in Glenwood Springs. She said that there were no limits on how many licenses a person can hold ownership in. Regarding managers, every liquor license application is required to name a manager, and in the case of Black Bear, the manager is Joel Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez is also the manager of Lazy Bear. State law allows a person to manage more than one establishment and HB 22-1415, which was recently signed, will put some rules in place. Councilor Hazelton said that in the application, question #24 was answered no, but should be a yes since the applicants held multiple licenses. Clerk Harrison agreed that question needed to be changed to a yes answer.

Mayor A Riddile said that he had been in Black Bear the previous week with his granddaughter and had seen some patrons be over-served. The patrons were loud, using foul language and pounding on the bar. He said there was also a family there celebrating a three-year-old's birthday. He felt that it was not a family atmosphere with such inappropriate behavior. Councilor Hazelton said he had witnessed it, and he knew the complications of liquor service being the owner of a bar as well. He felt that since the Black Bear was early in its existence, they had an opportunity to decide what sort of a place they wanted Black Bear to be.

The council wanted to know if the applicants will have their staff certified for responsible service of alcohol and be mindful of over-serving patrons. The applicants, Francisco Vasquez and Joel Hernandez agreed (through their interpreter and with Councilor Mariscal's assistance) that they will have their staff certified and that they will provide more attentive management.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2022-16, A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Approving an Application from Black Bear Bar & Grill, Inc. for a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License, adding that Clerk Harrison will provide the applicant with information regarding responsible service of alcohol training, and that item #24 on the application is changed from No to Yes. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider an Application from the Town of New Castle for a Special Events Liquor License for the Rides & Reggae Event

Clerk Harrison told the council that the applicant was the town and that the event manager, Adam Cornely, was unable to attend the meeting because he was out of town. Clerk Harrison said that the application was for a special event liquor license for the Rides & Reggae event to be held on August 5 and 6, 2022. She said the event will be the same as in previous years with the exception that the town will hold the liquor license for both days, whereas Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association had held the Friday license in previous years. She said that the town was allowed fifteen day per year for special events and thus far, the town had not used that many days, so it should not affect other events. Clerk Harrison said that New Castle Trails had submitted a serving plan, and that Emily Sampley would be managing the alcohol tent. She also said that New Castle Trails members had completed responsible service of alcohol training and submitted their certifications, that the application was complete, and that staff recommended approval.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the application from the Town of New Castle for a special events liquor license for the Rides & Reggae event. Councilor Carey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider a Special Event Liquor License Application from the Town of New Castle for Burning Mountain Festival

Clerk Harrison told the council that the application was for Burning Mountain Festival that will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 9 and 10, 2022. Again, she said the event will be as in past years with the Clerk's Office staffing the alcohol tent along with two volunteers. She said that the Clerk's Office staff were all responsible service of alcohol certified, and that the alcohol will be in the gazebo, and drink tickets sold at a different location. She said that the recreation department was handling that.

MOTION: Councilor G Riddile made a motion to approve the special events liquor license application from the Town of New Castle for Burning Mountain Festival. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider a Special Event Liquor License Application from the Town of New Castle for the Community Market

Clerk Harrison said the event were something the town had been doing for a number of years as well. She said it was a way for the two liquor stores in town to be included in the community market. Each store will host one sampling garden and the last event in September will be hosted by the Brew Pub. Clerk Harrison said that the recreation department handled all three events.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the special events liquor license application from the Town of New Castle for the community market. Councilor Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjourn the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, Reconvene the Town Council Meeting

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

Consent Agenda

June 7, 2022 minutes

June Bills of \$459,040.72

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 he was working with a company called Text My Gov on a program that would allow the town to send basically reverse-911 texts to residents who sign up for the service. It was a way for the town to

get information quickly out to people regarding events or water service issues or surveys. He said they were working to understand pricing and it looked like an annual subscription would be between \$4,000.00 and \$4,500.00, and they were considering it for 2023. He said that it seemed to be a useful tool and if the council wanted staff to bring it on earlier, that could be done. Administrator Reynolds said that currently, the way staff got information out was a scroller on the website, the electronic message board and on Facebook. With Text My Gov it will be an immediate contact, and people could sign up for specific types of notifications. Administrator Reynolds asked the council to consider it for the 2023 budget, unless they thought it was worth doing earlier.

Councilor Hazelton said he was on the one from the Town of Silt, and he thought it was really effective. He also said that people don't often ignore text messages and all it takes is someone looking at the headline of the text message and they know what is going on. Administrator Reynolds said they had reached out to other towns who use the program, and the system does have the ability to receive messages but that gets messy for staff, so he felt that it might be best to leave it as outgoing messages only. He said staff will get pricing for the remainder of 2022.

Administrator Reynolds said that he was working with Bill Ray, the town's political consultant, and staff had signed a contract with him. He said Mayor A Riddle will explain. Administrator Reynolds said that at the next council meeting there will be a discussion about the cost of building permits. He said that because of the way home prices were increasing, as well as the cost of building a home, the town was way under-valuing building permits. He said that Carbondale had put a multiplier on building permit costs, and he wanted to discuss doing something similar with the council.

Administrator Reynolds said that Jim Colombo, owner of the property next to senior housing, had submitted an application for changes to that development, cutting back on the density. The proposal eliminated the front row of rental condo units and replacing them with ten houses that will be units for sale. He said that overall, it will be a better-looking development because the front parking lot will be removed. He said that staff was looking at the changes to determine if it was a major or minor change, and that will decide the reconsideration process by P&Z.

Administrator Reynolds said that Dirty Hog Dash was really great. There were 367 entries and it had gone very well. He showed a slide show of pictures.

Administrator Reynolds said that he had attended meetings with the county and the people that ran the grant program for broadband in the area. He said they had been successful in getting a DOLA grant that covered New Castle, Silt and Parachute to get what is called Carrier-Neutral Locations. He said that he and Public Works Director John Wenzel had identified some possible sites. He said the project was supposed to be completed by June of 2023, so staff will have to spend some time trying to figure out how to put out requests for vendors to get the final mile from the carrier locations to individual homes.

Administrator Reynolds said that on the dais was information from the Colorado Midland Railroad Historic Society. They will have a conference happening in New Castle that will be open to anyone.

Administrator Reynolds said that he had arranged a meeting with the county regarding the Dow Rippy property, which was across the street from River Park Condos. He said he had been unable to attend the meeting because he was sick, but Town Engineer Jeff

Simonson, Director Wenzel and Planner Smith met with the county Community Development Director Sheryl Bower and her staff and attorney. He said that the county has put a stop work order on all of Mr. Rippy's properties as well as one of the buyers. The county's position on it was that it was no longer an agricultural project as Mr. Rippy had represented. He said the county had no intent on issuing any grading permits until Mr. Rippy settled with the Town of New Castle for watershed permits and right-of-way permits. Administrator Reynolds said the unfortunately, many of the lots had been sold, so the county attorneys and Mr. Rippy's attorneys were working towards a resolution and figuring out if they will be moving forward with just Mr. Rippy or all the individual landowners. Administrator Reynolds said that Director Wenzel would be out the following week because he had a child getting married. Administrator Reynolds said that the door locks on the various town buildings were acting up because they were old and outdated. He said a locksmith was finally able to look at the systems, and they will be providing an estimate on a new door lock system. He felt that may morph into an FLMD mini grant application because it was going to be expensive. Administrator Reynolds said he had driven by the last community market, and it looked pretty great and said he was looking forward to going again on Thursday. Administrator Reynolds said that he had reported about a month earlier that the town had experienced a cyber security issue. He said a cyber investigative team had researched it to determine how deeply the breach may have gone. He said he met with them, and the conclusion was that it was not a major breach and that the town systems were back to business as usual. Administrator Reynolds said that the issue was something that had gotten inadvertently downloaded to a computer two and a half years ago and finally came alive. The security systems in place picked it up, but it wasn't clear the depth of the breach. He said that it was now clear that there was no significant breach and had remained at a very surface level. He said that ProVelocity was looking at some increased security measures for the town systems. Administrator Reynolds said that staff recently began a new program called Two-Factor, where now on occasion staff will have to enter a pin number that is sent via text message to be able to sign into their computer or e-mail as an added layer of security. In addition, he and Administrative Assistant Rochelle Firth have begun a program where they can send out fake phishing e-mails to staff, seeing whether they open it and if they do, it takes them to a portal to a ten-minute training session. He said that the program was suggested by ProVelocity, and the town was able to get free funding for it. Administrator Reynolds reminded the council that the retreat will be on September 24 at 9:00 a.m.

Administrator Reynolds said that the memorial service for former council member Mary Metzger will be on August 20, 10:30 a.m. at New Hope Church.

Administrator Reynolds told the council that staff will be bringing a question regarding utility accounts, and he wanted the council to think about it. He said that occasionally, there was a water utility customer that was unable to pay their bill, and although staff can walk them through a solution, there was a limit to what staff was allowed to do. He said sometimes there will be a customer with a specific request, and staff only had certain tools at their disposal before the water had to be shut off and liens filed.

Administrator Reynolds said that a few month ago he had posted something at Drifters Coffee Shop where you can "Pay It Forward". He said that he bought a cup of coffee for anyone who would go into the town hall and do the macarena. Administrator Reynolds

said finally, a professional dancer did it, danced the macarena in town hall. He showed a short video of Mayor A Riddile in a top hat and sunglasses, doing the macarena in the clerk's office. Mayor A Riddile said that the impetus was that one of the first-grade teachers at the elementary school put it on Facebook that the mayor should do it. So, he said he did it.

Town Clerk- Clerk Harrison told the council that Administrative Assistant Remi Bordelon had completed her second year of Clerk's Institute the week prior, and she had been promoted to Deputy Town Clerk.

Clerk Harrison said that she and Deputy Town Clerk Mindy Andis will be attending the Clerk's Conference in October in Canon City, and she thanked the council for the opportunity to go to training. Clerk Harrison said that Dirty Hog Dash was a lot of fun. She said she worked the registration tent, and it went well. She said that Admin. Asst Firth had worked registration the year before and came up with some great ideas to make it work even better and Clerk Harrison said she had done a good job because it went quite well.

Clerk Harrison said that the Coal Ridge Titan Classic Golf Tournament was coming up in August and anyone interested in playing should let her know. Clerk Harrison said she had received a thank you card from Youth Zone that the council could read. Clerk Harrison said she had been very busy with liquor licensing as well as collecting the necessary information for the attorneys for the Filing 11 situation.

Mayor A Riddile asked if everyone had gotten their letters regarding Filing 11. Councilor Carey said she had not received one, and Clerk Harrison said she will make sure to get it to her.

Town Treasurer-Treasurer Burk told the council that the 2021 audit was complete and she had received the draft. She also said that she and Administrator Reynolds had finished the management report and sent it to the auditor, and the final audit should be ready soon. Treasurer Burk said that the budget kick-off took place the previous Friday and all the department heads had received their budget work sheets. Treasurer Burk said she was working on the new budget software called Clear Gov, importing all the data and getting it categorized properly. Treasurer Burk said that Assistant Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers will attend the Caselle Conference in October. Treasurer Burk said that sales tax was looking good and year-to-date the town was about 14.5% ahead of the previous year through May, however in May it did decline. Treasurer Burk said that the tobacco tax collections through June were down about 11%. Treasurer Burk said that lodging tax was down as well but not by much, only \$780.00.

Town Planner- not present.

Public Works Director-not present.

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission-nothing to report.

Historic Preservation Commission-Councilor Hazelton said they had met the night before and they had met the company that will be doing the historic building survey. He said that the commission was going to get the word out to homeowners that the survey people will be in town taking pictures of buildings.

Climate and Environment Commission-Councilor Leland said that they had talked about

ramping up the anti-idling campaign that the old climate advisory commission had started. He said they wanted to get information out before the start of school. Councilor Leland said that the previous fall, one of the commission members had planted pollinators in Alder Park, and some were doing well but the butterfly bushes all died. He said they will plan more soon. Councilor Leland said that CEC was at the community market the previous week, and they will go again. He said he will have more to report at the next meeting.

Senior Program-nothing to report.

RFTA-Mayor A Riddile said they had a discussion about employee housing. He also said there was reduced service because they could not find bus drivers, although the salaries were adequate. People find out how much housing is, and they are not interested. RFTA will purchase a hotel in the west Glenwood area and convert that into apartments.

AGNC-nothing to report.

GCE-Councilor Leland said they spent a lot of time at the last meeting on their mission and goals as well as the budget. He said that Rifle had greatly reduced their contribution some years ago, but Rifle had rejoined at their original level and the council member was very enthusiastic. Councilor Leland said that they were looking at bringing in additional members, such as the library district. He said they will add associate members such as Holy Cross Energy. Councilor Leland said that GCE will be coming to each town council earlier than they had the previous year.

EAB-nothing to report.

Council Comments

Mayor A Riddile said that he had attended the quarterly Inner Mountain Transportation Planning Region meeting in Eagle and they had discussed multi-modal grants. He said there was an ask for 12 or 13 different projects in region III. There were fourteen million dollars' worth of asks, and eight million dollars available, so they will have to be prioritized. He said that he learned that the town needed to get in on the next grant cycle, perhaps for a circulator bus.

Councilor Leland said that he had zoomed into the meeting because he was just beginning to recover after two weeks of COVID.

Councilor Leland said that the state legislature has passed a plastic bag fee which is supposed to be effective in January. He said it was .10¢ per plastic or paper bag, and sixty percent of that will come to the town. In 2024, plastic bags will be banned. He said the windfall will be good for only a year, and the money was supposed to go towards recycling, composting and general reuse of garbage types of projects. It was something to consider in the budget.

Councilor Leland said that the police department posted on Facebook about the graffiti on their building and skatepark. The skatepark post got a distressing number of anti-police messages. He said that was a first because typically the police get lots of love online. It seems like some backlash against their community policing culture because people felt they were being too nice rather than catching the bad guys. Councilor G Riddile said that he felt the police department threatening to close the skate park was not appropriate.

Councilor Hazelton said that he felt they posted that to get someone to admit they knew who did it and did not want the skate park to be closed. Councilor G Riddile said he

agreed with Councilor Hazelton's statement but felt that the threat to close the park came out harsh, and the police were receiving harsh comments back. Mayor A Riddile said that the skate park had been a graffiti target for twenty years. Councilor Carey said that she and her son as well as a neighbor and their child have had a few bad interactions at the skate park with some older teenagers and she expected that the police were probably tired of dealing with it. Nonetheless, she felt there was a lot of bad feelings around the skate park because parents were uncomfortable sending their ten or twelve-year-old there and know they were safe. Mayor A Riddile said the issues at the skate park ebbed and flowed depending on the age of the kids hanging out there, and it had done so for many years. Councilor Hazelton suggested that perhaps a volunteer program for monitors. Administrator Reynolds and Councilor Carey shared skate park experiences where older teens were mouthy and disrespectful to adults.

Councilor Leland said that Administrator Reynolds had mentioned Bill Ray's work on the town's possible tax issue, and he said he understood Mr. Ray will be sending him something for the newsletter, and he needed to know who should review it before it is put in the newsletter. Mayor A Riddile said he will answer that question in a moment. Councilor Mariscal told Councilor Hazelton that she could attend the AGNC meeting the following day since he could not.

Councilor Mariscal said that she will not attend the August 16 meeting because she will be dropping her daughter off at school.

Councilor G Riddile said he did not think it happened when talking with Mr. Vasquez, but the council did not actually know what was being said by a translator or the information that was being given. He knew there were staff members who were bilingual and although it was probably outside the scope of their job duties, he asked if the town could possibly provide a translator. He said the council was fortunate to have Councilor Mariscal, but in the future, it should be considered.

Councilor G Riddile noted that the county had done a 5% mid-year raise, and he felt that the council needed to be cognizant of that going into budget season.

Councilor G Riddile said he was happy Treasurer Burk had updated the revenue numbers. He said it sounded like Rifle was missing their mark and were cutting capital projects out. Councilor Hazelton said he will be out of town August 16 as well because he will be in Canada, fishing.

Mayor A Riddile said that Bill Ray had sent some information about the SRO and the tax increase and Councilor Leland will be given a copy. He said it was too long for the newsletter, so it will probably be sent as a separate mailer to all the residents. He said that for the newsletter there could be a very condensed version. Administrator Reynolds said he will get the information to Councilor Leland.

Mayor A Riddile said he will be attending the school board meeting on July 25, and he said they will receive his letter for their packet. He said he was trying to get a letter of support from them, and they will also discuss a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the New Castle Police, the Town of New Castle and the school district for certain criteria that will need to be met. Mayor A Riddile said that he was confident that they will give their approval. Mayor A Riddile said that the proposed sales tax increase will be a .33%. Mayor A Riddile said that he had been in contact with Mr. Ray and Mr. Ray wanted to do a survey. Administrator Reynolds confirmed that a survey was in progress, and it will be a direct mailer to the residents as well as an online survey.

Mayor A Riddile said that intent to place an item on the November ballot was due to the county by July 29, and ballot language was due by August 30.

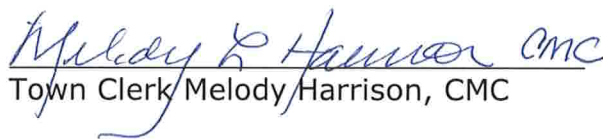
MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Carey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor A Riddile



Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

