

Memo

To: Mayor Gordon and Town Councilors
From: Melody Harrison
Date: April 11, 2014
Re: Council Seat Appointment

Recommendation: Staff recommends that council may interview persons who submitted letters of interest for appointment to the council seat vacated when Bob Gordon took the oath of office for Mayor. Council may make a motion to appoint this evening, or may choose to appoint at a future council meeting.

Policy Implications: Appointing a citizen to the vacated seat is consistent with the New Castle Home Rule Charter §3.6 (B). Any person appointed to the vacated seat will serve the remaining two years on the term, or until the regularly scheduled general election in April 2016.

Budget Implications: None


Department Head (signature)

Finance Director (signature)

Town Administrator (signature)

_____ No _____
Consultant needed at Council Meeting? Whom? Estimated meeting time cost, if known.

Larry Dragon
The Mediation Center of Colorado
845 Ute Circle
New Castle, Colorado 81647
(970) 379-9889
ldragon@mediate.com

April 7, 2014

Melody Harrison, Town Clerk
Town of New Castle
PO Box 90
New Castle, CO 81647

Re: Letter of Interest for Town Council Vacancy

Dear Melody,

Please accept this letter asking that I be considered for serving on the New Castle Town Council. I am interested for many reasons:

1. Though I have lived in the area since 1982, and the happiest years have been the last 8, since 2006, when I first moved to New Castle.
2. Though I have previously considered serving on the Council, with the high quality and commitment of its current members, I didn't see the need. Last week, when meeting with a Town staff member, I learned about this vacancy and decided to submit this letter of interest.
3. I have admired friends and colleagues who have served in this capacity and feel that I, too, should serve my community in this manner.
4. Since 2004, I have been the part-time Executive Director of the Lower Valley Trails Group (LoVa), a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. I have had the pleasure of working as a partner with the Town Council and staff since 2004. I have also participated with the Parks, Open Space, Trails, and Recreation committee.
5. I began working as a volunteer mediator with the Center for Conflict Resolution in 1988. My full-time work as a professional mediator began in 1991. Since 1992, I have contracted with the Colorado Judicial Branch's Office of Dispute Resolution, and have mediated roughly 5,000 disputes, including governmental disputes, divorce and custody issues, large and small civil lawsuits, organizational disputes (both public and private), environmental and land-use disputes, workplace disputes, and other community disputes.
6. With a master degree in Human Communication, and a vast amount of training in group processes, facilitation, and conflict management and resolution, I believe strongly in the power of communication, and understand the importance of listening and considering all points of view. When dealing with any kind of dispute, including political ones, solutions are rarely perfect, and compromise is essential.

7. I also believe that civil discourse is absolutely necessary in all aspects of life, particularly within government. Citizens, staff, and all who come before the Town's governing body need to be treated with respect and know that their opinions and ideas are fully considered.
8. I have a great deal of experience working with local governments, primarily with the cities, towns, and counties in Garfield County, but also in Pitkin, Eagle, and Rio Blanco, and believe that I bring a high level of credibility.
9. My experience includes 25 years as a trainer, including creating the program, Responsible Serving of Alcohol. I have worked with the Councils of Aspen, Glenwood Springs, Rifle, Snowmass Village and others in creating ordinances requiring this type of training as a step toward increasing public safety. I have trained thousands of bartenders, wait staff, managers, and law enforcement over these many years and know that the training has helped reduce the problems associated with drunkenness in our communities.
10. I am particularly interested in managed growth, economic development, and increased recreational amenities (particularly trails). I am also concerned about the effects that gas and oil exploration and extraction have on our air and water, and the overall effects on the quality of life here in New Castle and Garfield County.
11. I believe that this position demands one who is patient, practices collaboration, and has an open mind, and I feel confident that I could provide this for the citizens of New Castle.

I sincerely apologize for not being available in person for the interviews on April 15th as I will be out of town. However, it may be possible to have a dialogue telephonically – just let me know.

Thanks for considering my application for this position.

Larry Dragon

Merle E. Means
841 Mountain View Drive
New Castle, Colorado 81647
(970) 309-3096
merlemeans@mac.com

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Ms. Melody Harrison
Clerk of the Town of New Castle, Colorado
450 West Main Street
New Castle, Colorado 81647
mharrison@newcastlecolorado.org

Dear Ms. Harrison:

I am writing today to submit my name as a candidate for appointment to the New Castle Town Council.

My entire adult life has been one of service to my community and to my country. I served in the Air Force, where I was an F-4 Phantom fighter jet instructor in South Vietnam. After leaving the Air Force, I served as a motorcycle officer and forensic chemist in the Denver Police Department. I attended the University of Washington in Seattle as an adult student where I earned degrees in anthropology and comparative religion. For 26 years, I've served my community as an interfaith minister, performing weddings, conducting funerals and memorials, and working with hospice patients.

I have lived in New Castle for 14 of those years. My history of public service to the Town of New Castle began when I served on the Town Council from 2008 to 2010. I was appointed to the Parks, Open Space, and Trails Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Historical Preservation Commission. During my tenure on the Council, I focused on accountability for companies looking to develop real estate and public spaces. I was instrumental in the creation and direction of the Grand River Park, ensuring that we gained a public space that contained more than just soccer fields.

Though I stepped down from the Council in 2010 due to a work conflict, my interest in serving New Castle did not end. I was just last year appointed again as a Commissioner to the Planning and Zoning Commission, where I am privileged to continue to serve the people of our great town.

I thank you and the Council for considering me for the position.

Sincerely,

Merle E. Means

Letter of Intent

April 9, 2014

To: The Honorable Mayor, and the Members of City Council of New Castle, Colorado,

Please accept this letter as a declaration of my sincere interest in the vacant New Castle City Council position.

My name is David Reynolds. I am a relatively new resident of Colorado and the Town of New Castle. Just over one year ago we committed to move from our quiet little town in rural Pennsylvania to the Roaring Folk Valley area of Colorado. After searching the valley from Basalt down to Glenwood Springs, and viewing dozens of houses and many neighborhoods, we decided to expand our search to what we now view as the areas best kept secret, New Castle Colorado.

We purchased a home in Lakota, as well as a home in River View (for our son and his growing family), and became fully committed in our new life in New Castle. We fell in love with our new neighbors and New Castles small town charm and values. We jumped in head first and became involved in a neighborhood church, our community Rec. center and pool, as well as various town activities. Its been a great first year of getting to meet so many of our neighbors, business owners, and city leaders. In just a very short time we have become very personally invested in our new home town.

It is my belief that as a resident of New Castle, I have the skills, ability, personality, and passion to give my service back to the town that I'm proud to call home. I offer years of experience as a business owner, and manager. My success in creating practical working budgets, managing employees, dealing with difficult business choices, and setting and achieving goals, equip me with the skills and the background required to serve successfully in this position. Further, combine my love for the town and my passion to see New Castle grow in a manner that allows it to retain the key qualities that drew me here, and I believe I am a great fit to represent the citizens.

My intent is to serve in a fashion that would allow New Castle to be the place where my wife and I can grow old and watch with pride as our grand children are raised in a town that is on the move, while retaining what I consider to be Good Old American Values. A town where new businesses feel welcome, existing businesses can compete responsibly without undo burdens and excessive regulations, city services are provided at a fair rate, and economic growth is managed out of concern for the public need and the long term future of the town and not a corporate short term benefit or greed.

I would be proud to be considered for the vacant City Council position. It would be an honor to use my experience, values, and strong work ethic to work along side of the Honorable Mayor, members of City Council, and city staff, to keep our town moving in the right direction. Based on my business experience in towns on the East Coast, I believe I offer a fresh perspective and new ideas on economic growth in this economy, as well as on other issues that are of concern to our citizens, neighbors, and families.

Attached please find a brief description of past work experience.

Thank you for your consideration,

David Reynolds



David Reynolds 157 Blackhawk Drive, New Castle, Colorado 81647

Misner Marine Construction

Location: Hampton Roads Virginia
Position: Quality Control Manager for Bridge Tunnel project Rt. 664 Hampton Roads Virginia
Description: State of Virginia DOT licensed inspector of concrete bridge construction responsible for management of Quality Control Department and liaison to Virginia DOT Inspectors
Years: Three plus

Hampton Roads Prestress

Location: Hampton Roads Virginia
Position: Vice President and General Manager
Description: Day to day management and total oversight of Estimating, Budgeting, Forecasting Sales, Product Production, Product transport, Safety, and Quality Control. Produced Precast and Prestressed Concrete Bridge and Building Components, employing between 30 to 40 workers with annual sales of approximately \$ 6 mm.
Years: Eight

Tidewater Deck and Fence Company

Location: Hampton Roads Virginia
Position: Owner / Operator
Description: Construction company specializing in decks, fences, gazebos, porches, and room additions. Employed approximately 15 skilled craftsman, and a sales staff of three. Served on average approximately 500 clients per year. Responsible for all aspects of operations to support sales in the million dollar range.
Years: Five years as owner and four years as consultant and salesman for new owners after my successful sale of the company.

Old Towne Home Maintenance

Location: Hampton Roads Virginia and South East Pennsylvania
Position: Owner / Operator
Description: Home remodel, renovation, and repair services. Specializing in all types of residential and small commercial projects. Responsible for all aspects of business operations. Hands on contractor and manager of subcontract trades. Also, specialized in the purchase, rehabilitation., and sales of foreclosed and distressed residential and small commercial properties, as well as property management for rental properties.
Years: Eight

Construction Solutions Inc.

Location: South East Pennsylvania and North East New Jersey
Position: Subcontractor
Description: Subcontracted labor for commercial renovation projects, such as office renovations, warehouse outfitting, HVAC installations, and clean room installations for sterile manufacturing processes.
Years: Periodically as contracted over a three year period

New Hope Church, New Castle Colorado

Location: New Castle, Colorado
Position: Site Superintendent, and Project Management
Description: Hired in June 2013 to provide labor and project oversight in the conversion of the New Castle Bowling Lanes, into the future home of New Hope Church.

Other interests and activities:

Cub Scout Troop Leader for several years.

City League Soccer Coach for several years.

Church Youth Leader for several years. Helping to serve a youth group of over 150 teens, with weekly meetings, spring and fall youth retreats, and community volunteer service projects.

Leader of Volunteer Community projects, providing needed home improvements (including handicap ramps, roofing, stairs, kitchen remodels, exterior siding, etc.) to the seniors and handicap in our community and surrounding areas. For over 5 years we served over two hundred neighbors in need, and logged thousands of volunteer man hours.

Leader of Volunteer Labor for New Hope Church. Organized several hundred man hours of volunteer labor to complete various projects for New Hope Church, including the New Hope Park Project which is now in use for New Castle residents.

Other interests include aviation. I am a licensed pilot with hundreds of flight hours, flying for pure enjoyment as well as the discipline and dedication that comes from being a safe pilot.

I enjoy following real estate news and try to stay informed on what the local market is doing.

I am a husband to my wonderful wife of 28 years, a father to a terrific son for 23 years, and a grandfather to New Castles most adorable 2 year old boy.

I am a registered voter that takes pride in voting for a candidates position, character, and values over his or her party affiliation.

I realize that I have imperfections but constantly continue to try to bring my values and a 100% commitment to all that I set out to do, regardless of the position or the pay. I was raised to believe that you give everything you have and always strive to do your best.

I am happy to arrange for local references upon request.