

**New Castle Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
450 W. Main Street**

Call to Order

Mayor Gordon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present	Councilor Means
	Councilor Riddile
	Councilor Metzger
	Mayor Gordon
	Councilor Breslin
	Councilor Leland
	Councilor Stuckey

Also present at the meeting were Town Administrator Tom Baker, Town Clerk Melody Harrison, Public Works Director John Wenzel and Town Engineer Jeff Simonson.

Meeting Notice

Town Clerk Melody Harrison verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC-2015-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Agenda Changes

Town Clerk Melody Harrison told the council that staff wanted to add an item to the consent agenda that authorized the mayor to sign a DOLA Administrative Grant application.

The council agreed.

Items for Consideration

Elk Creek Elementary 2nd Grade Essay Contest Winners

Mayor Gordon introduced Councilor Riddile. Councilor Riddile introduced Elk Creek Elementary school Principal Lisa Pierce, and complimented her on the awards she and her school had been winning. Ms. Pierce invited the second grade students to the front of the room as well as second grade teacher Mrs. Barth and Librarian Diane Webster. After the students read their essays aloud, Mayor Gordon and the council congratulated them.

Historic Preservation Committee Report

Larry Borgard of the Historic Preservation Committee told the council that the committee had been working on a new design for banners for the downtown. He showed the council a picture that had the New Castle Logo and flowers.

Lighting for Flat Tops Pedestrian Bridge

Administrator Baker told the council that SGM Engineer Jeff Grebe and several staff members had met with Angela Meraz, Alpine Bank Manager, regarding the bridge lighting. They had discussed six possible options as well as the pros and cons of each. Engineer Simonson said that Ms. Meraz preferred option C, which included concentrated solar panels placed at the north end of each bridge that would supply energy to lights on the bridges. The system allowed for several types of durable lights and the ability to charge the system with a generator if inclement weather prevented the solar panels from charging sufficiently. The cost was estimated at \$50,000.00. Engineer Simonson felt that the bridge lighting could be added to the Downtown Streetscape Project on the FMLD grant application. Ms. Meraz indicated that Alpine Bank could commit as much as \$17,000.00 towards the matching funds required for the grant.

Discussion: CDOT Devolution Process

Town Administrator Baker reminded the council that he and several staff members had met with CDOT and discussed some New Castle items. One was the possibility of angled parking on Main Street. The method the town needed to pursue was devolution. The definition of devolution is when the classification of a road is downgraded. For New Castle, this means the road ownership would change. Currently, the Main Street is classified by the state as an arterial road, which moves traffic through the area efficiently and quickly. Changing the ownership of the road to New Castle, the road could be downgraded to a destination road, with slower speeds, angled parking and it would be more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly. If the council wished to pursue devolution, CDOT needed to be notified and they would begin an analysis of the roadway to determine which portions would be turned over to the town. A twenty-year maintenance cost would be calculated and those funds provided to the town. Administrator Baker and Engineer Simonson reviewed details with the council regarding the process. The council agreed they would like to pursue the devolution process with CDOT. Administrator Baker said he would draft a letter to CDOT for the Mayor to sign that will trigger the start of the process.

Discussion: Rocky Mountain Youth Corps

Administrator Baker said he and Town Planner Tim Cain met with Steve Anthony to discuss the scope of the services from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps. The Corps is very enthusiastic to come to New Castle, and could provide two or three weeks of service to the town. The trail crews work four ten hour days during the week, and are available mid-June through mid-August. They require a porta-john on site. They need a trail designer/supervisor on site the majority of the time. They need specific project dates by the end of March. Once dates are established, the town can furnish a specific trail project. Mr. Anthony said that the county gave Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers (RFOV) grant funds in the amount of \$5,000.00 for 2015. The county does not have a

project for them, so Mr. Anthony said he would speak to RFOV about providing trail design and supervision for the New Castle trail project. Administrator Baker said the town could provide funds as well. Administrator Baker said there were two possible extensions to the Jolley Trail that could be completed over six days. Administrator Baker asked the council for their permission for Councilor Leland and himself to work with Mr. Anthony to set a date. The council agreed.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of the February 3, 2015 meeting

Garfield County Communications IGA Third Amendment

Dates for Burning Mountain Festival and Chili Cook-Off

Resolution TC-2015-5 – Supporting an FMLD Grant Application for Pedestrian Safety & Downtown Streetscape Project

Resolution TC-2015-6 – Supporting an FMLD Mini Grant Application for the Police Fleet Authorization for Mayor to Sign a DOLA Grant Application

MOTION: Councilor Means made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Councilor Stuckey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – gave his report during the committee meeting.

Town Clerk – Clerk Harrison told the council that her department had been busy providing support for other staff for their projects such as historical information for the streetscape grant and working with the chamber on a list of vendors to publish.

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – not present

Committee Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – nothing to report

Historic Preservation Commission - nothing to report

Economic Advisory Committee - nothing to report

Senior Programs - nothing to report

RFTA - nothing to report

Council Comments

Councilor Leland said Chief Chris Sadler used to provide the council with a regular report regarding the call activity for the police department. He thought a summary report rather than a full listing of incidents would help the council keep in touch with what was going on in town. Chief Pagni said he could provide the council with a similar, but differently detailed report that showed trending issues or areas.

Councilor Riddile asked about the planned emergency drill. Administrator Baker said that he would get it back on an agenda.

Councilor Riddile said he had read that oil and gas production was down, and that Representative Rankin had been quoted in a newspaper article saying that severance fund distributions could be cut as much as fifty percent in 2016. He felt that the town and council should be careful when considering expenditures and the budgets for the upcoming years.

Councilor Metzger asked if there was anything in the town by-laws or procedures that explained how items were placed on a council agenda. Clerk Harrison offered to

provide that information. The council discussed the method they wanted to use to accomplish the various tasks and projects that came up.

Clerk Harrison said she would look for the code sections and provide them to the council. Administrator Baker and Clerk Harrison said they felt how they had been handling the council comments and requests was responsive to the council's needs, but were willing to change it if the council wished.

Councilor Breslin said he was going to the AGNC meeting in Grand Junction the next day. He said the BOCC were working hard to get the Garfield County Regional Airport selected as the Center for Excellence. Councilor Breslin said there was a senate bill being considered that gave counties the ability to appoint a voting member of an urban renewal authority, and he would keep the council updated on that bill.

He said there was a video library available from AGNC for many things such as tourism and economic development. The videos are free, and could be put up on the town's access channel. Councilor Breslin said he wondered if there were building code regulations for those households that grow marijuana plants because he felt there could be issues there. Last, Councilor Breslin thought it would be a good idea if the council's iPads had stickers on them that said "Property of the Town of New Castle" on them in case they were lost.

MOTION: Mayor Gordon made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Metzger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mayor Bob Gordon



Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

