

1 **New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting**  
2 **Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 7:00 PM**  
3

4 **Call to Order**

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

6 **Pledge of Allegiance**  
7

8 **Roll Call**

9 Councilor Mariscal  
10 Councilor Carey  
11 Councilor Hazelton  
12 Mayor A. Riddile  
13 Councilor Copeland  
14 Councilor Leland  
15 Councilor G Riddile

16  
17 Absent None  
18

19 Also present at the meeting were Town Clerk Mindy Andis, Administrator Dave Reynolds,  
20 and members of the public.  
21

22 **Meeting Notice**

23 Clerk Andis verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with  
24 Resolution TC 2025-1.  
25

26 **Conflicts of Interest**

27 There were no conflicts of interest  
28

29 **Agenda Changes**

30 There were no agenda changes  
31

32 **Citizen Comments on Items not on the Agenda**

33 There were no Citizen Comments  
34

35 **Consultant Reports**

36 Consultant Attorney – not present  
37 Consultant Engineer – not present  
38

39 **PUBLIC HEARING – Opened at 7:03pm**  
40

41 Recess the Town Council Meeting, Convene as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority  
42

43 **MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to Recess the Town Council Meeting,**  
44 **Convene as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, Councilor Carey seconded the**  
45 **motion, and it passed unanimously.**

1 **Consider a Special Events Liquor License Application from West Elk Trails for an**  
2 **Event to be Held on January 31, 2026**

3 Town Clerk Mindy Andis explained this special event is the second time West Elk Trails has  
4 held a fundraiser. The event is a dinner with a wine pairing and Rolling Fork will be  
5 catering the dinner. Mary and Marty Gervais are Tips trained and would serve the alcohol.  
6 Clerk Andis said the application was in order and there are no concerns and staff  
7 recommended approval of the special event liquor license.  
8 Mayor A. Riddile asked how many people they were expecting. Ms. Gervais said about 40  
9 people.

10  
11 **PUBLIC HEARING - Closed 7:07pm**

12  
13 **MOTION: Councilor G. Riddile made a motion to approve a Special Events Liquor**  
14 **License Application from West Elk Trails for an Event to be Held on January 31,**  
15 **2026. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

16  
17 Adjourn the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, Reconvene the Town Council Meeting

18  
19 **MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to recess the Local Liquor Licensing**  
20 **Authority and reconvene the Town Council meeting, Councilor G. Riddile**  
21 **seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

22  
23 **Items for Consideration**

24  
25 **Presentation – Raising a Reader – Suzanne Wheeler-Del Piccolo**

26 Administrator Dave Reynolds said Raising a Reader is an organization that council has not  
27 heard from before. They will be applying for grant money from the town.

28 Executive Director Suzanne Wheeler-Del Piccolo reviewed the handout with the council  
29 **(Exhibit A).**

30 Council thanked Ms. Wheeler-Del Piccolo for the presentation and the work that she does.

31  
32 **Consider Request from Coal Seam for Extension of Prelim/Final PUD**

33 Administrator Reynolds said on December 10, 2025, the planning commission  
34 conditionally approved recommendation of a combined subdivision/preliminary/final  
35 application for Riverside Park Lot 1 (aka "Coal Seam") pursuant to section 17.124.010.  
36 The application contemplates a 71-room hotel, a restaurant, and four workforce housing  
37 units west of the River Park condominiums between County Road 335 and the Colorado  
38 River.

39 As part of the final application phase, section 17.100.060 requires the council decision  
40 within 60 days of the planning commission's recommendation, or within such time as is  
41 mutually agreed by the town council and the applicant. The applicant has been working  
42 diligently over the past month and a half to address the remaining conditions necessary

1 for council review, specifically conditions A, B, F, G, & H of the P&Z resolution by the  
2 scheduled meeting date of February 3, 2026. The applicant feels more than 60 days will  
3 be required to attend to the numerous engineering insufficiencies noted by the town  
4 engineer.

5 Therefore, the applicant is requesting an extension to meet with town council on March 3,  
6 2026. Staff is confident the extension will be adequate for all revisions to be made and for  
7 staff re-review.

8 Mayor A. Riddile asked if March 3, 2026, would be the extension date. Administrator  
9 Reynolds said March 3, 2026, would be the meeting date the application would be brought  
10 to council and for a decision to be made. The council could extend it longer if they chose  
11 to. He said council could extend it to March 17, 2026, meeting in case March 3, 2026,  
12 needed to be continued for some reason.

13 Councilor Leland asked if the council was obligated to make a decision on March 3, 2026,  
14 or could they continue to March 17, 2026. Administrator Reynolds said that would be  
15 correct. The council could extend the request to March 17, 2026, in order to give council  
16 some leeway.

17  
18 Applicant Abdi Pirzadeh said he should be able to make the March 3, 2026, meeting work.  
19 He is still working on some minor engineering details.

20  
21 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to Approve the Request from Coal**  
22 **Seam for Extension of Prelim/Final PUD Until March 17, 2026, with the Caveat**  
23 **Council Would Make a Decision on March 3, 2026. Councilor Mariscal seconded**  
24 **the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

25  
26 **Consider 2026 Proclamations for Town Council**

27 Administrator Reynolds said the summer of 2025 council considered and adopted a  
28 proclamation policy that would establish guidelines governing when and how  
29 proclamations could come before council.

30 Pursuant to the adopted policy, town council is responsible for reviewing proposed  
31 proclamations prior to their placement on a council agenda for formal recognition. In an  
32 effort to proactively plan for annual recurring proclamations, as well as newly identified  
33 proclamations for 2026. Staff is requesting directions on council would like to proceed with  
34 the annual proclamations and the two new proclamations.

35  
36 **Potential 2026 Proclamations:**

- 37 Arbor Day (April)
- 38 Parkinson's Awareness Month (April)
- 39 Historic Preservation Month (May)
- 40 Clerks Week (May)

1 Parks & Rec Month (July)  
2 Coal Ridge Sports Teams  
3 Coal Ridge Cheer Team  
4 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United States of America  
5 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the State of Colorado  
6 Councilor Leland said he has a proclamation for Bob Gordon who was a former councilor  
7 and mayor who has passed in the fall of 2025. Councilor Leland asked if the council should  
8 go ahead and read the proclamation into the record at a future council meeting.  
9 The council agreed to move forward with the proclamation for Bob Gordon.  
10 The council agreed to the list of annual proclamations for 2026.

11

## 12 **Consent Agenda**

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

16

17 January 6, 2026, Minutes

18

19 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**  
20 **Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

21

## 22 **Staff Reports**

23 **Town Administrator** –Administrator Reynolds said Colorado River Valley Economic  
24 Development Partnership (CRVEDP) he has sat on their board representing the Town of  
25 New Castle for a while and then Councilor Carey has sat on the board for a while.  
26 Councilor Carey is no longer able to attend the meetings and Administrator Reynolds has  
27 started sitting on the board again. Administrator Reynolds said CRVEDP wants to have a  
28 representative from each municipality. He asked if there was another councilor who would  
29 like to be part of the CRVEDP Board. In the meantime, Administrator Reynolds said he  
30 would be happy to attend the meetings. He would bring it back to the council in April.  
31 Administrator Reynolds said staff has gone through the Incident Command Training and  
32 the possibility of council going through part of the training. Administrator Reynolds said  
33 the idea for the training is to explain the chain of command if there is a major event such  
34 as wildfire. If you are interested contact Assistant Rochelle Firth.  
35 Administrator Reynolds said he has reviewed the drought emergency plan that the town  
36 adopted several years ago. The plan is very outdated he is having Public Works Director  
37 John Wenzel and Utility Manager Daniel Becker review the plan. Director Wenzel and  
38 Manager Becker are working on a revised plan. The 2026 summer could be rough since  
39 we have not gotten much snow. Public Works Director Wenzel will present the revised  
40 plan to council at the next meeting.  
41 Administrator Reynolds said staff is also working on a plan to help residents prepare for

1 wildfires. There is information about wildfire readiness that staff will put onto the website  
2 and have available for the public.

3 Administrator Reynolds said he and Chief Stu Curry have been working on  
4 recommendations for e-bikes. Chief Currey will present the recommendations to council at  
5 the next meeting.

6 Administrator Reynolds reminded the council about the joint Board of County  
7 Commissioners meeting on February 3, 2026. He asked the council if there was anything  
8 specific that they would like to discuss with the commissioners and if there was to please  
9 let him know. Administrator Reynolds asked the council if they would like to have the  
10 work session with the county commissioners at the community center in the small and  
11 then come back to town hall for the regular council meeting. The council agreed.

12 Administrator Reynolds said the non-profit Rifle Community Foundation, the foundation,  
13 distributes outgoing grants to other non-profits. The City of Rifle Manager has asked other  
14 town managers if it wouldn't be simpler to have Rifle Community Foundation to distribute  
15 outgoing grants for each town. Instead of each town having their own grant cycles. The  
16 council agreed to continue the way they are currently doing outgoing grants.

17 Administrator Reynolds said he had met with the owner of 600 W. Main Street Aaron  
18 Shcockley and his realtor to explain the restrictive covenant and how that would look for a  
19 prospective buyer. Council had agreed at a prior meeting to have the prospective buyer  
20 meet with council to explain what their plans are and what the timeline would be like.  
21 Then, it would be up to council to agree to change the restrictive covenant or not.

22 Administrator Reynolds said he had received a question from Climate and Environment  
23 Commission (CEC) regarding funding for trails. CEC is working on large volunteer project  
24 for cleaning up Burning Mountain Trail and to do some trail maintenance. Administrator  
25 Reynolds met with CEC at their last meeting to explain the funding. He said for 2026 New  
26 Castle Trails through Roaring Fork Mountain Bikers Association (RFMBA) had project \$36k  
27 or \$39k which was for trails maintenance. New Castle Trails are currently looking at what  
28 the trails maintenance projects would be. He said the town did not put any additional  
29 money in the budget for trails maintenance for 2026 budget.

30 Administrator Reynolds said he received a call from Riverside Middle School asking to  
31 partner with the town on a joint FMLD Grant for new playground equipment. Riverside  
32 Middle School did a presentation to council a few months ago asking for funding.

33 Administrator Reynolds asked what the match was going to be. The project is roughly  
34 \$400k and the match would be about \$130k. He explained to the school that the town  
35 didn't budget any money for this project. Currently the school has \$40K through  
36 fundraising efforts. Administrator Reynolds asked council if they would like to partner with  
37 the middle school for a joint grant and give some money. Mayor A. Riddile asked how staff  
38 feel about the joint grant. Administrator Reynolds said staff have gotten good at grant  
39 writing and that would be the only thing staff would do. The middle school would still need  
40 to manage the grant. Mayor A. Riddile suggested the middle school approach The Town of  
41 Silt since middle schoolers from Silt attend Riverside Middle School. Councilor G. Riddile

1 suggested giving \$20k from CTF towards match money. Councilor Carey agreed to ask Silt  
2 to partner with the town and the school. Having three partnerships could help the grant  
3 application look stronger. Councilor Carey said the town gave money to one school we  
4 should give to the other two schools since the schools are here in town and are accessible  
5 to the public after school hours. The council was in agreement for funding of \$20k from  
6 CTF.

7 Administrator Reynolds passed out the Solar Assessment report from GCE.  
8 Administrator Reynolds said there will be a managers meeting at Redstone on Wednesday,  
9 January 28, 2026.

10 **Town Clerk** – Clerk Andis said she had nothing new to report. Clerk Andis did review the  
11 agenda for the next meeting. She said there will be a proclamation for the Coal Ridge Co-  
12 Cheer Team; discussion regarding e-bikes, Chief Curry will be at the meeting for the  
13 discussion; discussion about drought policy, Public Works Director John Wenzel will be at  
14 the meet to present.

15 **Town Treasurer** – not present  
16 **Town Planner** – not present  
17 **Public Works Director** – not present  
18

19 **Commission Reports**

20 **Planning & Zoning Commission** – Mayor A. Riddile said the commission approved R2  
21 townhouses from rent to selling at market price and will have three units that will be  
22 affordable housing.

23 **Historic Preservation Commission** – Councilor Copeland said she was not able to  
24 attend the meeting. On the agenda they were going to discuss wording for the designation  
25 plaque for the cemetery and Founders Day presentation.

26 **Climate and Environment Commission** – Councilor Leland said there will be a drought  
27 film at the New Castle Library on February 11, 2026. The film is similar to the wildfire film  
28 that was shown in 2025. The commission is planning Earth Day in April. He said the  
29 Business Grant for the bag fee money will be opening up again soon. The commission will  
30 be taking applications for the grant to the Chamber Business After Hours at the end of  
31 January.

32 **Senior Program** – have not met  
33 **RFTA** – Councilor Copeland said they did a year end review and elected a new board.  
34 **AGNC** – have not met  
35 **GCE** – Councilor Leland said he did a quick review of the report Administrator Reynolds  
36 handed out. He said the town has offset at least \$10k a year in electrical bill with the solar  
37 array. He asked if the recommendations that were listed in the report for maintenance  
38 could be passed onto public works. Administrator Reynolds said public works is already  
39 working on it. Councilor Leland said there is a seminar coming up on Geothermal Heating  
40 and Cooling. The seminar is primarily for public works, building departments and project  
41 developers. The seminar is February 11, 2026, from 11am – 1pm in Glenwood.

1 Councilor Leland said CLEER will be applying for an Impact Accelerator Grant and they  
2 would like to have a letter of support from the Town of New Castle. The grant will be used  
3 for the reenergized rebates. The reenergized program is for lower to middle income  
4 houses to get an evaluation and to prepare for energy savings. If, council agrees he will  
5 prepare the letter of support and bring it back to council on the February 3, 2026, consent  
6 agenda. Council agreed.

7 **EAB** – have not met

8 **POSTR** – have not met

9

### 10 **Council Comments**

11 Councilor G. Riddile said he has been in conversations with CREVDP regarding  
12 transportation and in June the Hogback route will be out of funding and will terminate  
13 service passed New Castle.

14 Councilor Leland suggested making the 250 celebration a volunteer day. He said  
15 Spellabration will be Friday, February 13, 2026, looking for a town team. Councilor Carey  
16 said she would create a team. The theme this year is Celebrating Bad Luck.

17 Councilor Mariscal said she is starting the Pastors meeting again starting in February. She  
18 said would like to start Pulse of the Community by having Coffee with a Councilor in  
19 Spanish. Coffee with a Councilor would be at New Castle Coffee. She said she would  
20 share what she learned with council.

21 Councilor Carey said the emergency water plan and wildfire mitigation should be easily  
22 found on the town's website and making sure the information is also in Spanish.

23 Councilor Hazelton said if we ask the BOCC for more funding for the roundabout then we  
24 need to be very specific on what the need is. He asked about the parking lot that the town  
25 leases from Garcia's since it is up for sale. Administrator Reynolds said he doesn't believe  
26 there has been much interest in the lot. Councilor Hazelton said he has heard concerns  
27 from the public about the shortage of parking downtown. He said he has noticed some  
28 possible parking violations. We will need to start paying attention to parking, especially if  
29 the lot sells.

30 Mayor A. Riddile said he had attended the FMLD luncheon to accept the annual awards  
31 that the town has received and was told that the Town of New Castle is known for  
32 applying for grant properly and has received the most grants due to how well written the  
33 grants are. Mayor A. Riddile said he would not be running for mayor or for council.

34

### 35 **Items for Future Council Agenda**

36 There were no items for future council agenda

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### 38 **Adjourn**

39 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to adjourn.**

40 The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Mayor A. Riddile

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Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

DRAFT