

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 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 Carey
Councilor Mariscal (ZOOM 7:25)
Councilor Hazelton
Mayor A. Riddile
Councilor Leland
Councilor G Riddile

Absent Councilor Copeland

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

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to excuse Councilor Copeland's absence. Councilor Carey seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to excuse Councilor Mariscal's absence. Councilor G. Riddile 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 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

Proclamation Recognizing June as Pride Month

Administrator Dave Reynolds said Ashley Stahl Executive Director at Queer Resource Center run by Cook Inclusive, made a request to the town to observe June as Pride

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 3, 2025

Month. Staff asked the council at the last meeting for their thoughts about the proclamation. The council agreed to have a proclamation and Councilor Leland and Councilor Carey edited the proclamation that was provided by Ashley.

Mayor A. Riddile asked the council if they had any comments.

Mayor A. Riddile stated he was not in favor of the proclamation because he objects to people asking for proclamations.

Mayor A. Riddile read the proclamation into the record.

Ashley said she is the founder of Queer Resource Center and thanked the council for recognizing June as Pride Month. Ashley gave a brief speech explaining the importance of the proclamation.

Councilor Hazelton said there is a remarkable story from Kaleb Cook about how the resource center had come about. He would like to hear his story at a future council meeting.

Presentation: Jake Staton – Colorado Parks and Wildlife – Bears

CPW Officer Jake Staton gave an update for this year's bear forecast. Officer Staton reviewed his report of bear conflicts since 2022 with the council

(**Exhibit A**). Officer Staton said the hot spots for the town is between 4th & 5th Streets, which is largely due to trash. Another hot spot is Rodriek Lane due to the fruit trees. Officer Staton said there is a nonprofit that he works with, "Uproot Colorado", who will come and pick the fruit and donate the fruit to food banks. He said another hot spot is the Lakota Senior Apartments because of the trash container not being enclosed or a bear proof container. He said another issue that CPW is running into is bee keeping. Officer Staton said CPW will provide fencing if it's practical. Officer Staton asked if there was a way to get information out to new homeowners about bears. They have a lot of information in their office and would be willing to share with the town.

Councilor Carey asked staff to add bear aware material to the "Welcome Packet" for new tenants and homeowners.

Councilor G. Riddile asked if there is information that could be put on doors knobs and placed in the troubled parts of town. Administrator Reynolds said yes, that is something that the town has done in the past. Mayor A. Riddile suggested hiring high school kids to pass out door hangers and don't want to see staff doing it. Officer Staton said that NOAA is predicting a severe drought for Garfield County for this year. Officer Staton said with the prediction of drought means there would be more conflicts with bear due to lack of foliage in the high country.

Officer Staton said that he just finished the fishing clinics for the year at Alder Park. Every 3rd grade class from New Castle for the past 28 years has participated and the state has given out about 700 fishing poles to kids who attend the fishing clinics. Officer Staton thanked the Parks Department for keeping the park looking nice and clean; and they are doing a great job.

Councilor Leland invited Officer Staton to the Earth Day Celebration for 2026, and it would be great to have some bear information.

Councilor Carey asked if CPW has seen an increase of Mountain Lion cases. Officer Staton said CPW relies on harvesting to help control the lion population. He said they have seen a decline of harvested lions. Therefore, it is likely to start having encounters with lions.

Introduction to New Staff Member – Deputy Town Clerk Samantha Sorensen

Town Clerk Mindy Andis introduced Deputy Town Clerk Samantha Sorensen to the council. Clerk Andis said Deputy Clerk Sorensen started on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, and has already attended a P&Z Commission Meeting. Clerk Andis said Deputy Clerk Sorensen is fitting in well and learning very quickly. Deputy Clerk Sorensen introduced herself and explained some of her background to the council. The council welcomed Deputy Clerk Sorensen to the team.

Bag Fee Business Grant Application - CEC

Councilor Leland explained the CEC has created a Business Grant Application to give grant money to local businesses from the Bag Fee money. CEC will distribute the application to town businesses before the end of June. The application describes what the grant money is for and how it can be used. Included in the application is information about the business and what the business wants to do with the grant money.

Councilor Carey asked if the business have to come up with a new project on their own. Councilor Leland said the money is for new projects not to pay for products bought last year.

Administrator Reynolds asked if the grant was a prepay grant money or the business needs to show proof they have already spent the money, and the town would reimburse with the grant money. Councilor Leland said the business would need to bring in a receipt and then a check would be cut for the grant money. Councilor Leland said he would add that requirement as part of the application.

Administrator Reynolds asked how the grant applications would be sent out, distributed or advertised. Councilor Leland said by mail, email, hand delivered, Visit New Castle Facebook page and the Friday e-newsletter.

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

MOTION: Councilor A. Riddile made a motion to recess the Town Council Meeting and Convene the Local Liquor Licensing Authority. Councilor Hazelton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Consider an Application from the New Castle Chamber of Commerce for a Special Event Liquor License for their Block Party Event on June 13, 2025

Clerk Mindy Andis said her office had received the special event liquor license on May 2, 2025. The event is for the Chamber of Commerce Block Party. The event will be held on June 13, 2025, from 5:30pm to 9:00pm. The license is from 9:00am – 11:00pm which

would give the Chamber of Commerce enough time to set up and tear down. Staff is recommending the last call to be half an hour before the end of the event. New Castle Chamber of Commerce has legal possession of the intended premises through a rental agreement. The event includes one food truck, The Rolling Fork has been approved by Garfield County Health Department. Siobahn Milholm is ServSafe certified and will oversee alcohol service. If the Authority's consensus is to approve the attached application for a special event liquor permit for the New Castle Chamber of Commerce, the Clerk's Office staff recommends that Authority consider the following conditions:

- That a 100% ID check be conducted because only individuals that meet the eligible drinking age of 21 should be served alcohol.
- That 'last call' for service of alcoholic beverages be a half-hour prior to the end of the event to allow patrons to finish their beverages before leaving the venue.

The Clerk's Office staff recommends approval of the application.

Councilor Leland asked what time the event starts. Chamber Vice President Kevin Hansen said the event is from 5pm-9pm. Councilor Leland asked if the alcohol was going to be at the park at 9am for a 5pm start. Mr. Hansen said the alcohol would probably be delivered to the park between noon & 5pm. Mr. Hansen said the chamber does have a few staff members and business members and volunteers that are Tips trained who would also help to serve. Mr. Hansen said they have not had any issues with overserving or serving minors during the event. Mr. Hansen said the chamber has hired Citadel Security for professional security during the event.

MOTION: Councilor G. Riddile made a motion to approve a Special Event Liquor License from the New Castle Chamber of Commerce for their Block Party Event on June 13, 2025. Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Consider an Application from the New Castle Recreation for a Special Event Liquor License for their Sampling Events on July 31, 2025, and August 28, 2025; Special Event for Burning Mountain Festival on September 12 & 13, 2025; Special Event for Chili Cook-off on December 5, 2025.

Town Clerk Mindy Andis said the event was something the town had been doing for a number of years. She said it was a way for the two liquor stores in town to be included in the community market. Each store will host one sampling garden. Clerk Andis said that the Recreation Department would handle both events. The samplings will take place on July 31, 2025, and again on August 28, 2025.

Clerk Andis said that the application was complete and had been properly noticed.

Clerk Andis told the council that the application was for Burning Mountain Festival that will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 12 and 13, 2025. Again, she said the event will be like in past years and the Town Hall Staff would be staffing the alcohol garden. She said that Town Hall staff were all Tips certified, and that the alcohol will be in the gazebo,

and drink tickets sold at a different location. Clerk Andis said that the application was complete and had been properly noticed.

Clerk Andis said the New Castle Recreation Department is requesting a special event liquor license for Chili Cook-off Competition on December 5, 2025, in Burning Mountain Park. The application requests a permit time from 5:00pm to 9:00pm. The event will be held from 5:30pm to 8:00pm. The extra time is to allow for set up and teardown. Town Staff will be serving and are Tips trained. Staff recommend approval of the special event liquor license.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve a Special Event Liquor License for their Sampling Events on July 31, 2025, and August 28, 2025; Special Event for Burning Mountain Festival on September 12 &13, 2025; Special Event for Chili Cook-off on December 5, 2025. Councilor Hazelton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to recess the Local Liquor Licensing Authority and Convene the Town Council Meeting. Mayor A. Riddile seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Resolution TC2025-15 – Approving an Agreement with the Colorado Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise.

Administrator Reynolds said the Green Bridge at the west end town is being replaced. The current bridge has an attached pedestrian bridge to the vehicle bridge and the new design for the bridge will have a separate pedestrian bridge. Administrator Reynolds explained that in order for the town to take possession of the old bridge CDOT, Colorado Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise is asking the town for a resolution that the town will consider an agreement. There is no agreement yet. The agreement will come after they have received a resolution from the town.

MOTION: Councilor Leland made a motion Approve Resolution TC2025-15 – Approving an Agreement with the Colorado Bridge and Tunnel Enterprise. Mayor A. 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.

May 20, 2025 minutes
May Bills \$946,765.98

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

Staff Reports

Town Administrator – Administrator Reynolds said the town officially owns the 335 W. Main Street. The seller of the property has donated \$25,000 to the town. Mayor A. Riddile asked for a thank you card to be sent to the seller. Administrator Reynolds said he has gotten a request from Lift-Up for money. He said he has directed them to the grant application and asked them to fill out an application. Administrator Reynold said he has spoken with Executive Director Jeanne Golay of Lova Trails about the MOU between the town, Lova Trail and Nutrient Farms for building a trail across Nutrient Farms property. The MOU has expired and Lova Trails is asking to renew the MOU. The MOU would be Lova Trail, Town of New Castle and Nutrient Farms working together in the future for building trail. Councilor Carey said she had a concern with Nutrient Farms wanting us not to give them a negative referral in order for them to sign the MOU. Administrator Reynolds said the town has some concerns not necessarily negative; there was just not enough information for the town to make a referral. Administrator Reynolds suggested if there is an MOU to be considered to have owner of Nutrient Farms Andy Bruno come to a council meeting and give another presentation. Councilor G. Riddile said he was fine with the MOU as long as it is the same as the old MOU. Administrator Reynolds said the MOU would be slightly different because the MOU was before Mr. Bruno actually owning the property. Administrator Reynolds said Devereux Polo Cup is June 15, 2025, at Stout Ranch. The event is a fund raiser for the New Castle Historical Society. Administrator Reynolds said the face of the museum has new paint and staff is in the process of ordering a new sign with the AGNC grant money the town was awarded. He said he had received a letter from the historical society with a list of repair items for the town to do. Administrator Reynolds said New Castle Trails Group has been doing some maintenance on the bike trails. Administrator Reynolds said he had spoken to some of the racers who participated in the Adventure Race on Sunday, June 1, 2025. He said the racers really enjoyed our trails. Administrator Reynolds said he has also been working with RFMBA and New Castle Trails on the bike park. Administrator Reynolds said he has gotten the report from Colorado River Fire Rescue (CRFR) regarding the gas leak incident from a few weeks ago if council would like to see it. Administrator Reynolds said staff has been researching proclamation policies in other towns. He said generally they are straightforward. Councilor Mariscal said she would like to have a work session on creating a proclamation policy. Administrator Reynolds said there was police activity on County Road 335 with shots fired. The New Castle Police Department had four officers on duty and called in two more. He said every agency in the area responded to the call. The New Castle Police Department had to call in the Garfield County Swat to assist. The police were able to extract two suspects out of a Conex box that they were hiding in. The New Castle Police Officers did a great job handling the situation. Administrator Reynolds said after the arrests were made there had

to be a search to be done, to make sure there were no other suspects or victims. The incident is still under investigation. Councilor G. Riddile asked with so many agencies involved, will there be a period of debriefing? Administrator Reynolds said yes there will be multiple debriefings. Administrator Reynolds said Drifters were before the council two weeks ago and discussed how they were going to clean up the backyard. The backyard is still not cleaned up and now there are some other issues with the food truck at Drifters. Administrator Reynolds said he will be sending a letter of violation to Drifters along with Conditional Use Permit questions. Administrator Reynolds said the town has been working with the family of someone who is currently in jail to clean up his property. The owner of the property was issued a ticket for maintenance of property shortly before he got arrested. The property has been cleaned up.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said she been busy training Deputy Sorensen.

Town Treasurer – Treasurer Ehlers said her department is finishing up the property and casualty insurance renewal. She said the audit has been fully submitted. Treasurer Ehlers said she had received an email from CEBT the town’s health insurance company, about the prediction of rates for next year. The prediction for next year’s increase will be between 10-16 percent. She will know more in July.

Town Planner – no present

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – Councilor G. Riddile said they did meet. The meeting was for a Preliminary and Final land use application from Coal Seam. The meeting was continued to July 23, 2025, because the application was incomplete. The development will be next to River View Park Condos.

Historic Preservation Commission – Councilor Copeland was not present to give an update.

Climate and Environment Commission – Councilor Leland said they had created the Business Grant Application form. He said CEC had worked with Roaring Fork Outdoor Volunteers for a cleanup on the Colorow Trail. RFOV also made some repairs to the trail. Councilor Leland said their next project is working on the CEC webpages on the town’s website.

Senior Program – Clerk Andis said there is nothing new to report.

RFTA – have not met

AGNC – Councilor Hazelton said there was discussions on funding and Severance Tax. There is a possibility that the towns won’t be getting the Severance Tax from the state.

GCE – have not met

EAB – have not met

POSTR - have not met

Council Comments

Councilor Mariscal said she missed having the ZOOM link on the council agenda. She reminded the council to be respectful to each other.

Councilor Carey said she has concern about how short the last couple sets of minutes

were and the minutes are the towns legal document for the council. Councilor Hazelton said with the incident that occurred on County Road 335, the town needs to make sure the New Castle Police Department have everything they need and feel comfortable doing their job safely along with training. Councilor G. Riddile said he would like to see at least two officers on duty at all times if possible. Councilor Mariscal said the town needs to make sure the officers have access to good mental health services if needed. Councilor Hazelton said there have been great events over the past weekend. Mayor A. Riddile said there was some vandalism reported on the property on County Road 335 across from the River View Park Condos. There was a backhoe that had the windows smashed out. Mayor A. Riddile suggested making a proclamation for Coal Ridge High School Boys Baseball winning the 3A state championship. Councilor Leland said he would work on the proclamation. Mayor A. Riddile said the Memorial Day event at the cemetery was good with a good turnout. He said the Police Department Bike Rodeo had roughly 150 – 200 kids. He said there was also a volleyball tournament going on at the same time with 16 teams. He said the Adventure Race also happened with 100 participants. Mayor A. Riddile said the town needs to look at marketing the events and get staff together to have a celebration on the great job that is done with the events.

Items for Future Council Agenda

Consider proclamation policy work session.

Proclamation for Coal Ridge High School Boys Baseball winning the 3A state championship.

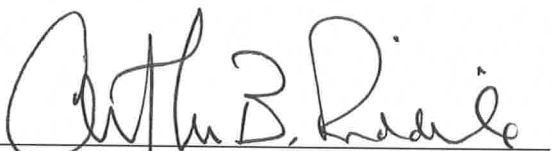
Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:31p.m

Respectfully submitted,

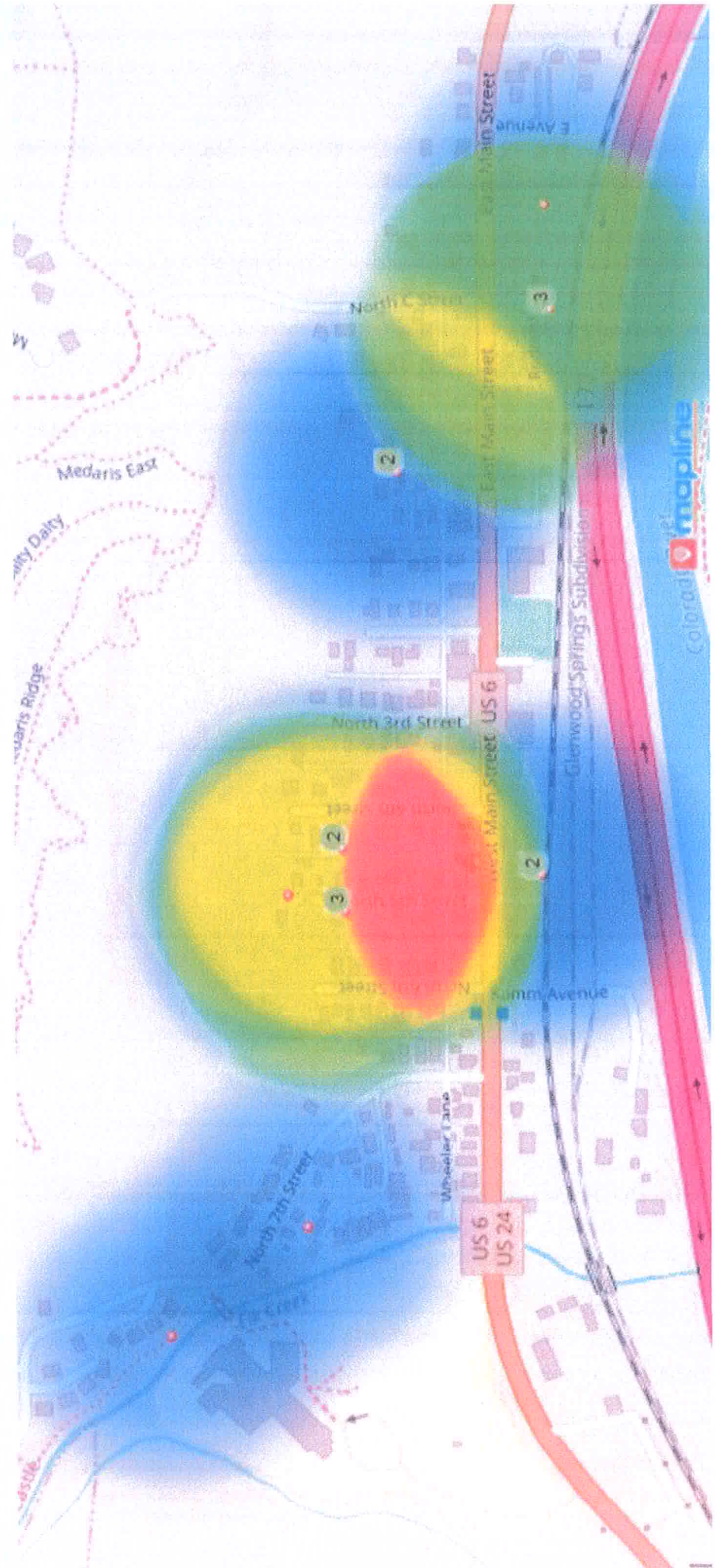


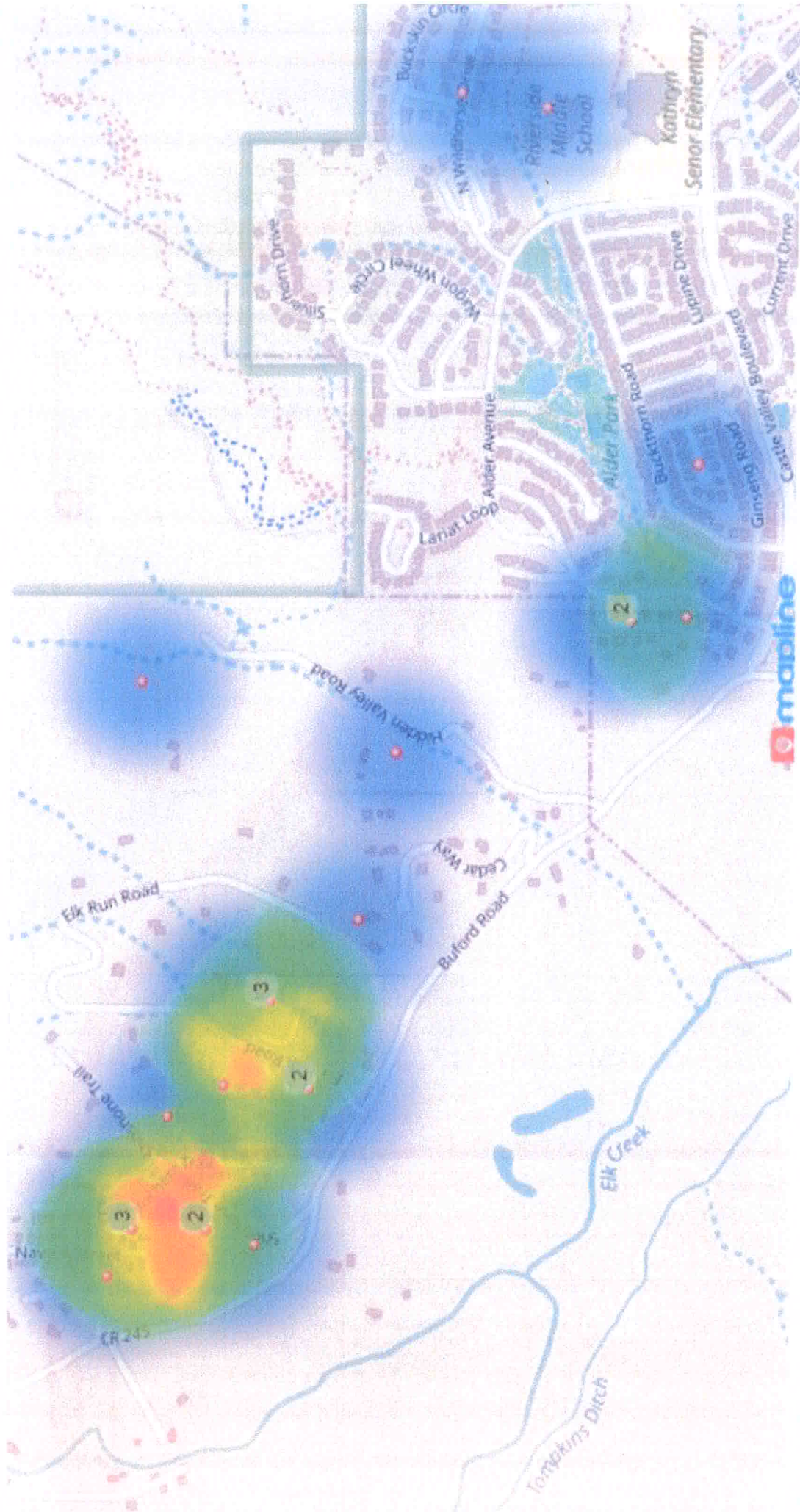

Mayor Art Riddile


Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

Exhibit A
to
6-3-2025 Council Minutes:

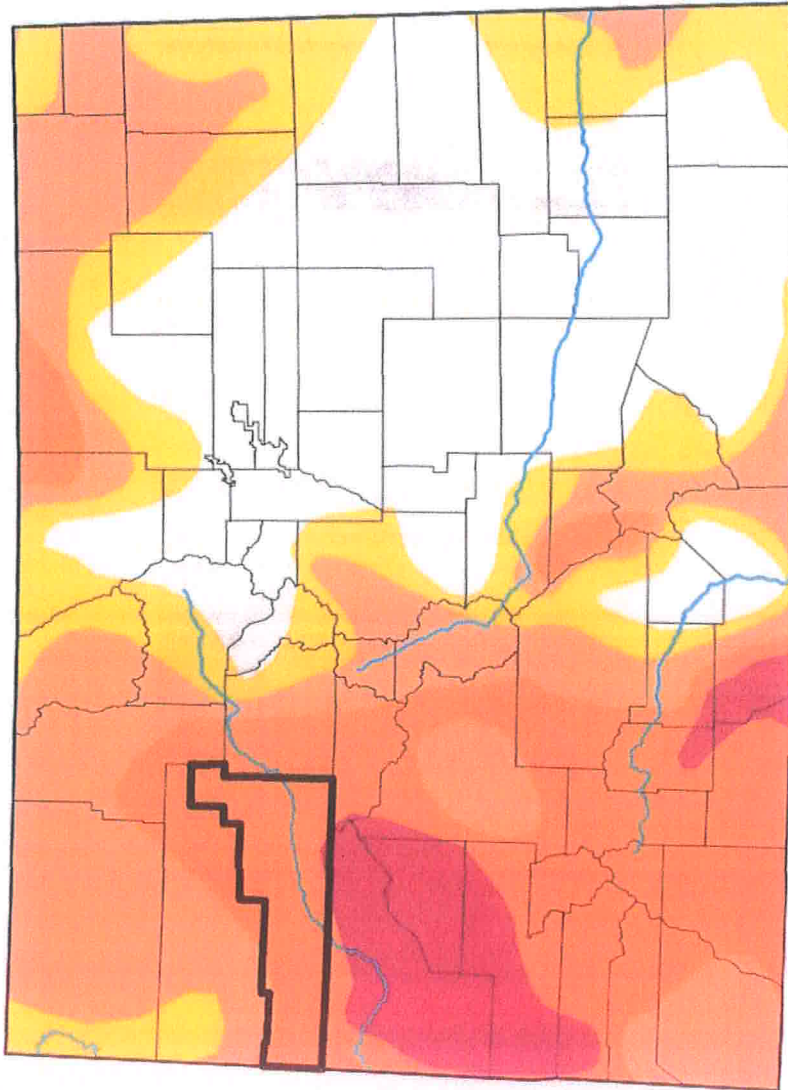








Intensity



Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

Brad Pugh, NOAA/CPC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

Daniel Whitesel, National Drought Mitigation Center

Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories

