

**New Castle Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 7:00 p.m.**

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present	Councilor Mariscal Councilor Owens Mayor A Riddile Councilor Copeland Councilor Leland Councilor G Riddile
Absent	Councilor Hazelton

Also present at the meeting were Town Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Clerk Melody Harrison, Police Chief Tony Pagni and Town Attorney David McConaughy.

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to excuse Councilor Hazelton's absence. Councilor Owens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Meeting Notice

Town Clerk Melody Harrison verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2019-1.

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 – present for agenda items.
Consultant Engineer – not present.

Items for Consideration

Garfield RE-2 School Board

Mayor A Riddile greeted the members of the Garfield RE-2 School District, Superintendent Brent Curtice, Board President Anne Guettler and Communications Director Theresa Hamilton.

Superintendent Curtice thanked the council for having them attend, and voiced the districts' appreciation of the Town for leading the way in supporting the district regarding their November 2018 ballot issues. Superintendent Curtice said that the district was disappointed that both ballot issues did not pass, but were happy the teachers received a raise. The issue for facilities would likely be addressed on a future election ballot, although enrollment in the district was trending down, so the facilities issue was less problematic. Mayor A Riddile asked Superintendent Curtice what the district was seeing in regard to marijuana use in the middle and high schools. Superintendent Curtice said that all the RE-2 schools were drug-free, and there were drug dogs and School Resource Officers (SRO) at the middle and high schools. He said there have been very few busts and he felt that was because the students knew the district and schools were serious regarding their zero-tolerance policy, and the dogs and SROs were doing their job.

Councilor Mariscal said that she had recently learned that Garfield County and Garfield RE-2 School District had the second largest migrant community, and it was growing. She asked what information the district had about the subject.

Communications Director Theresa Hamilton said that the district had approximately a 48% Latino population, but she did not have any information specifically about migrants.

Councilor Mariscal said she would gladly share the information.

Councilor G Riddile asked if the new pay schedule for the teachers had been implemented, and Board President Guettler said it had been implemented and the teachers had just received their first paychecks. President Guettler said that pay scales were always an issue since RE-1 had one more mil levy than RE-2, but that the state was considering an equalized mil-levy that would guarantee equal funding and districts such as Aspen would have to pay their own way. She felt that was fair.

Superintendent Curtice said that the other financial concern was health insurance and the district felt they had done a good job providing an affordable option.

The council and school board agreed to keep in contact to partner on issues such as affordable housing.

The council thanked Superintendent Curtice, President Guettler and Director Hamilton.

Update and Potential Action on Request for Temporary Certificate of Occupancy for Lakota Ridge Senior Apartments

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds and Town Planner Paul Smith described to the council the remaining issues with the senior housing project, noting that the project was very close to being eligible for a temporary certificate of occupancy (TCO). Administrator Reynolds said he had asked Community Resource Housing Development Corporation (CRHDC) for their plan for obtaining their TCO, and had yet to receive it. In addition, there needed to be some financial security and that had not been received either.

Administrator Reynolds recalled that Katherine Gazunis of Garfield County Housing Authority had explained at the January 15, 2019 council meeting that her eight project-based tenants needed a move-in date of March 1, 2019. He said that because of the temporary federal government shutdown, the move-in date for the eight project-based tenants had been extended past March 1, 2019. It was the intent of CRHDC that all the punch-list items would be completed by March 1, 2019.

Town Attorney David McConaughy told the council that he had received the property deed for the road, but that it had not been recorded because the property underneath the right-of-way was still encumbered by the construction loan with Wells Fargo. He said CRHDC would need to provide some documentation signed by the bank releasing the encumbrance and subordinating their loan to the right-of-way dedication. In addition, CRHDC will need to provide some financial security for the remaining portions of the project. CRHDC felt they wanted to simply place a cash deposit. Attorney McConaughy said that since the time constraints were eased up a bit that they would bring an escrow agreement back to the council at a near future meeting once a dollar amount was determined.

Staff and council discussed when tenants could be moved in, and they agreed was likely to be April 1, 2019. They also discussed who would facilitate the move-ins since there was not a permanent property/facility manager on site. CRHDC had temporary staff, and the position was being advertised.

Administrator Reynolds told the council that the TCO would be issued based on the conditions set by the council at an earlier council meeting.

Chief Pagni - Safety Protocol for Council Meetings

Police Chief Tony Pagni Greeted the council. He said that safety protocol had originally been discussed about four years ago. Recently this had been readdressed when there was no response from the security company when staff ran a test on the panic buttons. He said Administrator Reynolds was looking for other security companies that could provide better service for the safety of employee at the town hall.

Chief Pagni said that law enforcement did a lot of 'what if' training by looking at hypothetical situations and training on those scenarios. The worst-case scenario is an active shooter who would either be in the audience or coming through the front door. He said the things to think about were where the safety buffers were and what the exit strategy would be. Chief Pagni said that his strategy for the council was that the door behind the council remain open, but the handle locked, and in a situation the council would exit chambers through the east door, closing it and locking themselves away from an intruder. He further suggested that Councilor Hazelton sit at the dais in the seat closest to the double entry doors since he was the council member with the largest stature.

Chief Pagni also stated that it was safer to exit the building rather than sheltering in place in the event there was a situation. Hiding behind something is good, but it is much more difficult to hit a moving target. Attorney McConaughy said that in a similar presentation he had attended, they were advised to utilize a 'fight' component by throwing staplers or anything available, and Chief Pagni agreed.

Councilor Copeland asked if concealed carry licensees were allowed to carry in chambers. Chief Pagni said that as the legislative body, government members could carry, but no citizen could bring a firearm into a government building.

Chief Pagni said that if the council felt it was necessary, he could regularly schedule an officer at council meetings. Otherwise, the council could request an officer when they knew there could be potential for controversy at a meeting.

Chief Pagni told the council that he had lost Officer David Mulkey to the Garfield County Sheriff's Department. He said he was down two positions and was currently in the hiring process for one position. He said he would be going to Colorado Mesa University to recruit out of their academy, and would also recruit out of the Glenwood CMC academy.

Chief Pagni also said that his Police Clerk, Jessica Hernandez, was home from the hospital and she and her new daughter were doing fine. Ms. Hernandez was working remotely from home a few hours per day.

The council thanked Chief Pagni.

Consider Resolution TC 2019-3, A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Adopting a Policy for Citizen Comments at Public Meetings

Attorney McConaughy said that he had given a presentation regarding public comments policies at the CML conference. The purpose of the policy was to set guidelines to remain consistent and objective with public comments.

MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2019-3, A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Adopting a Policy for Citizen Comments at Public Meetings. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Wellness Committee Update & 2019 Goals

Recreation Director Hannah Bihr greeted the council.

Director Bihr described the wellness program that had been adopted and told the council how many employees had participated and how successful the program had been in 2018. She noted that one of the reasons the wellness program had been created was to elevate the town to elite status as a HEAL City. Director Bihr also told the council about the other things that the town staff had done for wellness including utilizing stand-up desks, a flu shot clinic, attending health and wellness seminars and involving themselves in water and step challenges.

Director Bihr said that in 2019 some of the goals would be to increase participation in the wellness program; to host healthy potluck lunches; and hosting two employee wellness/social events such as playing pickle ball at lunch or an after-work hike. Last, Director Bihr told the council that for 2019 the health and wellness committee decided to sign up for a free program called Health Links through Denver Public Health. The program helped promote total worker health encompassing everything from wellness to safety. In addition, there was a program called SSWell which was geared towards small business in a multi-year research project to understand how small organizations support health, safety and well-being of their workforce. A free assessment will be done of the organization and feedback will be provided on what could be done better.

Director Bihr said the committee was very excited about the opportunities available and looked forward to participating in them in 2019.

Last, Director Bihr told the council that the recreation guide for March and April was available.

Councilor Owens said that Health Links was a great program and that his company used it as well. He said he supported the program entirely because it would really help the town complete their health and wellness program.

Councilor Leland said that not only was becoming an elite status HEAL City, a motivator for the program but it was a way for the council to express to the staff that they truly cared about their health and morale and that they matter as humans.

Director Bihr told the council that for the wellness program, finance had asked to move the payout date to earlier in the year, so it will be October 1, 2019.

Director Bihl thanked the council on behalf of all the town staff for the wellness program.

Consent Agenda

January 15, 2019 council minutes

Resolution TC 2019-4, Approving an FMLD Grant Application for Streets Maintenance

MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

Councilor Owens seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynolds said that staff was looking at new security companies because the company that was supposed to be monitoring the panic buttons was not doing it. Administrator Reynolds explained to the council that the resolution on the consent agenda was approving an FLMD grant application for a \$90k request. He said that there was \$30k in the budget for match money. Staff has identified fourteen projects around town that the money would be used for if the grant was awarded. Administrator Reynolds said that staff was exploring the idea of car charging stations in town. Councilor Leland said that GCE was considering applying for a collaborative FMLD grant in the fall to install fast-charging stations in the each of the six towns in the county. Administrator Reynolds said that staff was also looking at new IT service companies to ensure that the product the town had was appropriate and competitive. Administrator Reynolds said that the staff was working on the marijuana question and he expected that staff would complete their research within a few weeks and have it to the council within the month.

Town Clerk – Clerk Harrison said that some of the health and wellness committee members will be attending the Garfield County Food and Nutrition Summit on Thursday. Clerk Harrison said that on March 1 the town's CIRSA representative, Courtney Fagan, would meet with her and Administrator Reynolds and Treasurer Loni Burk. Clerk Harrison said that she and Councilor Owens had begun preliminary work on an ordinance to allow golf carts on town streets. Last, Clerk Harrison told the council that her youngest child had sworn into the U.S. Air Force and would likely go to boot camp in June 2019.

Town Planner – Planner Smith told the council that there were several single-family building permits going as well a land use application for the property adjacent to the fire station. Planner Smith, Administrator Reynolds and the council discussed the land use process and the municipal code at length.

Police Chief – Chief Pagni provided the council with an incident report that indicated crime statistics for New castle from 2013 through 2018. Chief Pagni and the council briefly discussed the information.

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – nothing to report

Historic Preservation Commission – nothing to report

Climate Action Advisory Committee – nothing to report

Senior Program – nothing to report

RFTA – Mayor A Riddile said that in June 2018 RFTA and the drivers' union agreed to a contract and then six months later was unhappy with the salary increases. He thought perhaps it had something to do with the fact that RFTA had won their ballot issue in November 2018. He also thought it would probably go to arbitration.

AGNC – nothing to report

GCE – nothing to report

EAB – Mayor A Riddile said that the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission gave an statistical update on oil and gas activity in the area.

Council Comments

Councilor Mariscal congratulated Councilor Owens on his recent promotion to Chief Workforce Officer.

Councilor Leland said that CML Executive Director Sam Mamot was retiring and he asked that staff get a retirement card for council to sign.

Mayor A Riddile said that Adam Cornely had been awarded the 2018 BLM Colorado Volunteer of the Year award during the Winter Conference, and they had given him \$4k which was great for the trail budget.

Councilor G Riddile said that the New Castle Trails Winter Conference had gone very well, and they made a little bit of money off the event.

Mayor A Riddile said that Tom Baker had surgery earlier in the day and it had gone well. He asked that staff get a card for Tom as well.

Mayor A Riddile showed the council a thank you note from Youth Zone for the grant the town had given them.

Mayor A Riddile said that on March 15, 2019 there would be a groundbreaking ceremony at the Deene E. Moore facility in Rifle from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mayor A Riddile said that Founders Day had gone very well and there were a lot of people in attendance.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:59p.m.

Respectively submitted,



Mayor Art Riddile


Town Clerk Melody Harrison, CMC

