

**New Castle Special Town Council Meeting
Solar Workshop
Tuesday, July 29, 2014, 7:00 p.m.**

Mayor Gordon addressed the audience, and thanked them for their attendance. He began by apologizing to everyone for the confusion. He said that when the town began looking at the solar project award, there was, unfortunately, a time limit to utilize the award. The council wanted to take advantage of the award, so they got information out as quickly and to as many residents as they could. He said the council needed information from the public to make a good decision, which was the purpose of holding the meeting that night. He emphasized that there were no leases with anyone, there were no contracts with anyone, that the council had made no decisions regarding the solar garden. Council's intention was to gather information and opinions from the residents, particularly those who live close to the open space area. He said the council understood that the location in Castle Valley Ranch was not a good location. Mayor Gordon told everyone that the council understood that people were concerned about their property values, and they respected that.

He said the Clean Energy Collective would do a presentation on Community Solar Gardens, and that everyone would have a chance to ask questions and voice their opinion. He asked that everyone show respect to one another.

Call to Order

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Items for Consideration

Presentation by the Clean Energy Collective Regarding Community Solar Gardens

Paul Spencer and Michelle Zimmerman of the Clean Energy Collective began a slide show presentation. The presentation described community solar gardens and how they work.

Answering questions from the audience, they covered the following:

- * The Xcel Energy Solar Garden Award
- * Other solar gardens in Garfield County
- * The advantages and disadvantages of the size and location of the garden
- * The health effects of solar panels
- * The potential noise and visual pollution of the garden
- * The financial impacts for the residents and town
- * The purpose or designated use of the open space parcel
- * The impacts on the local wildlife
- * The kilowatt hours produced per panel
- * The cost to lease or buy panels and the period for potential payback
- * Who benefits from purchasing a panel, and from the installation of the garden
- * Other locations

The council fielded many questions from the audience regarding the public process and if that process had been closely followed by the town. The council assured everyone that the public process had been strictly adhered to. Town Attorney McConaughy described the public process to the audience, referencing the municipal code sections that spoke to it. He and the council stated that the purpose of the meeting and of the notifications to the residents was the very first step of that process, and they were glad to see so many people attending.

Many people in the audience spoke, voicing concern that confusing information had been circulating, and many people were upset by what they had been hearing.

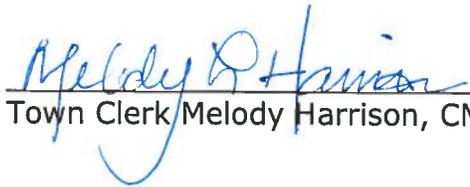
The audience seemed to be open to the idea of community solar gardens, but did not like the location chosen. The council offered the opportunity for interested parties to seek appointment to the Climate Action Advisory Committee who would initially handle solar projects in the future.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mayor Bob Gordon



Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

