

**New Castle Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 7, 2017, 7:00 p.m.
423 W. Main Street – Community Center**

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present	Councilor Metzger Councilor Owens Councilor Hazelton Mayor A Riddile Councilor Russi Councilor Leland Councilor G Riddile
Absent	None

Also present at the meeting were Town Administrator Tom Baker, Town Clerk Melody Harrison, Town Planner Tim Cain, Public Works Director John Wenzel, Administrative Assistant Debbie Nichols, Accounting Assistant Debbie Guccini 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-2017-1.

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

Mountain Family Health Presentation – Garry Schalla, Development Director

Mr. Garry Schalla greeted the council, and thanked them and Councilor Owens for inviting him to speak with them. He passed out information about Mountain Family Health Centers. He said they were federally qualified health centers. He described the services provided in their clinics. Mr. Schalla said Mountain Family was non-partisan, and was not a political advocate in any way, but wanted to speak about issues that were being considered at the federal level that will impact the economy if certain changes were made.

Mr. Schalla said Mountain Family had spoken to the county commissioners, state representatives and those at the federal level to ask that the Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) not be repealed without a replacement. He said that the Act had been incredibly helpful in providing health insurance to those people who had none. It had done other things such as driving up insurance costs, and taking certain insurance companies out of the western marketplace, but he felt some modifications there could would bring insurance rates back into line. The Act had given thousands of Coloradans health insurance, in many cases for the first time. Mountain Family served 17,000 individuals across four counties. If the Act were repealed without replacement, 10,000 of their customers would lose their insurance immediately. That loss would drive up the cost of care and impact the local economies. Another impact of a repeal would be that the health exchanges would be lost and many people would be uninsured, and those costs would go to employers, again having a detrimental effect on the economy. Finally, Mountain Family which served 17,000 individuals, would be in serious jeopardy of being able to maintain that service into the future.

Mr. Schalla also spoke about block grants, or per-capita allotments. Medicaid, Medicare and other programs are federally funded, and come through the state. Mr. Schalla said that without those public programs the economy would again be in jeopardy. Mountain Family is paid on a per-patient, per-visit basis. Placing a ceiling on those payments would have a long-term affect. Mr. Schalla said that he hoped the council could help advocate for flexibility in the system. In the District of Columbia, Medicaid spends \$11k per individual per year. In New York, \$5k, and in Colorado which has been in the forefront of change in the health care industry, \$1k. If a block grant system were approved, Colorado would be penalized for being pro-active, driving down costs and actively working to streamline the health care system.

Mr. Schalla said that funding sources for federally funded health care systems renew in the fall, and he hoped that the council would consider emphasizing the benefits that Mountain Family Health Care brought to the community, and that the council saw them as a partner in keeping a healthy community.

After a brief discussion, the council agreed that it was important to protect the citizen's ability to obtain health insurance and health care. The council asked what they could do. Mr. Schalla said that in the information he provided there was contact information for the state representatives. Mountain Family was advocating to not repeal the Affordable Care Act until there was a replacement program. He encouraged the council to communicate that to the state representatives, as citizens or as a council, because every contact was counted and would influence decisions.

The council thanked Mr. Schalla for his presentation, and thanked Mountain Family Health for their valuable service to the community.

Consider Approving the Final Plan for the Lakota Sports Park

Pedro Campos, Landscape Architect with Zahren & Associates. Mr. Campos provided the council an overview of the proposed sports park. He said they had been working on the project for approximately five months. They had also met with and worked with the local Lakota community on some of the particular features. He showed a power point presentation depicting the proposed project. The presentation included aerial, elevation and site plan drawings.

Mr. Campos asked that the council consider approving the proposed project so that they could move forward in creating construction documents. Those would then go out to a public bid process for construction. He said that the goal was to complete the process by mid-July.

Mr. Campos reviewed the power point with the council, including detailed information about the process by which they developed certain features of the park.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the sports park final plans as presented. Councilor Russi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Update: GoCo Inspire Grant

Administrative Assistant Debbie Nichols told the council that she had initially presented information to the council in April 2016 about the GoCo Inspire Grant Initiative. The steering committee was preparing to begin accepting proposals for the grant. The local Youth Council and their advisor, Jana Price, had determined that the open space at the West end of Burning Mountain subdivision would be a great place to develop, and proposed a climbing wall, nature play area, a splash pad and trails system. The features would be accessible to those with disabilities, and the trails system would connect with C Avenue. The open space was chosen because the children at the east end of New Castle did not have easy access to a neighborhood park. She also said that the other Youth Councils from Rifle and Parachute suggested on-site gear rentals, and gear-lending libraries. They also suggested community gear swaps, and programs to teach students how to use gear. They also proposed a training program for youth volunteer teachers, and teen mentoring programs. Ms. Nichols said that the Steering Committee would present their draft grant proposal in March. At that time there will be more information about budget, including the ten percent grant match, and the fifteen percent in-kind requirement. In April the final grant proposal will be presented, along with final budget numbers. The grant application to GoCo would be submitted in July, and construction the following year. The projects would actually span three years if they were awarded the grant. Administrator Baker said the Ms. Nichols group had gone to the BOCC to discuss the county's contribution as well.

Ms. Nichols said that the Inspire Initiative was an effort to overcome the obstacles that prevented children and youth from getting outdoors.

The council thanked Ms. Nichols for her efforts.

Consider Resolution TC-2017-6 Approving a Conditional Use Permit for an Auto Detail Shop

Town Planner Tim Cain described the conditional use permit application. Mr. Hector Ramos intended to open a car detail shop at 731 W Main Street, which was the building that had been owned by the fire department. The application had been approved at the Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on January 25. There was

some concern related to the types of products that would be used and how the sand/gravel drain trap worked. Mr. Ramos described how the drain worked, and said that the mud in the bottom would be shoveled out and properly disposed of by an appropriate disposal company. No mud would be thrown on the property.

Planner Cain said that the applicant had agreed that nothing would be stored on the sewer easement that existed on the property. No changes would be made to change the landscaping or building on the property.

Mayor A Riddile asked if the resident next door was okay with the business. Planner Cain said they were, and that the Kricks, new owners of the fire department property had agreed to allow the homeowner next door a driveway easement so they could access their home.

The council was also concerned about multiple vehicles being parked on the property for long period. Planner Cain said that there would not be any mechanical work done on vehicles, so there should not be any long-term storage of vehicles.

Mr. Ramos said that Bighorn Toyota in Glenwood employed him, and that his car detail business would be done in his off-hours. Initially, he would be the only employee, but hoped to expand the business and hire employees in the future. He also said that vehicles would be washed and detailed inside the building, and that he was very picky that there be no clutter or trash outside the building. He stated that the only substances that would go down the drain would be water and soap, no chemicals or acids, and that he had just spent a substantial sum on environmentally-friendly products. He also stated that he would have no more than five vehicles outside the building at any time.

Councilor Russi asked about the statement in the staff report that said Planner Cain would perform a retrospective analysis to see whether additional EQRs were necessary, if he had the authority to advise the council to assign additional EQRs in retrospect. Planner Cain said that he did have the authority, and that he would work with the town attorney on the issue.

Councilor Russi asked Mr. Ramos is he was familiar with the contents of the packet.

Mr. Ramos said he was. Councilor Russi asked Mr. Ramos if he were prepared to warrant that all verbal statement made by himself were considered part of the application and were binding. Mr. Ramos agreed.

Councilor Leland cautioned Mr. Ramos that his statement about no more than five vehicles outside would be binding, and that it would be carefully observed. Mr. Ramos said that he did not want to leave any customer vehicles outside and would try to schedule appropriately to achieve that goal.

Administrator Baker asked the council if they wanted him to summarize the conditions and the council agreed.

- That solid waste from the drain trap would be removed by a waste disposal company;
- That nothing temporary or permanent would be stored on the sewer easement;
- That no washing or detailing of vehicles would be performed outside the building

MOTION: Councilor Russi made a motion to approve Resolution TC-2017-6, approving a Conditional Use Permit for an Auto Detail Shop, with the three additional conditions. Councilor Owens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously

New Castle Trails

Administrator Baker told the council that their goal of building social capital through civic engagement had been successful with the churches, the community market, Lions Club, Museum on the Street, the Downtown Group and others. Trails were becoming the primary success story in New Castle.

He reminded the council that Mr. Dalton Sallee had addressed the council last fall and told them how appreciative he was for their support on the soft trails efforts, and what a great amenity the trails were. Mr. Sallee helped build the Prendergast Trail and it occurred to him that the slow progress made hand-building trails meant that it could take seven or more years to complete the proposed trails in New Castle. Mr. Sallee was committed to purchase a trail-building machine to assist.

Administrator Baker said that the opportunity the town had with New Castle Trails and Mr. Sallee was that they could put the town in play with trails as an economic development strategy in 2017, with a modest investment. He said that at the end of the discussion he would ask the council to consider investing some conservation trust fund money and economic development money to offset operation and maintenance costs of the capital expenditure and volunteer effort that Mr. Sallee would be making. Adam Cornely greeted the council. Referring to projected maps, Mr. Cornely described that they were an overview of what the trails in and around New Castle would look like in 2017 and beyond. Mr. Cornely described completed and proposed trails projects in detail.

The council thanked Mr. Cornely for a great presentation.

Administrator Baker said they were looking for approval of \$10k from the economic development fund, and \$5k from the conservation trust fund, which would be contingent upon Mr. Sallee following up on his commitment to purchase the equipment.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve \$10k from the economic development fund and \$5k from the conservation trust fund, contingent on Dalton Sallee's contribution of trail-building equipment. Councilor Owens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider Approving a Special Event Liquor License for Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association for New Castle Trails Movie Night

Town Clerk Melody Harrison told the council that Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association (RFMBA), through their representative Adam Cornely, has applied for a special events liquor license for the New Castle Trails Movie Night. RFMBA was a 501-c3 organization, and therefore qualified for the license under the state liquor laws. The application was complete, and all fees had been paid. The organization intended to serve beer only at their event. Clerk Harrison said that if the council approved the application, staff recommended that council consider the following conditions: That alcohol service stops at 9:00 p.m., but is allowed on premises until 9:30 p.m., that there be a 100% ID check, and eligible adults be issued wristbands and that a SafeServ (TIPS) Certified volunteer be on premises for the event.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the application for a special events liquor license for Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Authority for the New Castle Trails Movie Night Fundraising Event. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Discussion: Vehicle Registration Fee

Administrator Baker said the council had discussed the issue previously, and if they felt it was an item they wished to place on the November 2017 or April 2018 ballot. If so, he asked them to consider providing staff some lead time to organize a citizen committee to address the question with the community to understand if the item should go to the voters, and at what level. A citizens group would also be able to advocate for the issue, whereas staff and council would not be able to. Administrator Baker said the question was on the ballot in 2010 and did not pass due to many issues, and he felt that the citizens advocate group would be able to answer those questions. Councilor Hazelton said that the citizens group could also inform people how the money collected from a vehicle fee would be spent for the town. It could possibly be put into the streets budget, and the general fund money that typically was put into streets to supplement the budget could be spent elsewhere, such as recreation or parks. Another consideration was what percent tax should be considered, and that was likely a backwards calculation dependent on how much the town wanted to collect. Councilor G Riddile cautioned that in November 2017 there were likely to be several tax questions on the ballot that could influence the voters. Clerk Harrison said she had spoken to the county clerk, and the ballot order would be state items first, then county, then municipal. New Castle's issue would be in the third category of ballot items. After municipal items would be the school district and then special districts. She said it would be difficult to determine in advance who may have issues on the ballot. Clerk Harrison told the council that they were aware that Xcel Energy had put a lot of effort in to educating the community about the franchise fee ballot item, and her office received many calls from people who were interested. The council agreed that staff should move forward with the vehicle fee.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of the January 17, 2017 council meeting

January Bills of \$826,896.12

Lazy Bear Restaurant Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

Resolution TC-2017-4 – Approving a GFD Mini Grant Application for Pump Track Improvements

Resolution TC-2017-5 - Approving a GFMLD Grant Application for Construction and Maintenance of Public Facilities

Downtown Group Funding Request for Community Center Photographs

CVR Investors Indemnity Agreement

Resolution TC-2017-7 – Approving the 2017 Senior Programs MOU

MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Baker said he received a request from GCE to facilitate their March 3, 2017 Alternative Energy Symposium. There would be a \$25.00 registration fee for those interested in attending. The senior housing project should break ground in April. Administrator Baker said he received a call from them asking if there were any additional opportunities for a reduction in fees. He said he told them they needed to write a proposal for the council to consider. Xcel Energy had

changed the bulbs on Castle Valley Boulevard to lower wattage ones. He said they had not received any more calls, but asked the council to please let him know if there were additional concerns. He said the county's Energy and Environment Symposium would be April 19 and 20, 2017, and he had two seats available for those who wanted to go. Last, he said he wanted to schedule a follow-up meeting with the P&Z in March for comprehensive plan discussions.

Town Clerk – Clerk Harrison said that the Coal Ridge Cheer Team would be at council on March 7, and the Cub Scouts would attend on March 21, 2017. Clerk Harrison said she had someone inquire about obtaining a liquor license at the Chapman's Pub location, but he had not submitted the application. The council asked what the status was of the existing license. Clerk Harrison told them that the current owners of the business and liquor license had been arrested the prior week on a failure to appear in Pitkin County. There were also judgments against them in Garfield County and Mesa County. She said that the town attorney stated that the current license was not transferrable, so any applicant would not be able to serve alcohol until a new license was approved.

Clerk Harrison showed the council a framed photograph of New Castle that was taken by Eric Baquero. Mr. Baquero is a commercial airline pilot and the photograph was from 35,000 feet in April 2016. Some years earlier, Mr. Baquero was flying over the area, saw the Lakota Golf Course from the air, and decided to explore the area. He and his wife came to New Castle and very shortly thereafter bought a home and settled in New Castle. He had the picture framed and gave it to the town.

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – Councilor G Riddile said at the last P&Z meeting, they approved the detail shop conditional use permit.

Historic Preservation Commission – nothing to report

Climate Action Advisory Committee – nothing to report

Senior Program – nothing to report

RFTA – nothing to report

AGNC – nothing to report

GCE – nothing to report

BEWG – nothing to report

Council Comments

Councilor Metzger asked if anyone had spoken to public works about allowing New Hope Church to manage the Christmas lights in Burning Mountain Park. Administrator Baker said he had spoken to public works, and although they were okay with the church taking care of the lights, there was some concern about volunteers using a cherry picker, so more discussion was needed.

Councilor Owens said that he felt that the combined meeting between P&Z and the council could have been more organized. There were no introductions, and the conversation seemed to be less productive than expected. Administrator Baker said that the nature of the meeting was more process than product because they were at the beginning stages of the large project of updating the town comprehensive plan.

Councilor Russi told the council that he now sat on the LoVa Board.

Councilor Leland said that Spellibration would be on April 7 at the Hotel Colorado.

He asked that Administrator Baker let the staff know in case they wanted to form a team. The theme for 2017 would be Circus.

Councilor Leland said that the new sports park would need a name, and felt that a 'name the sports park' contest could be conducted as had been done in the past.

Councilor Leland said that it would be great if the council could receive instructions about their roles for Founders Day.


Councilor G Riddile said that there was a lot of discussion at the combined meeting with P&Z about things they were disappointed in, but Councilor G Riddile felt there were a lot of positives in New Castle, and he wanted to focus on those.

Mayor A Riddile said that the River Center was collecting food for needy children for the Totes of Hope program. He also suggested that the council help coordinate efforts to utilize the New Hope Church auditorium for public events.

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Art Riddile



Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

