

New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 01, 2024, 7:00 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, 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

Presentation – Lift Up – Ivan Jackson, Executive Director

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds introduces Executive Director Ivan Jackson to the council. Mr. Jackson said Lift-Up is a critical resource for the New Castle community, addressing food insecurity and providing essential assistance to residents in need. Their services include food pantries, meal delivery programs, and emergency financial support for rent, utilities, and medical expenses. They provide Meal Monkey on Fridays, which ensures that children from low-income families have access to nutritious meals, especially during the summer months when school-based meal programs are unavailable. By delivering thousands of meals each year, Lift-Up plays a vital role in ensuring that no

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1 family in New Castle goes hungry. Mr. Jackson said due to the increase of individuals
2 served per year, Lift-Up was able to purchase a Food Distribution Center in Glenwood
3 Springs at the end of 2023. The center is a 9,000 sq ft warehouse, which has a fixed
4 pantry for fresh produce, meat and dairy. Lift-Up is currently working with 32 local
5 farmers, ranchers and small businesses to bring fresh food.

6 The Council thanked Mr. Jackson for his time and work in the community.

7
8 **Presentation – High Country Volunteers – Mary Moon, Executive Director**

9 Administrator Reynolds introduced Executive Director Mary Moon to the council.

10 Administrator Reynolds said High Country Volunteers play a vital role in the community of
11 New Castle by connecting residents with meaningful volunteer opportunities. It supports a
12 range of local organizations, including schools, community programs, and nonprofit
13 initiatives. From opportunities to assist with town events to providing aid for senior
14 citizens, High Country Volunteers focuses on civic engagement, helping residents give
15 back in ways that enhance the town's quality of life. Their work builds lasting relationships
16 between volunteers and the community, enriching both the lives of those who serve and
17 those they support. Ms. Moon said High Country Volunteers has a Tax Assistance Program
18 that has trained volunteers to help prepare and electronically file state and federal income
19 taxes at no for individuals. High Country Volunteers as has Medicare Counseling with
20 trained and certified State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). The program
21 helps seniors understand medical bills, identify gaps in coverage and assist with
22 enrollment. Ms. Moon said High Country Volunteers hosted Red Cross mass care shelter
23 training and have created systems to be able to quickly mobilize a large-scale volunteer
24 response. Ms. Moon said they have hosted several service events and projects. Currently
25 High Country Volunteers has 2,209 individual volunteers.

26 The Council thanked Ms. Moon for his time and work in the community.

27
28 **Discussion – Mountain Waste & Recycling – Bill Cira & Doug Goldsmith**

29 Administrator Reynolds introduced Bill Cira District Manager & Doug Goldsmith to the
30 council. Mr. Cira explained the proposed new pricing for 2025. He said the pricing is set up
31 with a base rate plus a fuel charge. The base rate for the 96-gallon tote will be \$35.29
32 which is about 3.33 percent and for the 64-gallon tote will be \$32.08 which is about 3.33
33 percent. Mr. Goldsmith said New Castle is at the state average for trash and recycling,
34 however significantly higher than other communities of New Castle's size.

35 Mayor A. Riddle asked for an explanation on recycling. Mr. Cira said they take all of the
36 recycling to Carbondale then it goes to Denver for assorting and processing. By the end of
37 2025 the goal is to have Mountain Waste and Recycling own center ibn Denver. Mr. Cira
38 said about 65 percent of recycled materials get recycled. The most needed recycling
39 material is aluminum and other metals. Paper, cardboard and plastics 1 and 2 are also in
40 high demand. Glass is a season material and goes up down for being needed.

41 Mayor A. Riddle asked how long the recycling sits on the dock before it gets shipped out.

1 Mr. Cira said the metals, paper, cardboard, plastics 1 and 2 get shipped out right away
2 and there is a high demand. Plastics 3-7 will sit on the dock until it is needed.
3 Councilor Hazelton asked about what does and doesn't get picked up. If, he has a
4 cardboard box that is broken down but is bigger than the recycle bin and placed under the
5 recycle bin and many times the cardboard box doesn't get picked up. The second is, he
6 use to be able to put yard waste in a separate container and get picked up, and now that
7 doesn't get picked up. Councilor Hazelton has seen where there are some homes that
8 have multiple trash cans at a single-family home that gets picked up each time and they
9 have a full recycle bin. Mr. Cira said if there are additional trash cans then they are billed
10 for the extra cans. Mr. Goldsmith said they used to pick up extra outside of the container
11 and then it became a problem that there was so much extra that was being picked up.
12 Then, they made a policy that if it wasn't in the can, don't pick it up. Mr. Cira said it might
13 be time to have the conversation about having full-size recycling bins when the contract
14 comes up for renewal at the end of 2025.
15 Councilor Hazelton asked when there is a special event that is outside of the contract how
16 do you do the pricing. Mr. Cira said it depends on the event and what is being requested.
17 Mountain Waste and Recycling does have a special event person who handles that.
18 Councilor Leland said there are so much more cardboard boxes now with all of the
19 Amazon shipments.
20 Councilor Carey said there is still a year and two months before there is a new contract. Is
21 there something that can be done in the meantime. Mr. Cira said there could be an
22 addendum added to the contract. He said he would look into the issues mentioned.
23

24 **Presentation – Youth Zone – Ali Naasesh-Shahry**

25 Administrator Reynolds introduced Lyn Williams Director of Ops. Ali Naasesh-Shahry was
26 not able to make it to the meeting. Mr. Williams said Youth Zone partners with the Town
27 of New Castle to support local youth by offering mentorship, family counseling, and
28 educational programs. By working with at-risk youth, Youth Zone provides critical
29 guidance and resources to help them succeed, promoting a safer and more supportive
30 environment for the town's young residents. Town Council has been a proud supporter of
31 Youth Zone for many years. Mr. Williams reviews the case numbers with the council
32 (exhibit A).

33 Mr. Williams explained that YouthZone provides youth with tools and resources to help
34 reduce risk and elevate success. They also support the entire family and promote
35 healthier family relationships. YouthZone also supports mental health through coaching,
36 counseling, and education. They also intervene with substance use through intervention,
37 education and counseling. YouthZone heals communities through restorative processes.
38 Mr. Williams explained all the programs that are available through YouthZone.
39 Councilor Carey asked what the driver is for the data. Mr. Williams said they use a
40 program that gathers information from their system. The program allows to have a more
41 defined numbers depending on what is needed.

Councilor G. Riddle asked what the high schools are missing and why they are not being referred to YouthZone. Mr. Williams said each school has a different policy and some schools rely on SRO's which would be a ticket not a referral. The Council thanked Mr. Williams for his time and work in the community.

Proposed 2025 Budget Presentation

Administrator Reynolds said following the recent budget work session on September 17, 2024. Staff have made adjustments to the preliminary budget that was presented to the council. In addition, the council retreat was on September 28, 2024, and more items discussed, and since that time, other items had changed. Treasurer Ehlers and Administrator Reynolds reviewed the many changes in the following report:

After council discussion the following changes were made.

Proposed 2025 Budget Changes from 9/17/2024

General Overview

1. General Fund went from (\$262,851) to (\$54,116)
2. Utility Fund is at surplus of \$120,689

Personnel

1. 3% COLA is built into 2025 budget for both General Fund and Utility Fund. Each 1% increase equates to approximately \$40,773 - split \$28k to General Fund and \$12k to Utility Fund. Total salaries, employer taxes and retirement = \$4,077,347 (down \$28,000 from 2024 budget). General Fund portion = \$3,002,634. Utility Fund portion = \$1,074,713.

Administration

- Increased Animal Permits Revenue from \$1,500 to \$2,000 (10-4010-220)
- Increased Liquor License Revenue from \$2,000 to \$3,000 (10-4010-260)
- Increased Business License Revenue from \$7,000 to \$8,500 (10-4010-280)
- Decreased Computer Hardware/Software from \$15,000 to \$12,000 (10-5040-103)
- Decreased Internet Svc/Web Page from \$10,000 to \$8,000 (10-5040-145)
- Decreased Meals/Lodging from \$8,000 to \$7,000 (10-040-175)
- Increased Legal Services from \$55,000 to \$60,000 (10-5040-200)
- Decreased Other Professional Services from \$8,000 to \$7,500 (10-5040-220)
- Increased Economic Dev/Enhancement from \$10,000 to \$15,000 (10-5040-250) to include \$6,500 for Bill Ray and \$5,000 for CRVEDP.
- Decreased Branding/Marketing from \$2,000 to \$1,000 (10-5040-257)
- Decreased Historic Property Designation from \$5,000 to \$2,500 (10-5040-609)

1
2 **Health & Welfare**

- 3 1. Decreased Outgoing Grants from \$18,000 to \$15,000 (10-5080-500)
4

5 **Parks Capital**

- 6 1. Added \$20,000 for Engineering (10-5075-480)

7 **Parks Maintenance**

- 8 1. Moved \$23,550 in parks maintenance and equipment to CTF.
9

10 **Recreation**

- 11 1. Removed \$3,0000 from Adult Volleyball (10-5070-470) for New Net System
12 2. Removed \$3,500 from Dirty Hog Dash (10-5070-972) for Bouncy Castle purchase
13 *** will attempt to secure both of those items with AGNC grant.
14

15 **Streets**

- 16 1. Added \$20,000 to Sale of Assets (10-4010-394) – 2015 Chevy 2500 w/ plow
17

18 **Utility Fund**

- 19 1. Assumed rate increase for Water/Wastewater = 5%; each additional 1% rate
20 increase equates to approximately \$27,898 in revenues
21 2. Trash rate increased calculated at 5%.
22

23 **Notes & other considerations:**

24 **Capital/Other Items**

- 25 • Added Assigned Items:
26 i. Shoshone Water Rights \$100,000
27 ii. Police Vehicles (2) \$135,000
28 iii. Roundabout commitment shortage \$90,000
29 iv. Streets/Parks Equipment \$31,500 – \$6,000 dump bed attachment,
30 \$17,000 asphalt milling machine, \$5,800 backhoe forks, and \$2,700 for
31 deep cut demo saw
32 v. Increased Long Term Capital reserves to \$600,000
33 • Roundabout plan set & construction observation - \$20,000
34 • 12th Police Officer - \$109,086 and additional \$26,403 in insurance cost.
35
36 A. Discretionary expenditures included in the current version of the 2025 budget are:
37 General Fund –

Donations to Special Interest Groups & Committees

- Branding and Marketing 10-5040-257 \$1,000 – decreased from \$2,000
- CRVEDP 10-5040-250 \$5,000 - decreased from \$8,000
- Chamber of Commerce 10-5040-254 \$7,000
- Downtown Group 10-5040-255 \$0.00 – removed from 2025 budget
- Rides & Reggae Event 10-5040-294 ~~\$20,000~~ \$10,000
- Economic Development 10-5040-250 \$10,000
- Historic Preservation 10-5040-609,610 ~~\$4,500~~ \$3500 – decreased from \$7,000
- Climate & Environ Comm 10-5040-620 \$1,000 – decreased from \$2,000
- Other Special Events 10-5070-610 \$6,500 (Chili Cook-off, etc)
- Burning Mountain Festival 10-5070-974 \$18,500
- Community Market 10-5070-976 \$5,500
- Outgoing Grants 10-5080-500 \$15,000 – decreased from \$18,000
- River Center Donation 10-5080-504 \$18,000
- CMC Senior Programs 10-5080-502 ~~\$8,000~~ \$6500
- Garfield Cty Detox Center 10-5080-506 \$10,000
- Youth Zone 10-5080-516 \$4,000
- New Castle Trails 10-5075-704 ~~\$30,000~~ \$10,000
- Wildfire Collaborative 10-5040-280 \$2,000

Utility Fund -

Donations to Special Interest Groups & Committees

- Middle CO Watershed 20-6040,6080-220 \$ 2,500
- Garfield Clean Energy 20-6040,6080-220 \$17,300

Discussion:

Administrator Reynolds said for the New Castle Trails budget could be taken to trails

1 maintenance vs. building new trails. Could have other organizations help with the trails.
2 Administrator Reynolds said we have heard from Adam Cornely that Ridges and Reggae
3 had made \$40,000 and believe the funds have not been spent yet. That money should be
4 going into the trails. Councilor Carey said she had a conversation with RFMBA member,
5 and they do partner with municipalities for trail maintenance. She said there are several
6 outdoor volunteer organizations that do this kind of work. The goal would be to get the
7 trails to a place where there would be minimal maintenance required.
8 Administrator Reynolds said there could be some money left in the budget for Rides and
9 Reggae and could be used for different options. Councilor Leland said if the money is
10 going to be left then, there needs to be apriority to have an organization of the trails and
11 who will be maintaining the trails. Councilor Hazelton had strongly disagreed with having
12 a budget for Ridges and Reggae. Councilor Carey said there should be money in the
13 budget for Ridges and Reggae and if the money is not used for the event, then it could be
14 used for another event such as the Burning Mountain Festival. Administrator Reynolds
15 said with Ridges and Reggae the town fronts all the expenses and then donates \$20,000.
16 The town could still work with the coordinator of Ridges and Reggae next year if the event
17 does move forward. The town could still front the event because an organization group
18 may not have the money to front the event. The issue has been that the town doesn't see
19 the revenue side of the event. Administrator Reynolds said the town commitment would
20 be the town funds the event and then get reimbursed for the expenses from the revenue
21 and if there is money left over then it would back into the trails. Councilor Leland asked if
22 the town has other obligations to Talbott's and BLM other than trail maintenance.
23 Councilor G. Riddile said no just maintenance. Councilor Leland said Rides and Reggae
24 intended to raise funds to build new trails, if the town is putting \$10,000 into trail
25 maintenance, then the town wouldn't need the fund raiser to raise money for new trails
26 and the event would pay for itself.

27
28 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve the Rides and Reggae**
29 **Budget of \$10,000. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion and passed with 5**
30 **yes and 2 no.**

31 **MOTION: Councilor Carey made a motion to approve \$20,000 for New Castle**
32 **Trails for maintenance with new organizational structure. Councilor Carey**
33 **withdrew the motion.**

34 Administrator Reynolds said have \$10,000 for New Castle Trails and if Rides and Reggae
35 doesn't happen then that money could be put into New Castle Trails for maintenance of
36 the trails. Then, the town could go to RFMBA for maintenance of the bike park and the
37 downhill bike trails.

38 **MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to approve the \$10,000 New Castle**
39 **Trails budget. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion and it passed with 6 yes**
40 **votes and 1 no vote.**

1 Administrator Reynolds said the town utility rates have gone up by 3% each year, would
2 like to increase the rate to 5% for 2025.

3 **Consent Agenda**

4 Items on the consent agenda are routine and non-controversial and will be approved by
5 one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member
6 or citizen requests it, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda.
7

8 September 3, 2024, minutes

9 September 17, 2024, minutes

10 September Bills \$839,589.50

11 Maverik Liquor License Renewal

12 Maverik Liquor License – Change of Manager
13

14 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**
15 **Councilor G. Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
16

17 **Staff Reports**

18 **Town Administrator** – Administrator Reynolds he will email his report to the council.
19

20 Rest of Staff reports were continued to next meeting

21 **Commission Reports**

22 Item continued to next meeting

23 **Council Comments**

24 Item continued to next meeting

25 **Items for Future Council Agenda**

26 Item continued to next meeting
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1 **Adjourn**

2 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Mariscal**

3 The meeting adjourned at 9:58p.m.

4
5 Respectfully submitted,

6
7
8
9
10 _____
11 Mayor Art Riddile

12
13 _____
14 Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC
15