

1 **New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting**  
2 **Tuesday, February 3, 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 Police Chief Stu Curry, Public Works Director John Wenzel 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 2026-1.  
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 Emily Jack-Scott New Castle Resident asked for support from town council and town staff  
34 to help assist a homeless senior who is currently living her in car. Administrator Dave  
35 Reynolds said he would contact Ms. Jack-Scott for more information and details.  
36

37 **Consultant Reports**

38 Consultant Attorney – not present  
39 Consultant Engineer – not present  
40

41 **Items for Consideration**

42 **Proclamation Honoring the Coal Ridge High School Coed Cheer Team**

43 Mayor A. Riddile read the proclamation into the record and presented the proclamation to  
44 Coach Alyssa Thurman and Assistant Coach Jaycelyn Krueger.  
45

1 **Review E-Bike Use in Town Limits – Chief Stu Curry**

2 Administrator Reynolds said there have been growing concerns regarding proper e-bike  
3 use among New Castle youth. Police Chief Curry and his staff have researched the issue,  
4 including applicable state regulations and best practices for safety.

5 Chief Curry reviewed his recommendations with the council (**Exhibit A**).

6 Mayor A. Riddile asked how the scooters would be regulated. Chief Curry said how the  
7 town would regulate the e-bikes would apply the same to scooters.

8 Councilor Carey suggested in the final version of the regulations be specific on defining e-  
9 bikes vs. regular pedal bikes. She asked Chief Curry what his thoughts were on Class 3 4  
10 and 5 e-bikes. Chief Curry said the state already prohibits anybody under the age of 16  
11 from being on a Class 3 e-bike. Class 4 and 5 e-bikes are defined as a motor vehicle;  
12 therefore, the same requirement would be the same as a regular motor vehicle. Chief  
13 Curry said in 2027 there would be mandatory labeling of the e-bikes.

14 Councilor Leland asked should the electric motorcycles be licensed if they are going to be  
15 on the roads. Chief Curry said the Colorado Statutes have already redefined them as an  
16 electric bike they would not be required to be registered.

17 Councilor Leland said the e-bike should be registered including non-e-bikes with the town.  
18 The reason is if the bike is stolen then we could return it to the owner. It would also give  
19 the town the opportunity to hand out the rules and regulations of e-bike within the town  
20 limits. Chief Curry said doing the regulations in steps such as this year create the  
21 restrictions with helmets then next year look at what the state has done for requirements.

22 Councilor Hazelton said it is important that not only the child is educated but also the  
23 parents. He said they need to look at the bike rodeo to either have an addition to or  
24 expand the event to include e-bikes. Chief Curry said that as soon as there is a policy or  
25 code change would have an officer go into the schools to educate the kids about e-bikes.

26 Councilor Carey asked if it's possible to have the rules and regulations to the schools at  
27 the beginning of the school year for the parent packets. She asked if council should have  
28 an ordinance in place to not allow class 4 and 5 e-bikes on town streets or town trails,  
29 since the town currently doesn't allow golf carts or HOV on town streets or town trails.

30 Councilor Copeland said she doesn't have a problem with them on most of the streets in  
31 town, however, she does have an issue with them on busier streets such as Castle Valley  
32 Boulevard.

33 Councilor Hazelton said if the right restrictions and guidelines are put into place and it will  
34 still be driven by complaints and enforcement. If there is a problem there will be  
35 guidelines in place to be able to deal with the issue.

36 Councilor Leland said GCE and CLEER are very supportive of e-bikes because they are  
37 alternatives to cars.

38 Council agreed to move forward with the recommendations from Chief Curry and to create  
39 a policy or code change with the recommendations for class 1,2 and 3 e-bikes. Also to  
40 start an education program with the kids in the schools.

41  
42 **Review Emergency Drought Plan – Public Works Director John Wenzel**

43 Administrator Reynolds said Public Works Director John Wenzel and his staff have been  
44 working on updating the current Drought Plan Policy. With regional drought conditions

1 continuing through the winter season, along with increasing demand for both potable and  
2 irrigation water, updating the town's drought plan will be an important component of the  
3 town's ongoing efforts to manage water resources.  
4 Director Wenzel reviewed the draft drought plan with the council (**Exhibit B**).  
5 Councilor Carey said when getting information out to the residents should include what  
6 the fines and penalties could be in each phase of the plan. Administrator Reynolds said as  
7 part of the education would be giving out information about the policy.  
8 Councilor G. Riddile voiced concern about being able to explain to people that there is  
9 enough water, especially with new developments coming in. He asked if there was a way  
10 to turn the raw water pumps off during the non-watering hours. Director Wenzel said the  
11 town does have a lot of water, but a very fine amount of high-quality water from East Elk  
12 Creek and rest from the Colorado River. He said there are some challenges with treating  
13 the Colorado River water due to algae and turbidity. He said the water plant is not  
14 designed to treat exclusively Colorado River water. If it came to where the only water was  
15 Colorado River water the water treatment plant would become very insufficient. Director  
16 Wenzel said shutting the raw water pumps off would not be an option because turning the  
17 pumps on and off all the time is very labor intensive.  
18 Councilor Hazelton said the town really need to be watching the Zebra Mussels because of  
19 how invasive they are.  
20 Director Wenzel said he believes that there shouldn't be any challenges with blending East  
21 Elk Creek water and the Colorado River water. The town needs to be prepared and  
22 imagine different scenarios and be ready to handle it as it comes.  
23 Mayor A. Riddile said education and enforcement are critical.  
24 Councilor Leland said the town needs to set an example and not water the parks during  
25 the time when there is no watering allowed. He said the new CEC commissioner is an  
26 expert in Xeriscaping and would like to bring him in on some compacity to help educate  
27 people about grass.  
28 Councilor Carey said it is important that everyone stays on the same message when  
29 speaking to residents. Also, what are some things that the town can do to help resolve  
30 some of the concerns of the residents.  
31 Administrator Reynolds said the policy will come back to council for formal approval in a  
32 few weeks.

### 33 34 **Consent Agenda**

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

38  
39 January 20, 2026, Minutes  
40 January bills \$1,338,987.10  
41 Support Letter for Garfield Clean Energy Collaboration

42  
43 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**  
44 **Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

1 **Staff Reports**

2 **Town Administrator** –Administrator Reynolds said R2 Development has a condition that  
3 they need to work with TC Midwest Development to create a temporary construction road  
4 from the roundabout to R2 Development project. They have been working on it but have  
5 not come to an agreement. TC Midwest have put in some stringent guardrails because  
6 they want to be able to protect their property and want to make sure that the property  
7 gets returned to TC Midwest as it was before the construction of the road. In the spring  
8 R2 Development hopes to break ground. TC Midwest is moving forward on getting their  
9 approval for their development. Administrator Reynolds said he has been working with  
10 Town Planner Paul Smith on alternate solutions such as a management plan for R2  
11 Development that would spell out which direction the trucks can come in and what type of  
12 vehicles.

13 Administrator Reynolds said he would like to schedule a Capital Committee meeting for  
14 next week.

15 Administrator Reynolds said Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers has scheduled the annual audit for  
16 April to audit 2025 financials.

17 Administrator Reynolds said he and Assistant Rochelle Firth are working with the RE2  
18 School District to apply for a joint FMLD grant for the middle school playground  
19 equipment.

20 Administrator Reynolds said staff have been working on closing out FMLD grants for the  
21 raw water irrigation and the heating and cooling system for town hall.

22 Administrator Reynolds said the Town of Silt has requested a letter of support for the  
23 grant that the town is applying for to build the pedestrian bridge over the interstate. With  
24 councils' permission to have Mayor A. Riddile sign the letter.

25 Administrator Reynolds said P&Z Commissioner Alison Cotey has agreed to sit on the  
26 CRVEDP board as the representative for the town.

27 Administrator Reynolds said he had received a letter from a concerned resident if the  
28 council would like to see it to let him know.

29 **Town Clerk** – Clerk Andis said the election has been cancelled a resolution for the  
30 cancelation will be at the next meeting. The elected mayor is Grady Hazelton; the elected  
31 council is Brandy Copeland, Caitlin Carey and Emily Sampley. Clerk Andis said she is  
32 continuing to train Assistant Michelle Huster on utility billing. Clerk Andis reviewed the  
33 agenda items for the next council meeting. Clerk Andis said there would be a proclamation  
34 for Bob Gordon and staff will be working on letting the family know about the  
35 proclamation.

36 **Town Treasurer** – not present

37 **Town Planner** – not present

38 **Public Works Director** – nothing to report

39  
40 **Commission Reports**

41 **Planning & Zoning Commission** –have not met

42 **Historic Preservation Commission** – Mayor A. Riddile reminded the council about  
43 Founders Day is Saturday, February 7, 2026. Administrator Reynolds said this year's  
44 Founders Day will focus on the cemetery.

1 **Climate and Environment Commission** – have not met

2 **Senior Program** –Clerk Andis said they were to vote in new chair and vice-chair however  
3 that was tabled until the next meeting. Clerk Andis said the meals served in New Castle  
4 from January – December 2025, there were 50 services days for the year with an average  
5 of 19 meals being served. For the traveler services from January – December 2025, there  
6 were 712 riders.

7 **RFTA** – have not met

8 **AGNC** – Councilor Hazelton said they have not meet. However, there are a few House  
9 Bills that AGNC is following closely. There is one bill that is important to follow because  
10 there is a concern. HB26-1001, the bill is a residential development on qualifying  
11 properties owned by certain non-profit organizations such as school districts. The  
12 organization that owns 5 acres or less parcel they could build to state standards and not  
13 to the town standards for housing. The bill undermines the town’s authority on density  
14 and such. The bill doesn’t take into count the town’s infrastructure and would the system  
15 be able to handle the development.

16 **GCE** – Councilor Leland said he passed on being the secretary and they voted in a new  
17 secretary.

18 **EAB** – have not met

19 **POSTR** – have not met

20  
21 **Council Comments**

22 Councilor G. Riddile said he looked at the Town of Silt and they did a master plan and  
23 redoing everything townwide. Councilor G. Riddile asked the guest who was in person in  
24 the chambers if he would like to say something. Mr. Thomas Wright, a New Castle  
25 resident, said he is running as a candidate for Garfield County Sheriff. He said it is  
26 important for him to understand what the town is doing.

27 Councilor Leland reminded everyone about the Spellabration on Friday, February 13,  
28 2026. He said he had spoken with two new residents at the senior housing and they like it  
29 there.

30 Councilor Mariscal said she would not be able to attend Founders Day. She said there  
31 would be a pastors meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 10am at town hall. She  
32 also thanked Councilor Leland and Mayor A. Riddile for all they have done during their  
33 time on the council.

34 Councilor Carey said she would not be able to attend Founders Day. She said there will be  
35 a Woman’s Night at Medley on Main on March 12, 2026. Councilor Carey said CML is  
36 opposing HB26-1001. She said she had sent CML’s position paper to Administrator  
37 Reynolds for him to send out to everyone. She said she had sent a letter to  
38 Representative Velsaco opposing the bill. Councilor Carey said CML asked for submissions  
39 on sessions for their conference in June. She said that she is so proud of the work that the  
40 town staff does with a limited budget. She had sent in a proposal to CML and it was  
41 selected for the town to do a session at CML Conference. The name of the session could  
42 be “Doing more with less and serving our communities with excellence”. The session  
43 would be with the Town of New Castle and Town of Rico. There was a meeting with New  
44 Castle, Rico and CML last week.

1 Councilor Hazelton said the town should support Emily Jack-Scott with her trying to help  
2 our resident. He said there was a collared wolf within a couple of miles of town. He said  
3 Mayor A. Riddile did a great job with the proclamation for the cheer team.  
4

5 **Items for Future Council Agenda**

6 Councilor Leland said since the town now has a Code Enforcement Officer it might be a  
7 good idea to discuss what codes should be focused on and enforced. Mayor A. Riddile said  
8 that could be discussed during a work session.  
9

10 **Adjourn**

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

12 The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.  
13

14 Respectfully submitted,  
15

16  
17  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 Mayor A. Riddile  
20

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

DRAFT