

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, December 17, 2024, 7:30 PM**

Call to Order

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Councilor Carey
Councilor Mariscal
Councilor Hazelton
Councilor Copeland
Mayor A. Riddile
Councilor Leland
Councilor G Riddile

Absent None

Also present at the meeting were Town Clerk Mindy Andis, Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers, Administrative Assistant Rochelle Firth and members of the public.

Meeting Notice

Clerk Andis verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with resolution TC 2024-1.

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

Consider Police K-9 Unit

Administrator Dave Reynolds said during the past several weeks town staff have been weighing the pros and cons of adding a Police Dog to our Police Department. Staff have concluded that a K-9 Officer has the potential to provide additional safety for our officers and enhance our operational capacity while improving community safety and trust. Officer Jerry Alcorta shared his proposal with the council (Exhibit A). Officer Alcorta introduced K-9 Kipp. Kipp came from a breeder in Denver, he is a Belgian Malinois X. Kipp is 75 percent Malinois and 25 percent German Shepard. Both parents are working K-9

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dogs. Kipp's dad is the Malinois that is dual trained working police dog in Wyoming, and mom is Black German Shepard that works in the private sector for narcotics detection. Officer Alcorta said Kipp turned 11 weeks old and he has had him for three weeks now. Officer Alcorta explained that for Police K-9 there are dual trained dogs that are trained to search for drugs, tracking, patrol and apprehension of suspects, and then there are Police K-9 that work solely in schools or detection. Officer Alcorta said this year there are only two K-9 dogs in Garfield County. Officer Alcorta said the dog is being provided to the Town of New Castle for service. He said that if the council approves having the K-9 Unit, then he is willing to go through the training and put in the work with Kipp. The goal is to get Kipp certified and being able to deploy Kipp on the roads. Officer Alcorta said Kipp would be able to get certified and begin working in the Fall 2025 or early Spring 2026. Officer Alcorta explained what the benefits are for having a K-9 unit. First is officer safety. It is common for this area to have officers working alone. It also improves enhancing crime prevention and detection. Having a K-9 increases efficiency in tracking/searching operations. Officer Alcorta said K-9 are not attack dogs but instead are tools and resources, and the primary way that the tools are utilized is as locating tools. The primary work Kipp would be doing is locating items, narcotics or people.

Mayor A. Riddile asked Lieutenant Stu Curry if the department would be using other K-9 handlers as resources. Lieutenant Curry said yes, the reason for moving forward with a K-9 now is being able to use other departments as resources and there has been a need for a K-9 and now the need will be met. In the past when a K-9 was needed we would have to call out to other departments to assist.

Councilor G. Riddile asked, since there is only one handler, what would happen if Officer Alcorta leaves. Officer Alcorta said he is the handler and the dog is his. He enjoys working for the New Castle Police Department and is a resident of the town. He has no intention of leaving. Corporal Contreras said having a K-9 is a good recruiting tactic for the department with another program. Corporal Contreras said they have had conversations about sending some of the officers to Bit School to help Officer Alcorta train K-9.

Councilor Hazelton asked what would be the average service time for a K-9. Officer Alcorta said the dog would be on the road from a year and half to two years old, retiring around 8 or 9 years old. Councilor Hazelton asked what does retirement look like for the K-9 and how soon would the department be looking for another one or a replacement. Officer Alcorta said as the town and department grows, another dog could be added if the need is there. When Kipp gets to retirement age, he is not sure if he would take on another dog. But he would like to train the next generation of dogs.

Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers asked what type of liability there is with a K-9. Officer Alcorta said he was not sure, but he is still gathering information. He thought it would be the same liability as any other officer. Lieutenant Curry said most of the policies incorporate K-9 into the liability policy as any other lethal force policy and procedure.

Councilor Leland asked how soon does the training start for Kipp. Officer Alcorta said Kipp is already in training, Kipp is working with Meth detection. K-9 needs to be socialized, have manners, stable and well versed in any situation.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve Police K-9 Unit for the Town of New Castle. Councilor Carey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – Opened at 7:56pm

Consider Ordinance TC 2024-4 - An Ordinance of the Town of New Castle, Colorado summarizing additional expenditures for the General Fund, Utility Fund, Conservation Trust Fund and Cemetery Fund, and adopting a supplemental budget for the Town of New Castle, Colorado, for the calendar year beginning on the first day of January, 2024 and ending on the last day of December, 2024 (2nd reading)

Treasurer Ehlers said supplemental is for just the General Fund. The reason for the supplemental budget is due to the LOVA grant passthrough. The funding was supposed to have been done in 2023, however, the additional funding was not received until February 2024.

Mayor A. Riddile closed the public hearing at 7:56pm.

MOTION: Councilor G. Riddile made a motion to approve Ordinance TC 2024-4 - An Ordinance of the Town of New Castle, Colorado summarizing additional expenditures for the General Fund, Utility Fund, Conservation Trust Fund and Cemetery Fund, and adopting a supplemental budget for the Town of New Castle, Colorado, for the calendar year beginning on the first day of January, 2024 and ending on the last day of December, 2024 (2nd reading), Councilor Hazelton seconded the motion and it passed on a roll call vote.

Mayor A. Riddile: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Councilor Carey: yes; Councilor Mariscal: yes; Councilor Copeland: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor G. Riddile: yes.

Consider Resolution TC 2024-25 - a Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Garfield County Older Adult Programs

Administrator Reynolds said the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was between the partnering organizations of Garfield County, Glenwood Springs, Rifle, Carbondale, Silt, RFTA, and New Castle. This MOU, which is considered by each of the partners annually, spells out an agreement between the partners to provide Congregate Meal Services and transportation services (the Traveler) to senior residents throughout our area. Based on the figures provided in the MOU, staff anticipates that New Castle's share of the meals program will be approximately \$10,955.07. The MOU also anticipates that New Castle's estimated net responsibility for the Traveler program will be \$37, 368.00 but will be paid directly by RFTA on our behalf based on our current membership status.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve a Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Garfield County Older Adult Programs . Councilor Carey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Presentation: The Year in Review

Administrator Reynolds said at the last meeting of the year Administrative Assistant Rochelle Firth put together a Year-In-Review presentation.

Consent Agenda

Items on the consent agenda are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member or citizen requests it, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda.

December 3, 2024 minutes

Liquor License Renewal – K2 Spirits Liquor Store

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynold said town hall staff did the bell ringing for the Salvation Army at City Market. Administrator Reynolds said staff handed out senior gifts to the seniors at Senior Housing. He thanked Councilor Copeland and Councilor Hazelton for helping. Administrator Reynolds said town hall staff organized senior BINGO at the Community Center on Wednesday, December 11, 2024. Administrator Reynolds said the police department conducted police officer interviews. Administrator Reynolds said a few Liberty Classical Academy (LCA) girls stopped by town hall and sang Christmas Carols for the staff. Administrator Reynolds reminded the council about the Christmas Party Friday, December 20, 2024, at Lakota Clubhouse. Doors open at 5:15pm dinner will be served at 5:30pm and the Casino tables will open at 6:00pm. Administrator Reynolds said there would be an all-staff breakfast Thursday, December 19, 2024, at the Community Center. The council is welcome to join staff for breakfast. Administrator Reynolds said little notes regarding illegals have been showing up around town; the police department is currently investigating. Administrator Reynolds said he had received a call from a news reporter from Denver asking about vacant buildings being used for storage of boats instead of being used for stores. The news story turned out to be not a story. Administrator Reynolds said he would be taking some time off for the holidays. Administrator Reynolds said he has a meeting with Bruce Goshorn on Wednesday,

December 18, 2024, regarding the Rocky Mountain Adventure Series. Mr. Goshorn asked if the council would allow for tent camping some place in town such as Frank Breslin Park. There would be fees collected for the town. The cleanup and organization would be on Mr. Goshorn. The camping would be overnight or two nights at most. The council agreed to allow for tent camping with a fee and a deposit and there be a cap on the number of tents to be allowed in the park. Councilor G. Riddile said to have Mr. Goshorn create a plan and bring it back to the council for review.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said she would be taking time off between Christmas and New Years. Deputy Clerk Remi Bordelon and Assistant Michelle Huster will be in the clerk's office if something comes up. She wished the council a Very Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Town Treasurer – Treasurer Ehlers said her department is wrapping up the year. They have several government reports that needed to be completed. Treasurer Ehlers said she had received over 20 applications for the Assistant to Treasurer position. She said staff did several phone interviews and a few in person interviews. She should be making a decision in a couple of weeks.

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – have not met

Historic Preservation Commission – have not met

Climate and Environment Commission – have not met

Senior Program – have not met

RFTA – Mayor A. Riddile said the budget was passed and the drivers are getting close to being fully staffed. RFTA is approaching over 5 million passengers for 2024, which is pre-pandemic numbers.

AGNC – have not met

GCE – Councilor Leland said the budge was approved

EAB – Mayor A. Riddile there was an educational program

Detox – Councilor Mariscal said there are any questions about the email from Administrator Reynolds that was handed out at the last meeting, please let her know.

Council Comments

Councilor Hazelton said Tom Elder is in the hospital and if council and staff could reach out to his wife Mary Johnson. The Council wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. They also thanked staff for all they do throughout the year.

Items for Future Council Agenda

Councilor Carey said anytime there is a development application, staff and council have to bring the developer back to the heart of New Castle which is downtown such as Burning Mountain Park and Main Street. When talking about Burning Mountain Park, we would be talking about the heart of New Castle, and we should brand the park as the heart of New Castle.

Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Hazelton

The meeting adjourned at 8:44p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Arthur B. Riddile

Mayor Art Riddile

Mindy Andis

Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

Proposal for Establishing a K-9 Unit

To: Chief Burrows, Lt. Curry and the New Castle Town Council

From: Ofc J. Alcorta

Date: 11/11/2024

Subject: Proposal for the Implementation of a K-9 Unit in NCPD

Executive Summary

This proposal outlines the benefits, requirements, and anticipated outcomes of establishing a K-9 Unit within New Castle Police Department. The addition of a K-9 Unit will provide invaluable support in law enforcement operations, community engagement, and the improvement of public safety. A K-9 Unit is a vital resource that will enhance our capability to conduct searches, apprehend suspects, detect drugs, tracking, and more.

Background

Many law enforcement agencies across the nation and within Garfield County have demonstrated the effectiveness of K-9 units in crime prevention and resolution. K-9 units are specifically trained in critical skills, such as scent detection, tracking, and suspect apprehension, which are difficult to replicate with human officers alone. The need for a K-9 Unit in New Castle and the greater Garfield County has become more evident with the increase in specific types of crime and the rising demand for specialized response teams. There have been numerous requests from Law Enforcement Officers across Garfield County for a K-9 Units to assist in various tasks. With fewer K-9's available across the county, the community of New Castle would benefit by having one as well as benefiting its neighbors throughout the Colorado River area from Rifle to Glenwood and the greater Garfield County.

Purpose and Objectives

The primary purpose of the K-9 Unit is to enhance the operational capacity of NCPD. Key objectives include:

1. **Improving Officer Safety:** K-9 teams provide critical support in high-risk situations such as drug investigations, search warrants, and apprehension of violent and potentially armed suspects.
2. **Enhancing Crime Prevention and Detection:** K-9s trained in scent detection can identify narcotics, and contraband, offering a powerful tool in combating crime.

3. **Increasing Efficiency in Tracking/Searching Operations:** K-9s trained in search and rescue can locate missing persons/evidence and articles more quickly than human search teams, especially in difficult terrains.
4. **Strengthening Community Relations:** K-9 units are widely appreciated in the community. Through regular demonstrations, community events, and school visits, the K-9 Unit will foster positive relationships between the police and the public.

Proposed Structure and Operations

The NCPD K-9 Unit will initially comprise one highly trained dog, partnered with Ofc Alcorta. The K-9 and Ofc Alcorta will undergo specialized training, including but not limited to:

- **Tracking and Apprehension:** For suspect location and capture
- **Narcotics Detection:** To detect illegal drugs and substances
- **Tracking/Searching:** For locating items/evidence or missing persons or assisting during natural disasters

Budget and Funding Requirements

The annual cost for a K-9 unit with a single dog can vary widely. Annual costs would not begin until the 2026 fiscal year. The budget should include the following.

Initial Acquisition and Training:

- **Cost of the Dog: \$0.** The cost to acquire a trained police dog can range from \$8,000 to \$15,000 or more. Ofc Alcorta is providing the K-9 for NCPD use
- **Initial Handler/K-9 Training:** Training/Certification (Patrol Operations/Case Law course) for both the K-9 and Handler is approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 (depending on location and course).
- **Vehicle Modifications:** \$7000 to \$9000 (for safe transportation of K-9)(Paid w/2026 budget)

With acquisition and training, the first-year cost can be **\$20,000 to \$35,000 or more.** However, the Town of New Castle is in a unique position to be able to acquire a K-9 at a much-reduced price.

Funding options may include local government grants, state and federal law enforcement assistance programs, and community fundraising initiatives.

Estimated Total Annual Cost:

Taking the following into account, the estimated total annual cost for maintaining a single police K-9 unit typically ranges between **\$3,300 and \$8,500** per year, excluding initial acquisition and training.

Ongoing Training:

- K-9 teams require regular, ongoing training to maintain skills, typically costing between \$1,000 and \$5,000 annually (depending on type of training and any travel involved).

Veterinary Care:

- Routine veterinary care (vaccinations, check-ups, dental care) \$500 to \$1,500 per year.
- *Emergency or specialized care* can add an additional \$1,000 to \$5,000 annually, depending on health issues.

Food and Supplies:

- Quality dog food: \$800 to \$1,000 per year.
- Equipment (leashes, harnesses, muzzles, and toys) \$500 to \$1,000.

Insurance:

- Some departments carry liability insurance for K-9 units, which can add several hundred to a few thousand dollars per year.

Housing Stipend:

- Many departments offer a stipend for handlers to cover the cost of caring for the dog at home, \$500 to \$2,000 per year.

Expected Outcomes and Impact

The establishment of a K-9 Unit in New Castle is expected to result in the following:

- **Increased Crime Resolution:** Enhanced ability to locate suspects and detect illegal substances will lead to more successful investigations.
- **Improved Public Safety:** Faster response times in high-risk situations and better control over public events will contribute to community safety.
- **Enhanced Officer Safety:** Officers will be better supported in dangerous operations with trained K-9 assistance.

Risk and Mitigation

Risks associated with the K-9 Unit include potential injury to K-9s, maintenance costs, and challenges in community perception. We will mitigate these risks through:

- **Regular Training and Health Monitoring:** To ensure the health and readiness of K-9s.
- **Proper Allocation of Funds:** Regular reviews of the budget to maintain optimal operation without overrunning costs.
- **Community Engagement Programs:** Regular demonstrations and engagement efforts to maintain positive public perception and transparency.

Conclusion

A K-9 Unit would significantly enhance the operational capabilities of the New Castle Police Department while fostering community trust and improving public safety. With an investment in this program, our department will be better equipped to respond to the demands of modern policing. Thank you for your continued support and consideration in establishing a K-9 Unit at the New Castle Police Department.

Respectfully submitted

Officer Jerry Alcorta