

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 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 G. Riddile
Councilor Leland
Councilor Copeland
Mayor A. Riddile
Councilor Hazelton
Councilor Carey
Councilor Mariscal

Absent None

Also present at the meeting were Professional Assistant to the Town Clerk, Michelle Huster, Town Clerk Mindy Andis, Administrator Dave Reynolds, Town Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers and members of the public.

Meeting Notice

Professional Assistant Huster verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with resolution TC 2025-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts

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 Approval of Resolution TC2025-10 Approving Dissolution of the River Park Metropolitan District

Town Administrator Dave Reynolds said the resolution was to grant the dissolution of the River Park Metropolitan District in accordance with the approved district service plan. Administrator Reynolds said the district was established in 2004 and

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its purpose was to finance and construct public infrastructure for the River Park Planned Unit Development (PUD). Administrator Reynolds said the district's board of directors had confirmed that all obligations outlined in the service plan were met, including the transfer of all public improvements to the town, and the fulfillment of all bond obligations in accordance with the service plan.

Administrator Reynolds said those requirements were completed and the district now seeks final approval from the town council to proceed with dissolution.

Administrator Reynolds said the Town Attorney David McConaughy has reviewed the dissolution and verified that all obligations were met. Attorney Glory Schmidt, from CEGR Law representing River Park Metropolitan District, said that dissolving the district would allow for continued debt repayment and eliminated operational expenses. Attorney Schmidt said the outstanding debt of \$1,685,000 was expected to be paid off by 2040. Attorney Schmidt said that the dissolution would simplify operations and reduce costs for residents.

MOTION: Councilor G. Riddile moved to approve Resolution TC2025-10 approving the dissolution of the River Park Metropolitan District. Mayor A Riddile seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Proclamation Recognizing Parkinson's Awareness Month – Karen Langhorst

Administrator Reynolds introduced Karen Langhorst to the council as a caregiver for her husband with Parkinson's Disease. Mayor A. Riddile read the proclamation recognizing April 2025 as Parkinson's Awareness Month. Karen Langhorst shared her personal experience and emphasized the challenges faced by caregivers.

Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor A. Riddile read the Arbor Day proclamation, declaring April 26, 2025, as Arbor Day in the Town of New Castle.

Administrator Reynolds shared important tree related projects completed by New Castle Parks Department and said this was the 21st year New Castle has been designated as a Tree City USA. Administrator Reynolds explained the parks department's efforts in planting new trees, treating existing trees for invasive beetles, and maintaining the overall health of the town's trees. Parks Director Ryan Barkman was present to receive the proclamation. The council thanked Parks Manager Barkman for his work with the town.

Consider Approval of Resolution TC2025-11 Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement to Support a Regional Planning Commission for Transportation Planning in the Intermountain Transportation Planning Region

Administrator Reynolds said the resolution would formalize the Town's partnership with the Intermountain Transportation Planning Region (IMTPR), the regional planning district for CDOT projects. Administrator Reynolds said that while the town has been involved

with IMTPR for years, there were no records of a previous intergovernmental agreement (IGA) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Administrator Reynolds said that the town attorneys have reviewed the resolution, and its purpose is to formalize the partnership in this region and none of the functions will change.

Mayor A. Riddile stressed the importance of the partnership with IMTPR over the last nine years. Mayor A. Riddile said that partnership between the town and IMTPR eventually prioritized the roundabout project for 2024. Councilor Carey added that the interchange upgrade for New Castle potential impact on future transportation projects in the area, like the interchange in the Towns of New Castle and Silt, is moving up the priority list.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile moved to approve Resolution TC2025-11, Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement to Support a Regional Planning Commission for Transportation Planning in the Intermountain Transportation Planning Region, Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Discussion on Use of E-bikes on BLM Trails

Administrator Reynolds explained about e-bikes on BLM trails adjoining New Castle, being an ongoing debate about where e-bikes belong on various trail networks. Administrator Reynolds said the town currently had trail use agreements with the BLM as well as private landowners. Under the terms of those agreements, the use of motorized vehicles and e-bikes were prohibited.

Administrator Reynolds said advancement of e-bike technology enabled former cyclists to ride again and allowed experienced riders to extend their range and explore new terrain. Administrator Reynolds said we need to discuss how e-bikes fit into the trail system because people are already using them in the area. Administrator Reynolds explained the different classes of e-bikes.

- **Class 1:** Pedal-assist only, with no throttle and a maximum assisted speed of 20 mph
- **Class 2:** Pedal-assist or throttle, also limited to 20 mph
- **Class 3:** Pedal-assist and/or throttle, with higher maximum speeds (typically up to 28 mph)

Administrator Reynolds said the BLM was currently evaluating the limited use of Class 1 e-mountain bikes on certain trails. He said e-bikes were restricted to BLM roads and trails designated for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. Administrator Reynolds said e-bike access to bike-only trails was permitted if a BLM Manager issued a written decision in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Council members had differing perspectives on the topic of e-bikes on New Castle trails connected to BLM. Mayor A. Riddile expressed support for e-bikes, citing the success of

e-bikes on the Rio Grande Trail. Councilor Carey voiced concerns about safety and the potential impact on trails, especially those dirt trails with challenging terrain. Councilor G. Riddile suggested that e-bikes could be allowed with some management flexibility to address any potential issues that might arise. Councilor Hazelton advocated for using pedal-assist e-bikes and distinguishing them from dirt bikes. Councilor Hazelton said there is a way to make it safe and the trails were funded by taxpayers so they should be able to use them. Councilor Leland said that the problem is not with the technology of the e-bike, but with the user. Councilor Carey said that BLM could help with signs showing the difficulty level of the trail like ski areas. Council also noted the implications for private trails connected to BLM land. Administrator Reynolds proposed drafting a referral letter to the BLM that would encapsulate the council's discussion, which would be reviewed in a future meeting. Administrator Reynolds asked Council if an expert from BLM should speak, and Council agreed it was not necessary.

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.

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

Staff Reports

Town Administrator

Administrator Reynolds said there were ongoing conversations with developers regarding tap fees, clarifying the town's methodology for calculating the fees. Administrator Reynolds said tap fees cannot be waived or significantly reduced due to existing loan agreements. Administrator Reynolds said that Town Planner Paul Smith used EQR equations to calculate tap fees that fit with the developer's needs and are fair. Administrator Reynolds gave an update on the Cole Ule project and the discrepancy between the project and the town's comprehensive plan. Administrator Reynolds would attend the county commissioner's meeting about the Cole Ule project Monday, April 21, 2025. Administrator Reynolds said the town was awarded spring Federal Mineral Lease District (FMLD) grants, which included \$180,000 for street projects and \$30,000 for a new HVAC unit for town hall rooftop. Administrator Reynolds said police officers Chris Contreras and Justin Reynolds were promoted to sergeant. Administrator Reynolds provided an update on ARPA funds, highlighting the evolving rules and reporting requirements and the town's continued efforts to remain in compliance. Administrator Reynolds discouraged future tree dedications because of the lack of water and keeping the tree alive, but he is looking into alternatives.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said she conducted five interviews for the deputy clerk position and is scheduling second interviews. Clerk Andis said her office is changing how packets and agendas are presented on the website to comply with ADA requirements. She said this change will happen by June.

Town Treasurer – Town Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers said that the 2024 Colorado Opioid Funding report would need to be resubmitted due to issues with the initial submission and a lack of response from the Detox Center. Treasurer Ehlers said that annual audit was scheduled in two weeks. Treasurer Ehlers reported quarterly financials.

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – Councilor G. Riddile said the Planning & Zoning Commission had a meeting last Wednesday to discuss a project for 66 townhomes between Castle Valley Boulevard and the soccer field, known as the Archwood project.

Historic Preservation Commission -Councilor Hazelton asked Clerk Andis when his term was over with HPC and Councilor Copeland's would begin. Clerk Andis said April would be the last meeting for Councilor Hazelton and councilor Copeland would start in May.

Climate and Environment Commission – Councilor Leland distributed a brochure listing the groups that will be represented at the upcoming Earth Day event on April 26, 2025 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM in Burning Mountain Park.

Senior Program –have not met

RFTA – Councilor Copeland reported that RFTA is considering a pilot program for three-plus weeks, with a decision expected by May 15th. Mayor A. Riddile said he would attend that meeting.

AGNC – have not met

GCE – have not met

EAB – have not met

POSTR - have not met

Council Comments –

Councilor Mariscal offered to translate Councilor Leland's Earth Day flyer into Spanish. Councilor Mariscal said that she and Administrator Reynolds met with local pastors to share where they could be involved with what is going on in New Castle. Councilor Mariscal said they planned to meet once a month. Councilor Mariscal said there is frustration from the community with the Detox Center. Councilor Carey asked for an update on the trail closure on West Madaris. Administrator Reynolds said they are creating new trail signs. Councilor Hazelton asked Clerk Andis if residents were allowed to sell plots in Highland Cemetery. Clerk Andis said state law doesn't allow for resale of cemetery plots between private parties. Councilor G. Riddile raised concerns about

off-leash dogs and asked for an update from the police department. He also reported on a recent transportation meeting and expressed gratitude to town staff for their hard work on various projects. Councilor Leland suggested that the town should plan for the 250th anniversary of independence in 2026 and he mentioned the Lions Club's cleanup efforts, as well as issues with litter along I-70. Mayor A. Riddile agreed to sign a letter concerning the litter problem along I-70.

Items for Future Council Agenda

There were no items for future agenda

Adjourn

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Hazelton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michelle Huster

Assistant to the Town Clerk, Michelle Huster

Arthur B. Riddile
Mayor Art Riddile