

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 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 Carey  
Councilor Hazelton  
Mayor A. Riddile  
Councilor Copeland  
Councilor Leland  
Councilor G Riddile

Absent                      Councilor Mariscal

Also present at the meeting were Town Clerk Mindy Andis, Administrator Dave Reynolds, Planner Paul Smith, Attorney Mike Sawyer, Town Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers, and members of the public.

**MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to excuse Councilor Mariscal's absence. Councilor Hazelton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

**Meeting Notice**

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

**Conflicts of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest

**Agenda Changes**

There were no agenda changes

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

Rob Hanna New Castle resident introduced himself to the council. Mr. Hanna is the new Garfield County Deputy County Manager. Council welcomed Mr. Hanna to the county and to the town.

Katerina McAlpine New Castle resident said she wanted to let council know that the town has been participating in a program which is currently the subject of a formal Cease and Desist Order for violating Colorado law. SPEAR Task Force was created in 2022, and the MOU was not signed until 2025, but it was not approved by any municipality, which is a violation of state statute CRS 29-1 203. Ms. McAlpine said the statute requires

Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, March 17, 2026

Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA) to be authorized by the governing body. Ms. McAlpine is asking for the town's attorney to review the legality of New Castle's participation in SPEAR and to determine whether Colorado law was violated by the signing of the MOU by a New Castle staff member without authorization by council. Mayor A. Riddile said they will look into it and consult with the town attorney.

### **Consultant Reports**

Consultant Attorney –present for agenda items

Consultant Engineer – not present

### **Items for Consideration**

#### **Appreciation for Adria Milton-Baker**

Mayor A. Riddile presented Ms. Adria Milton-Baker with a gift of appreciation. He said Ms. Milton-Baker has been volunteering for three years picking up trash around town on a weekly basis. He said the council is very appreciative of the time Ms. Milton-Baker has put into cleaning up the town. Ms. Milton-Baker said she is proud of the town and when she drives around town and sees the trash, she feels it's disrespecting the council and town residents.

#### **Consider R2 First Amendment to Subdivision and PUD Development Agreement**

Planner Smith said on January 14, 2026, Wildhorse Apartments LLC (formally R2 Partners) received conditional approval for a minor PUD amendment by the Planning Commission. The amendment was to change the townhomes from rental units to full purchase units. With the change there were some building realignments which changed lot lines. As a condition of the PUD amendment, the applicant was required to resubmit cost estimates for the revised public improvements (**Exhibit A**). Planner Smith said the amendment before council is to approve the cost estimate for the subdivision improvement agreement. Planner Smith said he has spoken with Town Engineer Jeff Simonson and Mr. Simonson felt the estimates were fair to what the new utility work that would need to be done. Planner Smith said there is a 15 percent contingency that would cover the cost adjustments if there were some minor changes that needed to be done.

**MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve R2 First Amendment to Subdivision and PUD Development Agreement. Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed on a roll call vote. Councilor G. Riddile: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor Copeland: yes; Mayor A. Riddile: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Councilor Carey: yes.**

#### **Consider R2 Subdivision Improvement Funds on Deposit Agreement**

Administrator Reynolds said R2 successfully completed the PUD Land Use Application

process and is now moving forward with permitting and development. As part of this process, R2 is required to provide a financial security deposit to ensure completion of the public improvements associated with the development of the project. The security serves as protection for the town in the event of a default during construction of those improvements. Security for this type of work is typically provided in the form of a letter of credit from a bank; however, developers also have the option of providing cash as security for the work to be completed. In this case, R2 has elected to provide cash security, which will be deposited in a designated Town of New Castle bank account and released back to the developer as work is satisfactorily completed. Administrator Reynolds said the agreement between the town and the developer explains how and where the money would be deposited such as which bank and how the interest would be earned and how the interest would be split between the town and the developer. The interested would be split 50/50 for the town's fee for managing the money and staff time. Administrator Reynolds said the agreement would replace the traditional letter of credit.

**MOTION: Councilor G. Riddile made a motion to approve R2 Subdivision Improvement Funds on Deposit Agreement. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion, and it passed on a roll call vote. Councilor Carey: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Mayor A. Riddile: yes; Councilor Copeland: yes; Councilor Leland: yes; Councilor G. Riddile: yes.**

#### **Update – E-Bike Regulations**

Administrator Reynolds gave a brief update on the e-bike regulations. He said staff have reviewed the state regulations for e-bikes and the town attorneys are reviewing what could go into the town municipal code. Administrator Reynolds reviewed different types of e-bikes and scooters with council (**Exhibit B**). Administrator Reynolds said with classification of e-bikes there are certain wattages that each class can go to. Some of the high power e-bikes are made to look like a normal e-bike, however the wattage is not an e-bike. The police are educating the kids and parents when they see them. Administrator Reynolds said an educational campaign will start once there is an ordinance in place. Councilor Leland asked about registration for the e-bikes. Administrator Reynolds said starting in 2027, the state will require each e-bike to have a placard that will clearly show what class the bike is. He said the ordinance will be written to explain what the regulations are for each class.

Councilor Carey asked if the town would be going into the schools to educate the kids. Administrator Reynolds said yes, once the ordinance is in place and we know exactly what the regulations are. Councilor Carey said there are few e-dirt bikes in town and should be aware of them. Administrator Reynolds said the police are aware and have spoken to a couple of them and they are also monitoring the e-bikes and speaking with the parents. Councilor Hazelton said there was discussion about e-bike education at the bike rodeo. Administrator Reynolds said he would speak with Chief Curry.

Councilor G. Riddile said he doesn't have an issue with Class 1,2 or 3, but what concerns him is Class 4. Administrator Reynold said his understanding is that Class 4 would be treated just like any other motor vehicle. You will need a driver's license, insurance and registration.

Councilor Copeland suggested having signage in various places explaining what is allowed and what is not.

Councilor Carey said e-dirt bikes that do not have peddle assistance and do not fit the definition of an e-bike are not allowed on Town trails, multi-use paths, sidewalks, roadways, parks, or all town property, so the attorneys should expand to say they would be considered a motor vehicle and be treated as such.

**Consider Ordinance TC-2026-02 An Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Amending Provisions of Chapter 13.28 of the Town Municipal Code Regarding Water Conservation (2<sup>nd</sup> reading)**

Administrator Reynolds said there were no changes made between first and second reading of the ordinance.

Councilor Leland asked how the town was going to get the information out to the residents. Administrator Reynolds said through billing, door hangers, website and Facebook.

Mayor A. Riddile opened the public hearing: 7:34pm

Mayor A. Riddile closed the public hearing: 7:35pm

**MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion to approve Ordinance TC-2026-02 An Ordinance of the New Castle Town Council Amending Provisions of Chapter 13.28 of the Town Municipal Code Regarding Water Conservation (2<sup>nd</sup> reading).**

**Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed on a roll call vote. Councilor Copeland: yes; Mayor A. Riddile: yes; Councilor Hazelton: yes; Councilor G. Riddile: yes; Councilor Carey: yes; Councilor Leland: yes.**

**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 3, 2026, Minutes

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

## Staff Reports

**Town Administrator** –Administrator Reynolds said he would be out of the office Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – Friday, March 20, 2026, but would be available by phone. Administrator Reynolds said he had a meeting with Silt’s Town Manager regarding the RFTA Hogback bus route. Administrator Reynolds said he understands that the funding issue idea for the bus route has been referred to a regional transportation coalition if it would be worth pursuing. Administrator Reynolds said with this year being a mid-term election year there could be interest in political groups that will want vendor space at the Community Market. He said staff would look into creating a policy for vendor space at town events and bring it back to council for discussion. Administrator Reynolds said the town attorneys would be involved because the town has to give time and space for protesting and allow people to speak their minds. What the time and space look like would be in the policy. Councilor Carey said Town of Carbondale doesn’t allow political parties at a couple of their events but then they do allow them in other events. Councilor Leland said the town does allow political parties in the Burning Mountain Festival Parade and most of them move into the park afterwards. Administrator Reynolds said Garfield County Emergency Management are working on renewing their emergency plan. He said he and Assistant Rochelle Firth attended a FEMA meeting as the county was reworking the emergency plan. The emergency plan gets audited every three years. Administrator Reynolds said the town is participating in a Regional Housing Study that goes from Aspen to Parachute. He said there have been a couple of phases to the project and staff have submitted the town’s information. The study is to show what affordable products were approved with PUD’s and what the senior housing count is. Administrator Reynolds the Queer Resource Center on the corner of Fourth Street and West Main Street went out of business. The business will be reopening under new ownership and new name. The business will be same as it was before. Administrator Reynolds said staff has been looking at upcoming meeting on April 21, 2026. Once the transition happens there will be an empty council seat and the council will need to appoint a Mayor Pro Tem. Council will have the option to fill the vacant council seat by either appointing with letters of interest or having a special election. Administrator Reynolds said Clerk Andis looked up in the town charter on how to appoint the Mayor Pro Tem seat. According to the charter “*The Council shall appoint the Mayor Pro Tem and conduct such other organizational business as it sees fit during the first regular meeting following a general election*”. Administrator Reynolds said we should come up with a process of how council would like to handle the appointment of Mayor Pro Tem. Administrator Reynolds said April 21, 2026, council meeting will have an early work session at 5:30pm at the Community Center. The regular council meeting will be at Town Hall. Administrator Reynolds said staff have had conversations with RE2 School District regarding the use of the ballfield at Elk Creek Elementary (ECE). There were questions about how the ballfields at ECE were being managed. The recreation department has historically managed the ballfields. There was an agreement in the 80’s to have the town manage the scheduling and allow us to charge

fees for the use of the ball fields and the town could keep the fees for managing the ball field. Administrator Reynolds said recently there was a conflict with a traveling team not being allowed to use the ballfield. Staff are working with the school district to resolve the issue. Administrator Reynolds said staff have run into a hiccup with the collection of Tobacco Tax. He said Town Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers is working with a couple of businesses to work out the issue. Administrator Reynolds said one of the developments coming into Castle Valley Ranch were going to put in Pickleball courts on their property. Staff reviewed the plans for the Pickleball courts and discussed with the developer to move the courts into VIX Park and away from residents' backdoors. Administrator Reynolds said by moving the Pickleball courts they would displace part of the bike park. He said there is a lot of room in the park but is there more room for more of a master plan to control how the park would come together. Administrator Reynolds said he has talked with New Castle Trails about the shift and is there away for the bike park to shift. Administrator Reynolds said he has reached out to the town attorney. Councilor Carey said staff should be careful when talking about open development applications. Councilor Hazelton asked if there is a master plan of VIX Park and the pump track. Administrator Reynolds said no, the pump track was a volunteer project and over time the track has changed.

**Town Clerk** – Clerk Andis said she had nothing to report

**Town Treasurer** – Treasurer Ehlers said she has opened an account with Colo-Trust for the R2 Subdivision Improvement Funds on Deposit. She said currently on the account the interest rate is 3.88%. Treasurer Ehlers said she had completed the Pinnacle audit for 2025 and completed the 2026 renewal. She said she has submitted the CTF 2025 audit and it was accepted. Treasurer Ehlers said the town audit is scheduled for April 27, 2026. She said she has completed the second ARPA funds closing.

**Town Planner** – Planner Smith said there will be a CUP for Xcel Energy Substation going before P&Z on Wednesday, March 25, 2026. The substation will be on County Road 335. Council will see the CUP for the substation on April 17, 2026. Planner Smith said R2 will be gearing up to start construction in the next few weeks. He said R2 are still planning on building four units this year. Planner Smith said on April 7, 2026, Coal Seam will be council for the second reading of the preliminary/final PUD ordinance. Mayor A. Riddile asked if Planner Smith could e-mail the council when the break ground dates are, so council is aware if they are asked any questions. Planner Smith said Building Inspector Travis Perdue is doing most of the inspections now.

**Public Works Director** – not present

### **Commission Reports**

**Planning & Zoning Commission** –Mayor A. Riddile said they have not met but will meet on March 25, 2026.

**Historic Preservation Commission** –Councilor Copeland they meet on March 23, 2026.

**Climate and Environment Commission** – Councilor Leland said they meet on March 19,

2026. He asked if the council has any thoughts for groups or businesses to attend Earth Day to let him know.

**Senior Program** –Clerk Andis said they meet on March 25, 2026.

**RFTA** – Mayor A. Riddile said he attended his last in person meeting and they gave him a nice send off. He said there was discussion about the library district funding part of RFTA for Silt and Rifle.

**AGNC** – Councilor Hazelton said they will meet March 18, 2026.

**GCE** – Councilor Leland said they will meet March 20, 2026.

**EAB** – Mayor A. Riddile said they met but he was unable to attend.

**POSTR** – have not met

**Council Comments**

Councilor Carey said she is researching Hyacinth Fellowship which is a support structure for first responders who have experienced trauma. She said this could be another resource that the town could offer to the Police Department. Councilor Carey said on April 4, 2026, she was going to have Coffee with a Councilor at New Castle Coffee to discuss water issues.

Councilor Leland said Dwayne Romero is running for Congress. Councilor Leland said he has concerns that Mr. Romero would be leaving Lakota Canyon Ranch and passing it onto someone else. Councilor Carey said her understanding is the company would remain the same.

Mayor A. Riddile introduced Emily Smapley to Councilor Leland. Ms. Sampley will replace Councilor Leland on council. Mayor A. Riddile said he and Councilor Leland had dinner with former Administrator Tom Baker and he is doing well.

**Items for Future Council Agenda**

Councilor G. Riddile would like to get a better understanding of the SPEAR MOU issue.

**Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



*Arthur B. Riddile*  
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Mayor A. Riddile

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