

1 **New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting**
2 **Tuesday, February 17, 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
16 Absent Councilor G Riddile
17

18 Also present at the meeting were Town Clerk Mindy Andis, Administrator Dave Reynolds,
19 Police Chief Stu Curry, Public Works Director John Wenzel and members of the public.
20

21 **Meeting Notice**

22 Clerk Andis verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with
23 Resolution TC 2026-1.
24

25 **Conflicts of Interest**

26 There were no conflicts of interest
27

28 **Agenda Changes**

29 There were no agenda changes
30

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

32 Thad Porter introduced himself to the council. Mr. Porter owns Fire & Weed Management
33 Services. He currently has 60 goats that he loans out to property owners to help will
34 mitigation. Mr. Porter offered his services to the town.
35

36 **Consultant Reports**

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

40 **Items for Consideration**

41 **Proclamation Honoring Bob Gordon**

42 Mayor A. Riddile read the proclamation into the record and presented the proclamation to
43 Jennifer Harbottle and Brenda Simonson.
44

45 **PUBLIC HEARING – Opened at 7:09pm**

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

1 Recess the Town Council Meeting, Convene as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority
2

3 **MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to Recess the Town Council Meeting,**
4 **Convene as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, Councilor Carey seconded the**
5 **motion, and it passed unanimously.**
6

7 **Consider an Application from the New Castle Recreation for a Special Event**
8 **Liquor License for their Bad Art on February 28, 2026; Sampling Events on July**
9 **30, 2026, and August 27, 2026; Special Event for Burning Mountain Festival on**
10 **September 11 &12, 2026; Special Event for Chili Cook-off on December 4, 2026**

11 Town Clerk Andis said the recreation department has applied for special event liquor
12 license's for all of their events for 2026. The application was completed in a timely
13 manner, and everything is in order. Clerk Andis said the servers at the events will either
14 be staff or volunteers who are TIPS trained. Therefore, staff recommends approval.
15 Councilor Leland asked about the mapping for the Community Market Sampling Area.
16 Clerk Andis said Rec Director Kelley Cox would like to try opening the entire Burning
17 Mountain Park as the sampling area. The purpose is for the public be able to visit vendor
18 booths without being rushed with a sample.

19 **PUBLIC HEARING - Closed 7:10pm**
20

21 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve a Special Events Liquor**
22 **License Application New Castle Recreation for a Special Event Liquor License for**
23 **their Bad Art on February 28, 2026; Sampling Events on July 30, 2026, and**
24 **August 27, 2026; Special Event for Burning Mountain Festival on September 11**
25 **&12, 2026; Special Event for Chili Cook-off on December 4, 2026. Councilor**
26 **Hazelton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**
27

28 Adjourn the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, Reconvene the Town Council Meeting
29

30 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to recess the Local Liquor Licensing**
31 **Authority and reconvene the Town Council meeting, Councilor Mariscal seconded**
32 **the motion, and it passed unanimously.**
33

34 **Discussion of Emergency Drought Plan Policy**

35 Administrator Reynolds said he had reached out to the town attorneys to make sure the
36 policy and municipal code matches. The attorneys have not had a chance to review the
37 policy. Council Leand discovered a few discrepancies while writing a newsletter article.
38 Administrator Reynolds explained what the discrepancies were. The policy has phases
39 one-four depending on the severity of the drought conditions. The first was in the second
40 phase of the policy, it does have watering restrictions if there was a call on the water
41 rights on Elk Creek. The municipal code also has watering restrictions however the water
42 restrictions are yearly from May 1st to October 1st. Staff suggest using the municipal code
43 restrictions that are mandatory. Administrator Reynolds said he and Public Works Director
44 John Wenzel would continue to watch for calls on Elk Creek. The second issue was in the

1 code. When watering restrictions are in effect it only applies to potable water not raw
2 water. The policy applies restrictions to both potable water and raw water. Staff's opinion
3 is the restrictions should apply to both potable water and raw water. Staff recommends
4 changing the code to match the policy for the water restrictions is for both potable water
5 and raw water. The third issue is in the code there are two sections 13.28.010(D) Wasting
6 of water prohibited – Penalties which has a fine schedule; 13.28.020(H) Summer water
7 use restrictions – Fine Schedule. The policy reflects the fine schedule in 13.28.020(H).
8 Staff's recommendation is to have the fines and penalties to be in line with each other.
9 Councilor Carey said the wasting of water should be clearly defined in the code.
10 Councilor Leland said the potable is more expensive to produce compared to raw water,
11 but now with the possible drought situation the town is now looking at the availability of
12 water.
13 Public Works Director Wenzel said at the time the code was written, the town tried to
14 incentivize the use of raw water irrigation as an alternative and the town wasn't putting
15 any restrictions on raw water. He said with the possible drought situation there should be
16 restrictions on both potable water and raw water.
17 Administrator Reynolds said once the attorney's look at the policy and the code changes it
18 will come back to council for approval.

19
20 **Consider Resolution TC 2026-07 - A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council**
21 **Supporting the Application for a Mini Grant from the Garfield County Federal**
22 **Mineral Lease District for Water and Wastewater Computer Control System**
23 **Upgrades**

24 Administrators Reynolds said the FMLD mini grant is to replace the Skata computers for
25 the water and wastewater plants. The computers remotely control the water plant and the
26 wastewater plant. The current computers are at the end of life. Because the programing
27 for the computers is expensive. The grant is for \$30k because that is the maximum ask
28 for the mini grant, the expected total for the project is estimated to be between \$40k and
29 \$50k.

30
31 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2026-07 A**
32 **Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Supporting the Application for a Mini**
33 **Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for Water and**
34 **Wastewater Computer Control System Upgrades. Councilor Copeland seconded**
35 **the motion, and it passed unanimously.**
36

37 **Consider Resolution TC 2026-08 - A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council**
38 **Supporting the Application for a Traditional Grant from the Garfield County**
39 **Federal Mineral Lease District for Street Capital Improvements**

40 Administrator Reynolds said the FMLD grant is to help keep the town's streets in good
41 condition. The grant is asking for \$400k, the expected total for the work is estimated to
42 be \$600k.
43 Councilor Leland said in the resolution it states it costs \$5,250.00 to maintain the town
44 streets. Administrator Reynolds said it is in direct correlation to the grant money FMLD

1 gives to the town. It is estimated to be \$5,250.00 to maintain the portion of the streets
2 that the grant money is for.

3
4 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2026-08 A**
5 **Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Supporting the Application for a**
6 **Traditional Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for**
7 **Street Capital Improvements. Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it**
8 **passed unanimously.**

9
10 **Consider Resolution TC2026-05 – A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council**
11 **for Providing Cancellation of the April 7, 2026, Regular Municipal Election in**
12 **Accordance with Section 1.16.040 of the Town of New Castle Municipal Code.**

13
14 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2026-05 A**
15 **Resolution of the New Castle Town Council for Providing Cancellation of the April**
16 **7, 2026, Regular Municipal Election in Accordance with Section 1.16.040 of the**
17 **Town of New Castle Municipal Code. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion, and**
18 **it passed unanimously.**

19
20 **Consent Agenda**

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

24
25 February 3, 2026, Minutes
26 Lazy Bear Restaurant Liquor License Renewal
27 Hogback Pizza Liquor License Renewal

28
29 **MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.**
30 **Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

31
32 **Staff Reports**

33 **Town Administrator** –Administrator Reynolds said the CEC had a movie at the library
34 last week regarding water drought. He said Tuesday, February 24, 2026, Colorado River
35 Valley Chamber of Commerce is having their annual State of the Community at Grand
36 River Hospital. Administrator Reynolds said there is a scheduling the use of the baseball
37 fields at Elk Creek Elementary School. Staff are working with the school to settle the
38 issue. Administrator Reynolds said he would be attending the CEC meeting to give an
39 update on the state recycling program. He said staff has just received application number
40 three to be filled out for the state recycling program. He said it will be this summer when
41 the state would provide the town with a contract and at that time the town can decide
42 whether or not to move forward with the program. Administrator Reynolds said he and
43 Planner Paul Smith are working with a developer about affordable housing. He said they
44 might reach out to the regional housing coalition who works specifically on deed restricted

1 properties to see if a partnership could be formed. Administrator Reynolds said Downtown
2 Colorado Inc has Town of New Castle as a finalist for the Downtown of the Year. He said
3 there is also a photo contest going on. Administrator Reynolds said the River Center sent
4 the town a "Thank You" for the funding for 2026. Administrator Reynolds said there is a
5 non-profit called Employers Counseling that specializes in HR work. He said he has been
6 speaking with them about the type of work they do and the company works with
7 municipalities. The company does salary surveys and handbook policy and would be able
8 to keep the town current on HR items.

9 **Town Clerk** – Clerk Andis said she currently sits on the River Center Final Board there
10 was a meeting today. She reminded the council of the River Center Adult Prom on
11 Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 6:30pm – 10:00pm at the Lakota Clubhouse. Tickets
12 are available at the River Center. Clerk Andis the items for the next council meeting.

13 **Town Treasurer** – not present

14 **Town Planner** – not present

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

16 **Commission Reports**

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

18 **Historic Preservation Commission** – have not met. Councilor Copeland said Founders
19 Day was a great event.

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

21 **Senior Program** – have not met

22 **RFTA** – Councilor Copeland said they did add a mid-day Hogback route to Rifle.

23 **AGNC** – Councilor Hazelton said they meet tomorrow and it's ZOOM only meeting.

24 **GCE** - have not met

25 **EAB** – have not met

26 **POSTR** – have not met

27 **Council Comments**

28 Councilor Mariscal said there was supposed to have been a pastors meeting on Thursday,
29 February 5, 2026, but no one attended. There will be another meeting on Thursday,
30 March 5, 2026.

31 Councilor Carey said the CML Policy Committee meets Friday, February 20, 2026, if there
32 is anything to bring to the committee's attention to let her know.

33 Councilor Hazelton said he attended the CEC movie event at the library the panel
34 discussion was great.

35 Councilor Leland thanked Councilor Carey for representing the town at Spellabration. He
36 said if the town has an opportunity to have the mitigation goats in town, we should.

37 Mayor A. Riddile said Founders Day was a great event and a nice way to honor Cemetery
38 Caregiver Mike Miller.

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Items for Future Council Agenda
There were no items for future agenda.

Adjourn
MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to adjourn.
The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor A. Riddile

Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

DRAFT