

**New Castle Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 20, 2018, 7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

Mayor Art 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, Deputy Town Clerk Mindy Andis

Meeting Notice

Deputy Town Clerk Mindy Andis verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC-2018-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Agenda Changes

Town Administrator Tom Baker asked that the Community Counts Funding Request be removed from the agenda because Nita Smith could not make it to the meeting due to the weather. The item will be placed on the March 6 council agenda. The council agreed.

Citizen Comments on Items not on the Agenda

There were no citizen comments.

Consultant Reports

Consultant Attorney – not present

Consultant Engineer – Town Engineer Jeff Simonson told the council that his office had done evaluations of the various alternative routes for the LoVa Trail. He said that there had been a stakeholders meeting as well as two public meetings, and the attendees had considered the routes and selected alternative D. Alternative D went from River Park Condominiums, east past River Bend, through the Backer property to Canyon Creek, and across the river on BLM property just east of the Backer property.

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Alternative D is approximately 25% less expensive than the other alternatives. The council and Engineer Simonson talked in depth about the process of obtaining approvals, the right-of-way acquisitions needed and the various agencies that may be involved. The council thanked Engineer Simonson for the update.

Items for Consideration

~~Community Counts Funding Request~~

The item was removed from the agenda.

July Special Event: The Dirty Hog Dash

Parks Manager Jared Stueber greeted the council. He said that he would bring a new event to New Castle called the Dirty Hog Dash, which was a mud run for kids, ages 4 to 14. There would be obstacles and plenty of mud. He felt it would bring people to the community, and it would be a lot of fun. He said the event would be at VIX Park and he planned to have perhaps 200 participants. Manager Stueber said that he confirmed that the town's insurance company, CIRSA, would cover the event under the recreation waiver. He also said that he had determined a budget for the event, and did not want any funding from the council, as he planned to fund the event through sponsorships, and the course would be tailored to the amount of funding he raised. The more money raised the more obstacles. Registration fees would pay for a t-shirt and medal for each participant, and he hoped a meal voucher as well. Online registration will be available for participants through the recreation department's website. The event will be advertised in the spring and summer activity guides, as well as social media and KMTS radio.

Manager Stueber said the event will be held on July 21, 2018 from 9:00 am to noon. He hoped that the police department would bring a squad car, and that he could get the fire department to come and 'wash' mud off the kids. He described how he would set up and clean up so that there was no impact to VIX Park and the soccer field. The council thought the event sounded great, and thanked Manager Stueber.

Consider Recommendation for Appointment County Weed Board

Town Administrator Baker told the council that Mike Callas used to be the town's representative on the County Weed Board. Because Mr. Callas was no longer with the town, Administrator Baker and Public Works Director John Wenzel spoke with Manager Stueber, and they wanted to compose a letter to the Board of County Commissioners recommending Manager Stueber be appointed to the weed board.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to recommend Parks Manager Jared Stueber be appointed to the Garfield County Weed Board, and authorized the Mayor to sign a letter of recommendation to the BOCC. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider Ordinance TC 2018-1, An Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Adopting New Traffic Regulations and Amending the Town Code Accordingly (second reading)

Administrator Baker told the council that the ordinance was second reading and that Police Chief Pagni had explained it at first reading. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to approve Ordinance TC-2018-1, An Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Adopting New Traffic Regulations and Amending the Town Code Accordingly on second reading. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed on a roll-call vote: Councilor G Riddile: yes; Councilor Metzger: yes; Councilor Owens: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Mayor A Riddile: yes; Councilor Russi: yes.

Recess the Town Council Meeting, Convene as the Water & Sewer Enterprise
MOTION: Councilor Russi made a motion to recess the town council meeting and to convene as the Water & Sewer Enterprise. Councilor Owens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Consider Ordinance 2018 E-1, An Ordinance of the Town of New Castle Water & Sewer Enterprise Increasing Water and Sewer Service Charges (first reading)

Administrator Baker said that the ordinance was a result of discussion the council had at their annual retreat, and that there had not been a rate increase since 2012. He said that the council had agreed that a modest rate increase periodically was better than a major increase in the future. The proposed increase was 3% for both water and sewer.

Public Works Director John Wenzel said that the utility department had been investing heavily in the capital, having just put 1.8 million dollars in an expansion of the water treatment plant, and the department had invested in new programs such as a GIS mapping program that helped them identify the appropriateness of fire hydrant spacing throughout town. Additionally, they will invest in new capital equipment such as sewer line jetting equipment. He agreed that some of the upgrades made the town more fire-safe in that understanding the capacities of pressure and volume for the fire hydrants helped the fire department develop a strategic plan to fight fires.

Administrator Baker said that it also assisted in lowering insurance rates for homeowners. Director Wenzel said that he was also investing in the staff for the utilities department, having added another full-time employee, as well as providing training opportunities.

The council agreed that the new rate would be effective May 1, 2018, and that the effective date should be added to the second reading.

MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018 E-1, An Ordinance of the Town of New Castle Water & Sewer Enterprise Increasing Water and Sewer Service Charges, effective on May 1, 2018, on first reading. Councilor G Riddile seconded the motion and it passed on a roll-call vote: Councilor Hazelton: yes; Mayor A Riddile: yes; Councilor Russi: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor Owens: yes; Councilor G Riddile: yes; Councilor Metzger: yes.

Adjourn the Water & Sewer Enterprise, Reconvene as the Town Council
MOTION: Councilor G Riddile made a motion to adjourn the Water & Sewer Enterprise and reconvene the town council meeting. Councilor Owens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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MOTION: Councilor Russi made a motion at 7:49 p.m. to go into Executive Session for discussion of a personnel matter under C.R.S. Section 24-6-402 (f)(I) regarding an employee evaluation of the Town Administrator, and not involving: any specific employees who have requested discussion of the matter in open session; any member of this body of any elected official; the appointment of any person to fill an office of this body or of an elected official; or personnel policies that do not require the discussion of matters personal to particular employees. Mayor A Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Executive session concluded.

At the end of the executive session, Mayor A Riddile made the following statement:

"The time is now 8:25 p.m. and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive session were: Councilors Metzger, Owens and Hazelton; Mayor A Riddile; Councilors Leland and G Riddile; Town Administrator Baker. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record."

No concerns were stated.

MOTION: Councilor Russi made a motion to appoint Councilor Owens to become the council representative to a vacancy committee and that he work with the Town Administrator to develop a process to fill vacancies in the town in the coming year, and to report to the council on March 6, 2018. Mayor A Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilor Leland expressed his appreciation to Town Administrator Tom Baker for his exceptional work provided to the council and the town and felt regret that Administrator Baker had decided to retire. Councilor Leland also offered his best wishes. The council agreed and offered their own sentiments and gratefulness to Administrator Baker.

Consent Agenda

Minutes of the February 6, 2018 council meeting

Resolution TC-2018-6 – Supporting an FMLD Grant App for Water Jetting Equipment

Resolution TC-2018-7 – Supporting an FMLD Grant Application for VIX Ranch Electrical Service Upgrade

Lakota Canyon Ranch Golf Course/Clubhouse Optional Premises Liquor License Renewal

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

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Baker told the council that he, Finance Director Layton, and Chief Pagni had been talking about the police vehicles. After discussion, Administrator Baker said he and Chief Pagni would bring options back to the council regarding vehicle replacement for the police department. Administrator Baker said that Senator Gardner had been soliciting information from municipalities on infrastructure projects because of the Trump Infrastructure Plan. He said that he, Director Wenzel and Engineer Simonson had put a list together. Administrator Baker said the town had submitted a grant application to the Healthy Communities Coalition for a grant writer to help the Apple Tree Community and Liberty Classical Academy with their playground.

Town Clerk – Deputy Town Clerk Andis told the council that the 'Meet the Candidates' event would be on Wednesday, March 7, at the Community Center from 7 to 9 p.m. Steve Rippey will MC, and the Chamber is hosting. Deputy Clerk Andis said that ballots would be mailed out the week of March 12, 2018. On the dais was a booklet from CML regarding municipal taxes and fees, and flyers were posted advertising the vacant seats on P&Z and HPC. One letter of interest had been received from Oli Johannsson, and applicants would be interviewed at the March 6 council meeting.

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – Mayor A Riddile said that at the last P&Z meeting there was a full house with people standing in the hallway. CRHDC made their presentation about the changes. He briefly described the history with the cost overruns for the senior housing project and said that there would be a workshop with senior housing, two Lakota design review board members, town staff and P&Z Chair Chuck Apostolik. At the work session they need to mitigate the changes and bring those back to P&Z for a recommendation, and final approval will come to the town council.

Historic Preservation Commission – nothing to report

Climate Action Advisory Committee – Councilor Russi said he had received a number of phone calls from citizens interested in reviving the CAAC. He advised those citizens to come to council. Councilor Leland said that he had been thinking that CAAC could be resurrected as a health and wellness commission whose mission would be the health and wellness of the community as well as clean air, clean water and clean energy, and they could partner with recreation and parks.

Senior Program – nothing to report

RFTA – Mayor A Riddile said that RFTA had done a survey regarding a possible mil levy increase. Councilor Russi said the survey included questions regarding the LoVa Trail and the results were highly favorable. The other item was increased service to New Castle

AGNC – nothing to report

GCE – nothing to report

BEWG – Councilor Russi said that BEWG would be holding a phone meeting soon.

Council Comments

Councilor Russi said that LoVa had gotten a \$45k planning grant for the stretch of trail between South Canyon and Canyon Creek, and they also had more than enough matching money from their partners. He also said that they were waiting to hear about the other grant.

Councilor Leland said he had received a call from the Post Independent about whether the Town of New Castle would be supporting the lottery and GoCo at the state legislature. He said that the lottery's authorization would expire in the following year, and they were looking for support in the form of a resolution. He will use the language from the Rifle resolution to write one for the town and it would come to the council at the next meeting.

Councilor Leland said that he would be meeting Thursday with the employee committee for the employee health and wellness plan.

Councilor G Riddile said that the New Castle Trails Winter Conference went very well, and they had netted about \$1,500.00.

Councilor G Riddile said that the community center remodel was looking great, and that Bob Byram was doing a great job in the drywall. He suggested that the council give him a nice gift card or something.

Councilor G Riddile said he thought there was going to be issues with people parking on Castle Valley Boulevard near Bear Dance Park, and he thought perhaps the parking should be closed because it is dangerous. Administrator Baker said that initially the parking was expected to be along Castle Valley to prevent parking on Blackhawk but perhaps the whole parking issue needed to be readdressed. The council agreed.

Councilor Metzger asked how Accounting Assistant Debbie Guccini was doing.

Administrator Baker said her husband was quite ill, and many of the employees were donating sick time to her. He also said that Finance Director Layton was putting in more hours, and Administrative Assistant Debbie Nichols was helping as well.

Councilor Leland asked if Finance Director Layton would be temporarily returning to Colorado, because the employment agreement stated that he would return if we needed him to. Administrator Baker said the Director Layton had not said he was coming back, but he would if asked, but thus far, he had not volunteered to return.

Administrator Baker said he had advised Director Layton to think about returning for an extended period because his assistant would be gone for a month or so, but he had not done anything yet.

Councilor Leland asked Administrator Baker to pursue the subject and suggested that Council may need to review Director Layton's retirement plans.

Councilor G Riddile asked if there would be an evaluation done where it could be discussed. Administrator Baker said that evaluations for Director Layton and Clerk Harrison had been sent to the council, but they had not gone to the two employees.

Councilor Metzger thanked Councilor Leland for all the writing he did for the council and town.

Councilor Metzger asked if there was any more information about the food truck idea. Administrator Baker said he was delaying that idea somewhat, but there had been some intense pushback from a few key restaurants in town. Councilor G Riddile felt that the council needed a very specific proposal on the topic. Administrator Baker said the tent and table idea might be good for special events.

Mayor A Riddile said that he brought up the idea of an autonomous bus in New Castle at the Inter Mountain Transportation Region meeting and they elevated the idea up to the Traffic Operations Engineer at CDOT, who liked it and sent it to the director a division of CDOT called of Road-X. Road-X would like to more information of the idea, because what they can do is contact manufacturers of autonomous vehicles and see if

they would be willing to invest in the project. Road-X would like the town's involvement, such as a charging station and garage for the vehicle. Administrator Baker said that Planner Cain was working on a Request for Information (RFI) and that would be complete at the end of the week.

Mayor A Riddile said that the New Castle Trails Winter Conference was great, and he thanked everyone for being there. He also thanked everyone for another successful Founders Day.

Mayor A Riddile asked if the council felt they should hold a council meeting on March 6, and the council agreed they should have a meeting.

Mayor A Riddile asked about the April 3 meeting since that would be Election Day. Deputy Clerk Andis told the council that the election staff would be using the council chambers because it was where the election judges would count ballots with counting machines. Administrator Baker said that the council still had time to consider it.

Mayor A Riddile said that the town had provided support to the River Center, and they had send a lovely thank you.

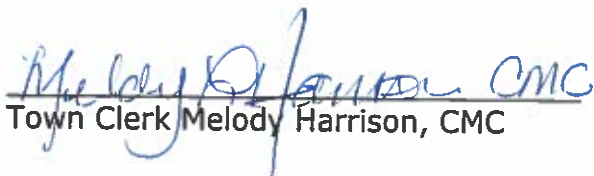
MOTION: Councilor Russi made a motion to adjourn. Mayor A Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Art Riddile


Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

