

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 1, 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 Mariscal (ZOOM)
Councilor Carey (ZOOM)
Councilor Hazelton
Mayor A. Riddile
Councilor Copeland
Councilor Leland
Councilor G Riddile

Absent None

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

Meeting Notice

Clerk Andis verified that her office gave notice of the meeting in accordance with resolution TC 2025-1.

Conflicts of Interest

There were no citizen comments

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 from Garfield County Libraries – Ana Gaytan

Branch manager of the New Castle Library, Ana Gaytan, presented an update on the changes and renovations at the library. Ms. Gaytan introduced Library Facility Manager, John Medrano, who detailed the scope of work for the renovations of the library. **(See Exhibit A).**

Mayor, A. Riddile asked Mr. Medrano about the cost of the project. Mr. Medrano stated that it would cost \$377,000, not including shelving and furniture. Councilor Leland asked about the historical collection and its new location within the library. Councilor Leland

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emphasized the importance of properly labeling the county's only library history collection. Commissioner Leland also thanked the library's efforts for its involvement in the community events and the Climate and Environment Commission (CEC). Commissioner Copeland suggested that the library donate any historical materials to the museum before purging any photos or documents.

Consider Chamber of Commerce Request for Sponsorship – Block Party

Town Administrator David Reynolds asked the council to consider sponsorship for the New Castle Chamber of Commerce Summer Block Party. Administrator Reynolds said during the council work session held on March 18, 2025, the New Castle Chamber of Commerce presented their 2025 Summer Block Party plans. The Summer Block Party will be on Friday, June 13, 2025, at Burning Mountain Park. The chamber anticipates having two bands, two local food trucks, and creating space for approximately 20 businesses to set up booths and market their businesses. The chamber relies on sponsorship funding to help offset the costs of the event. In 2024 the Town of New Castle was asked to be a sponsor and agreed to donate \$3500 toward the event. The chamber is now asking for \$3500 toward Summer Block Party Sponsorship.

The council agreed to the sponsorship request but asked if the town could get more than just a banner and name recognition. Councilor Leland asked if the sponsorship might include spaces for CEC, Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), the Police Department, or a town council table.

Administrator Reynolds discussed the allocation of funds, considering either the economic development line item or outgoing grants as potential sources. Councilor G. Riddile said he supported the use of economic development funds. Administrator Reynolds said he would talk to the Chamber of Commerce about the one-time request in the future.

MOTION: Councilor G. Riddile made a motion to approve Chamber of Commerce request for Sponsorship for the Block Party in the amount of \$3,500 using the money from the Economic Development line item. Commissioner Copeland seconded the motion, and it passed on a roll call vote. Councilor Carey: yes; Councilor Copeland: yes; Councilor G. Riddile: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor Mariscal: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Mayor A. Riddile: yes.

Resolution TC-2025-9, Approving an MOU with the Bureau of Land Management.

Administrator Reynolds reviewed Resolution TC-2025-9, approving a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He explained that the previous agreement from 2016 had expired, and the new MOU is the same as the old one, with only the dates updated. Administrator Reynolds reported that BLM is satisfied with how New Castle has been managing the trails and events. The BLM suggested shifting focus from trail building to trail maintenance including more weed control in certain areas.

MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2025-9, A Resolution approving a MOU with the Bureau of Land Management. Councilor G. Riddile seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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.

March 18, 2025, minutes

March Bills \$692,758.99

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

Staff Report

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynolds said Councilor Leland asked about affordable housing. Administrator Reynolds said there are complexities of mandating affordable housing in developments with vested rights, and the potential for tax incentives for developers who voluntarily include affordable housing. Administrator Reynolds said there will be a sketch plan near the roundabout (Walters Center) and a potential development next to River Park Condos going to P & Z in the near future. Administrator Reynolds gave an update to the council on a resident who is now homeless after a fire and highlighted the extensive community support, she has received alongside the current challenges she faces. Administrator Reynolds said the State of the Community address he and Public Information Officer (PIO) Rochelle Firth presented recently was available on Rifle TV's site. Administrator Reynolds asked the council about the upcoming Parkinson's Awareness proclamation and if it should be rewritten. Councilor Leland asked Clerk Andis to send him the proclamation. Administrator Reynolds said the P & Z meeting scheduled for April 9, 2025, will be a new application from TC Midwest and Castle Valley Ranch PA 12 Filing 14 Sketch Plan. Administrator Reynolds said he has been in touch with Bob Gordon's family to arrange plans for an upcoming bench dedication and proclamation. Administrator Reynolds said the dedication ceremony would coincide with the installation of a commemorative bench plaque. Administrator Reynolds said the River Park Metro District has a desire to dissolve. Administrator Reynolds said that

the Metro District was originally set up to fund infrastructure such as roads and utilities for River Park development. However, with these projects completed, there is ongoing deliberation about the necessity of maintaining the district. Town Attorney, David McConaughy, is reviewing historical agreements to ensure all obligations were fulfilled before the dissolution proceeds.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said that there was a vacant position in the clerk's office and she had received two applications so far and planned to conduct interviews. Clerk Andis said she is continuing to train Professional Assistant to the Town Clerk, Michelle Huster, on additional office duties.

Town Treasurer – not present

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – have not met

Historic Preservation Commission -nothing to report

Climate and Environment Commission – Commissioner Leland said the commission discussed business grants and using the bag fee money. He asked for clarification on whether these grants should be limited to businesses within the town limits.

Senior Program – Town Clerk Andis said they met with nothing to report.

RFTA – have not met

AGNC – Councilor Hazelton said there were ongoing issues at the state level regarding attempts to redirect severance tax money. He said nuclear energy will be listed as clean energy, which could be significant for the area, especially towards Craig.

GCE – have not met

EAB – have not met

POSTR - have not met

Council Comments – Councilor Carey raised concerns about communication lapses during the gas line break, especially in terms of shelter-in-place orders and the lack of coordination with local schools. Councilor G. Riddile said he was asked to be in the Colorado Valley Economic Development Partnership discussion and asked for clarification on any potential conflicts with current obligations. Councilor G. Riddile said Rifle was awarded a grant for a safe streets study and proposed conducting a similar study in New Castle.

Items for Future Council Agenda

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:27p.m

Respectfully submitted,



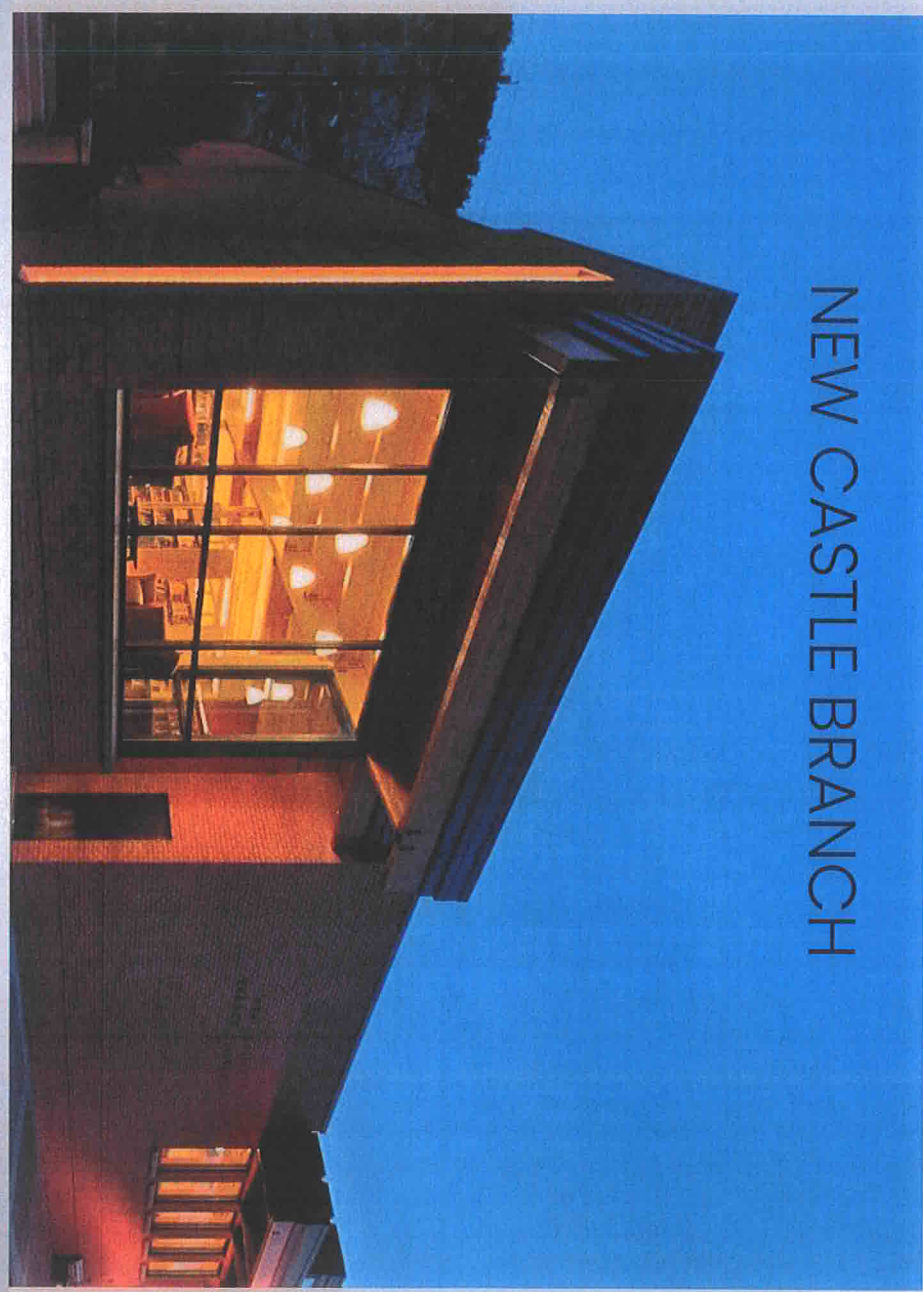
Michelle Huster
Assistant to the Town Clerk, Michelle Huster

Art B. Riddile
Mayor Art Riddile

Exhibit A

4.1.2025 to Council Minute

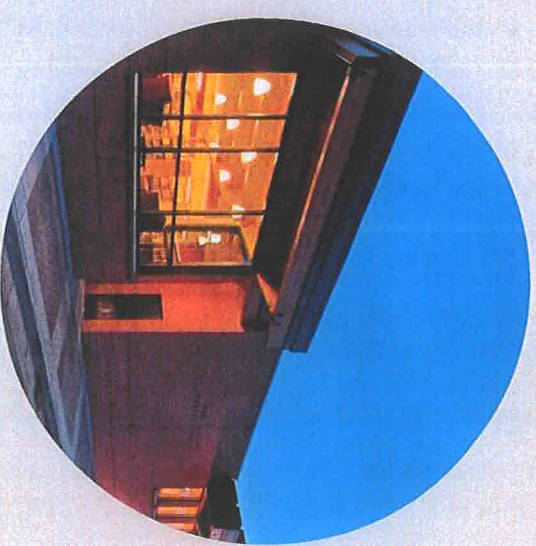
NEW CASTLE BRANCH



DESIGN PRESENTATION

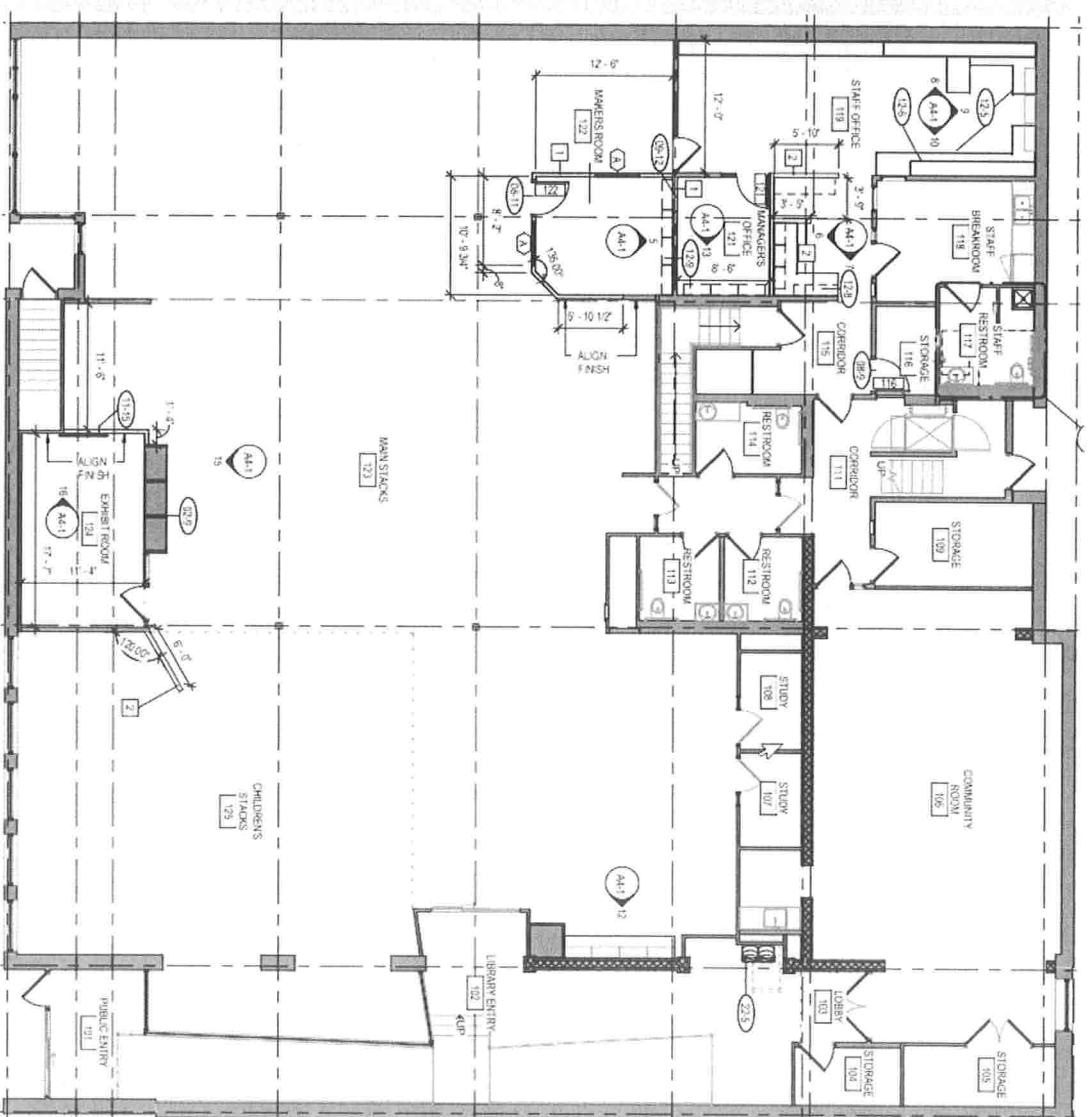
Scope of Work

- Reconfiguring staff room
- Adding a quiet room for staff
- Adding a Makerspace Room
- Reconfiguring History Room
- Expanding children's area.
- New lower shelving and furniture.
- New carpet and paint throughout
- New Signage throughout.



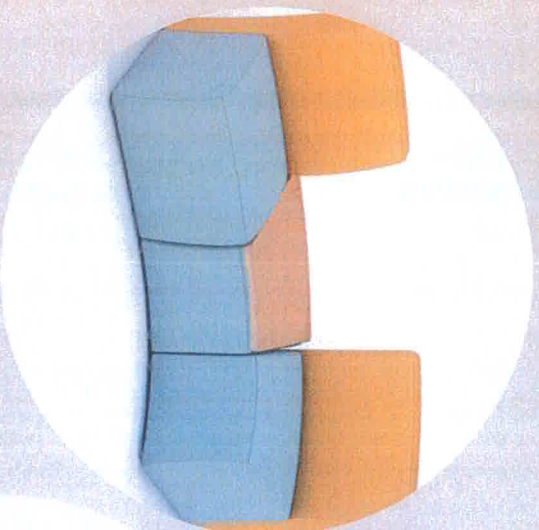
New Castle Branch

Floor Plan

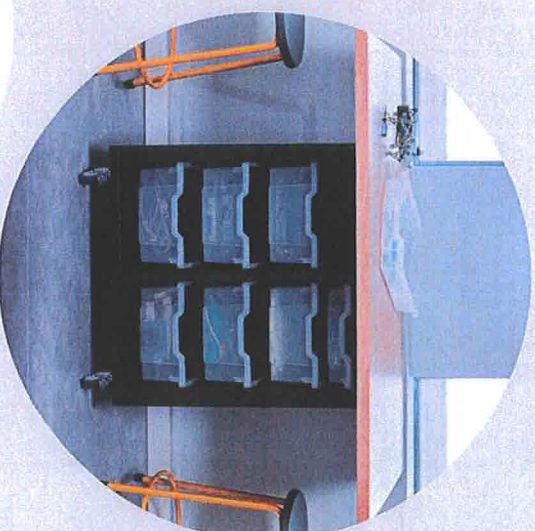


Furniture

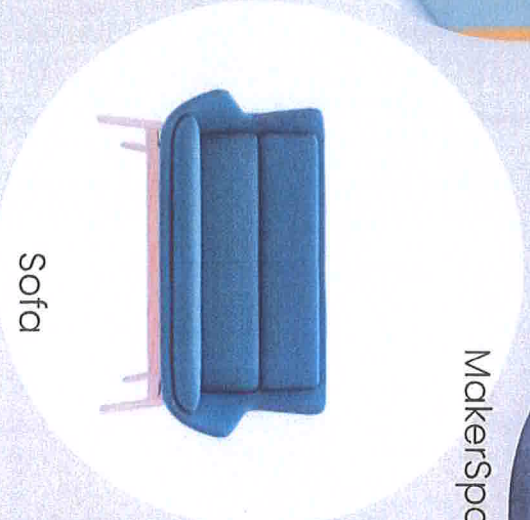
New Castle Branch



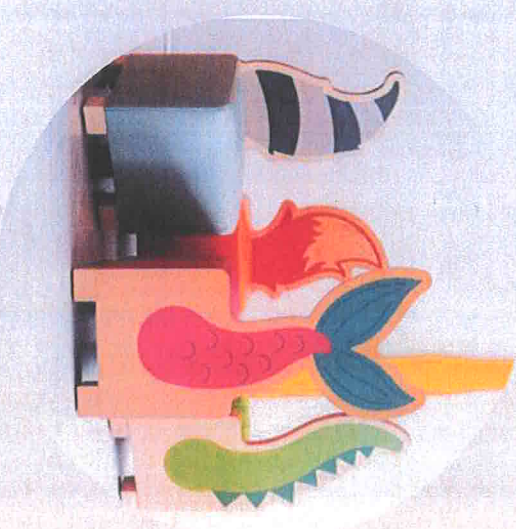
Curved Seating



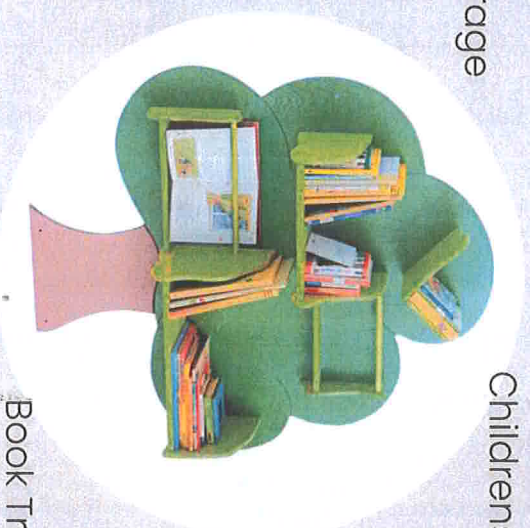
Makerspace Storage



Sofa



Childrens Stools



Book Tree

What to expect when the Remodel is done

- History room is becoming
 - Exhibition room
 - Conference room for 8 people
 - Quite Nook
 - Sitting area



Makerspace

Cricut



Film scanner



Sewing
Machines





Thank you