

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 7:00 PM**

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**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 Carey Councilor Hazelton Mayor A Riddile Councilor Leland Councilor G Riddile
Absent	Councilor Copeland

Also present at the meeting were Town Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Clerk Melody Byram, Town Treasurer Loni Burk, Assistant Town Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers, Town Prosecutor Tim Graves and members of the public.

**MOTION: Mayor A Riddile made a motion to approve Councilor Copeland's absence. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**Meeting Notice**

Town Clerk Melody Byram verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with Resolution TC 2023-1.

Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 21, 2023

## **Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

## **Agenda Changes**

Clerk Byram noted that the two executive sessions that had been on the agenda the week prior had been rescheduled for the March 7, 2023, meeting.

## **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**

### **Presentation: Aviation Economic Growth - Evan Zislis, Aspen Institute**

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds told the council that Evan Zislis worked for the Aspen Institute and had been working for several years to encourage the communities from Aspen to Parachute to work together for the common good. Recently, he said that Mr. Zislis was working for the Colorado River Valley Economic Development Partnership whose focus was from New Castle to Parachute on an economic development idea that was aviation based.

Mr. Evan Zislis greeted the council and said that he was grateful for the opportunity to share his idea with them. He described the work done by the Aspen Institute across the globe in economic development, health and medicine, technology, issues of social justice, energy, climate, the arts and more. He said the Institute worked with local officials, regional, national and international officials on the full range of human experience globally. He said he was not representing Aspen or Pitkin County; in fact his superiors were in Washington DC.

Mr. Zislis explained the vision of the Colorado River Valley Economic Development Partnership to grow and diversify the local economic base to create good paying and sustainable jobs for the valley's workforce. The concept is to utilize the existing Garfield County Airport, local terrain, existing shops, hotels, restaurants, workforce and many other assets in order to build and grown an aviation base and create good paying and sustainable jobs for the workforce in the valley.

Mr. Zislis explained some of the areas in the concept which included professional rescuer training (US Military, wildland fire training and aviation fire training); tourism and civilian applications ("Air Sports" teams, pilot academy, aviation mechanic training); Equipment manufacturing & renewable propulsion research and development (light aviation manufacturing, safety equipment manufacturing, electric and green hydrogen research

and development); and long-term community development (base village neighborhoods, social services and transportation hubs). Mr. Zislis said that he will not be asking anyone for money because he planned to do the fundraising himself to bring an internationally renowned aviation consultation firm to do a feasibility study on the concept. He said that he expected the study would likely take a year.

Mr. Zislis asked the council if they would fill out a survey about the concept.

The council agreed. The council asked Mr. Zislis to keep them informed as the project moved along and they also thanked Mr. Zislis for a great presentation.

### **Discussion: Model Traffic Code Update and Moving Driving Under Restraint / Inoperable Vehicle Infractions to Municipal Court**

Clerk Byram introduced Town Prosecutor Tim Graves to the council.

Mr. Graves greeted the council and thanked them for their time.

Mr. Graves told the council that the town was currently using the 2010 Model Traffic Code (MTC), and every ten years the Department of Transportation updates the MTC. He said that adopting the newest version of the MTC was appropriate.

Mr. Graves also told the council that staff had been discussing adoption of two additional charges to the code that were not in the MTC but did have analogous provisions in the statutes. He said the first was driving under restraint, which was exactly as it sounded: a person who was driving with a license, but a license that was restrained, revoked, suspended or otherwise invalid. He noted that those types of tickets were written into district court, and one of two things will happen. It will be dismissed because the DA's office was too busy to handle such minor offenses or the offender will be given 60 to 90 days to obtain their license, and if they do the charge is dismissed or they are offered a lower plea. Mr. Graves said that the problem was that the cases were being dismissed at a very high rate and subsequently, the police were not writing the tickets so as to not waste everyone's time. Mr. Graves said that if driving under restraint was moved into municipal court it gave the town some ability to help regulate the issue. He described how the issue was handled in other jurisdictions and how it would be handled in New Castle. He said also that the little bit revenue that the fines brought would somewhat offset the expense of the additional cases brought into court and the additional police activity. Mr. Graves said that ultimately, it will put New Castle in the position of knowing that the people driving on town streets were doing so legally.

Mr. Graves said that there were two types of inoperable vehicles; Mechanically inoperable and unlicensed vehicles. Using the City of Rifle as an example of a jurisdiction that had adopted an inoperable vehicle code, he described how the code read, what it meant and how tickets could be written into municipal court. Mr. Graves said that it will provide an opportunity for New Castle to help bring people into compliance with vehicle registration. The council agreed that an ordinance could be drafted.

Mr. Graves thanked the council and said that he was glad to work with the town attorney on the ordinance to move forward.

### **Consent Agenda**

February 7, 2023 minutes

Resolution TC 2023-04 - A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Supporting the Application for a Grant from the Garfield County Mineral Lease District for the Construction of a Dog Park

Resolution TC 2023-5 - A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Supporting the Application for a Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for the Streets Capital Maintenance Project

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

### **Staff Reports**

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynolds said that there were several staff members who wanted to attend the Colorado Municipal League Conference and that there was an opportunity for a scholarship. He said he had a letter for the mayor to sign supporting the scholarship application if that was okay with the council. Administrator Reynolds told the council that he had attended several meetings of the steering committee for the detox center, and it had turned out that bids for building the facility had come in more than double the grant funding of \$700k. Mind Springs had been working with the contractor and the bid amount had dropped to about 1.4 million. Mind Springs said that they would make up the difference, and the offer caused the committee to question why.

Administrator Reynolds said that Mind Springs will submit a whole new proforma at the next steering committee meeting. Administrator Reynolds said that the Middle Colorado Watershed Council has gathered a group of all the municipalities along the Colorado River as well as fire districts, and the group is called the Middle Colorado Collaborative. He said that he learned that there were federal and state monies to fund wildfire mitigation, wildfire pre and post work, and the best way to get those funds was through the collaborative. Administrator Reynolds said that staff had been successful in getting an AGNC grant for funding to move the ice rink to Burning Mountain Park. Administrator Reynolds said that public works had started painting in town hall, and the new carpeting had been ordered. Administrator Reynolds said that there was a meeting scheduled the following day with the DOLA representative, and he and Public Works Director John Wenzel will walk them through some ideas for DOLA grants. Administrator Reynolds said that he will likely be at the AGNC meeting because they will be talking about broadband.

Town Clerk – Clerk Byram said that she will have her first training on utility billing the following week, and that she will be doing billing for the next several months. Clerk Byram said that staff had gone live with a program called Monsido that assisted with the town website ADA compliance. Clerk Byram told Director Wenzel that she had posted the public works positions on the town website. Clerk Byram said that she had met with Administrator Reynolds and Recreation Director Bihr to discuss the potential of duplicating meeting technology equipment in the community center. Clerk Byram said that registration for the CML conference was open and said that if any of the council members wanted her to register them for the conference to please let her know.

Town Treasurer – Treasurer Loni Burk said that training for Assistant Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers had been going well. Asst. Treasurer Ehlers had been busy with worker compensation audit, a CIRSA volunteer medical audit and an upcoming unemployment audit. In addition she has attended several Caselle webinars, she had been attending

some Colorado Government Finance Officer Association training sessions. She has also been attending the capital committee meetings all while completing payroll accurately. Treasurer Burk said that Asst. Treasurer Ehlers was anxious to learn and asked great questions. Treasurer Burk said that she will be in Colorado at the end of March or early April to help with the audit preparations.

Town Planner – not present.

Public Works Director – not present.

### **Commission Reports**

Planning & Zoning Commission – nothing to report.

Historic Preservation Commission – nothing to report.

Climate and Environment Commission – nothing to report. listen

Senior Program – nothing to report.

RFTA – Mayor A Riddile said that the Hogback ridership was increasing percentagewise more than anywhere else in valley. He said they had been speaking to Dan Blankenship about extending his employment with RFTA. He said that they Talked to Blankenship to extend employment. He said they also talked about getting Silt and Rifle into RFTA.

AGNC – nothing to report.

GCE – nothing to report.

EAB – nothing to report.

### **Council Comments**

Councilor Mariscal said that she had received a fake e-mail from the mayor.

Councilor Mariscal said she was having trouble with her town e-mails going into the spam folder.

Councilor Mariscal said that she had a meeting Friday with the emergency communications board that she now held a seat on.

Councilor Carey said that she had seen an article in the newspaper about Caleb Thompson, a Coal Ridge exchange student in Turkey who was helping with relief because of the earthquakes. She felt that the council could honor him when he returned to the U.S.

Councilor Carey said that the first bear meeting would be the following week on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilor Carey had good talk with Tina White from Snowmass who will comment on a wildlife ordinance, what worked and did not.

Councilor G Riddile said there was another capital improvement committee meeting on Friday and they will report to the council soon.

Councilor Leland said that Clerk Byram mentioned ADA compliance on the town website. He said that he had learned that website compliance was incredibly complicated, so it was good to hear that there were people and companies that do that work.

Councilor Leland said that Spellebration will be on March 3, and there was not a town team.


Councilor Leland said that he was considering newsletter write ups about town council members. He said it was a good year to do so since it was not an election year. He asked the council members to begin writing about themselves. Clerk Byram suggested that the same could be done about the town staff.

Councilor Leland said there had been a Facebook discussion about the bridge potholes and a lot of the discussion was about CDOT coming in summer 2023 to do work. He asked when the town could officially announce the traffic circle. Administrator Reynolds said that he felt that the town could safely announce that the phase I utility work will be done in the 2023 construction season, and then the roundabout in the 2024 construction season. Councilor Mariscal said she had met with Ana Guytan with the New Castle library about events for the Latino community. Mayor A Riddile said that Ambleside School approached him about putting the 7<sup>th</sup> graders to work volunteering. He said that Elk Creek Elementary was interested in that.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mayor A Riddile

  
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Town Clerk Melody Byram, CMC

