

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 3, 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 Mariscal
Councilor Carey
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, Police Chief Stu Curry, Public Works Director John Wenzel and members of the public.

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

Emily Jack-Scott New Castle Resident asked for support from town council and town staff to help assist a homeless senior who is currently living her in car. Administrator Dave Reynolds said he would contact Ms. Jack-Scott for more information and details.

Consultant Reports

Consultant Attorney – not present
Consultant Engineer – not present

Items for Consideration

Proclamation Honoring the Coal Ridge High School Coed Cheer Team

Mayor A. Riddile read the proclamation into the record and presented the proclamation to Coach Alyssa Thurman and Assistant Coach Jaycelyn Krueger.

Review E-Bike Use in Town Limits – Chief Stu Curry

Administrator Reynolds said there have been growing concerns regarding proper e-bike use among New Castle youth. Police Chief Curry and his staff have researched the issue, including applicable state regulations and best practices for safety.

Chief Curry reviewed his recommendations with the council (**Exhibit A**).

Mayor A. Riddile asked how the scooters would be regulated. Chief Curry said how the town would regulate the e-bikes would apply the same to scooters.

Councilor Carey suggested in the final version of the regulations be specific on defining e-bikes vs. regular pedal bikes. She asked Chief Curry what his thoughts were on Class 3 4 and 5 e-bikes. Chief Curry said the state already prohibits anybody under the age of 16 from being on a Class 3 e-bike. Class 4 and 5 e-bikes are defined as a motor vehicle; therefore, the requirement would be the same as a regular motor vehicle. Chief Curry said in 2027 there would be mandatory labeling of the e-bikes.

Councilor Leland asked should the electric motorcycles be licensed if they are going to be on the roads. Chief Curry said the Colorado Statutes have already redefined them as an electric bike they would not be required to be registered.

Councilor Leland said the e-bike should be registered including non-e-bikes with the town. The reason is if the bike is stolen then we could return it to the owner. It would also give the town the opportunity to hand out the rules and regulations of e-bike within the town limits. Chief Curry said doing the regulations in steps such as this year create the restrictions with helmets then next year look at what the state has done for requirements.

Councilor Hazelton said it is important that not only the child is educated but also the parents. He said they need to look at the bike rodeo to either have an addition to or expand the event to include e-bikes. Chief Curry said that as soon as there is a policy or code change would have an officer go into the schools to educate the kids about e-bikes.

Councilor Carey asked if it's possible to have the rules and regulations to the schools at the beginning of the school year for the parent packets. She asked if council should have an ordinance in place to not allow class 4 and 5 e-bikes on town streets or town trails, since the town currently doesn't allow golf carts or HOV on town streets or town trails.

Councilor Copeland said she doesn't have a problem with them on most of the streets in town, however, she does have an issue with them on busier streets such as Castle Valley Boulevard.

Councilor Hazelton said if the right restrictions and guidelines are put into place, it will still be driven by complaints and enforcement. If there is a problem, there will be guidelines in place to be able to deal with the issue.

Councilor Leland said GCE and CLEER are very supportive of e-bikes because they are alternatives to cars.

Council agreed to move forward with the recommendations from Chief Curry and to create a policy or code change with the recommendations for class 1,2 and 3 e-bikes. Also to start an education program with the kids in the schools.

Review Emergency Drought Plan – Public Works Director John Wenzel

Administrator Reynolds said Public Works Director John Wenzel and his staff have been working on updating the current Drought Plan Policy. With regional drought conditions

continuing through the winter season, along with increasing demand for both potable and irrigation water, updating the town's drought plan will be an important component of the town's ongoing efforts to manage water resources.

Director Wenzel reviewed the draft drought plan with the council (**Exhibit B**).

Councilor Carey said when getting information out to the residents should include what the fines and penalties could be in each phase of the plan. Administrator Reynolds said as part of the education would be giving out information about the policy.

Councilor G. Riddile voiced concern about being able to explain to people that there is enough water, especially with new developments coming in. He asked if there was a way to turn the raw water pumps off during the non-watering hours. Director Wenzel said the town does have a lot of water, but a very fine amount of high-quality water from East Elk Creek and rest from the Colorado River. He said there are some challenges with treating the Colorado River water due to algae and turbidity. He said the water plant is not designed to treat exclusively Colorado River water. If it came to where the only water was Colorado River water, the water treatment plant would become very insufficient. Director Wenzel said shutting the raw water pumps off would not be an option because turning the pumps on and off all the time is very labor intensive.

Councilor Hazelton said the town really need to be watching the Zebra Mussels because of how invasive they are.

Director Wenzel said he believes that there shouldn't be any challenges with blending East Elk Creek water and the Colorado River water. The town needs to be prepared and imagine different scenarios and be ready to handle it as it comes.

Mayor A. Riddile said education and enforcement are critical.

Councilor Leland said the town needs to set an example and not water the parks during the time when there is no watering allowed. He said the new CEC commissioner is an expert in Xeriscaping and would like to bring him in on some capacity to help educate people about alternatives to grass.

Councilor Carey said it is important that everyone stays on the same message when speaking to residents. Also, what are some things that the town can do to help resolve some of the concerns of the residents.

Administrator Reynolds said the policy will come back to council for formal approval in a few weeks.

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.

January 20, 2026, Minutes

January bills \$1,338,987.10

Support Letter for Garfield Clean Energy Collaboration

MOTION: Mayor A. 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 R2 Development has a condition that they need to work with TC Midwest Development to create a temporary construction road from the roundabout to R2 Development project. They have been working on it but have not come to an agreement. TC Midwest have put in some stringent guardrails because they want to be able to protect their property and want to make sure that the property gets returned to TC Midwest as it was before the construction of the road. In the spring R2 Development hopes to break ground. TC Midwest is moving forward on getting their approval for their development. Administrator Reynolds said he has been working with Town Planner Paul Smith on alternate solutions such as a management plan for R2 Development that would spell out which direction the trucks can come in and what type of vehicles.

Administrator Reynolds said he would like to schedule a Capital Committee meeting for next week.

Administrator Reynolds said Treasurer Viktoryia Ehlers has scheduled the annual audit for April to audit 2025 financials.

Administrator Reynolds said he and Assistant Rochelle Firth are working with the RE2 School District to apply for a joint FMLD grant for the middle school playground equipment.

Administrator Reynolds said staff have been working on closing out FMLD grants for the raw water irrigation and the heating and cooling system for town hall.

Administrator Reynolds said the Town of Silt has requested a letter of support for the grant that the town is applying for to build the pedestrian bridge over the interstate. With council's permission, Mayor A. Riddile will sign the letter.

Administrator Reynolds said P&Z Commissioner Alison Cotey has agreed to sit on the CRVEDP board as the representative for the town.

Administrator Reynolds said he had received a letter from a concerned resident. If the council would like to see it let him know.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said the election has been cancelled. A resolution for the cancelation will be at the next meeting. The elected mayor is Grady Hazelton; the elected council is Brandy Copeland, Caitlin Carey and Emily Sampley. Clerk Andis said she is continuing to train Assistant Michelle Huster on utility billing. Clerk Andis reviewed the agenda items for the next council meeting. Clerk Andis said there would be a proclamation for Bob Gordon and staff will be working on letting the family know about the proclamation.

Town Treasurer – not present

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – nothing to report

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission –have not met

Historic Preservation Commission – Mayor A. Riddile reminded the council that Founders Day is Saturday, February 7, 2026. Administrator Reynolds said this year's Founders Day will focus on the cemetery.

Climate and Environment Commission – have not met

Senior Program – Clerk Andis said they were to vote in new chair and vice-chair, however that was tabled until the next meeting. Clerk Andis said the meals served in New Castle from January – December 2025, totaled 50 services days for the year with an average of 19 meals being served. For the traveler services from January – December 2025, there were 712 riders.

RFTA – have not met

AGNC – Councilor Hazelton said they have not meet. However, there are a few House Bills that AGNC is following closely. There is one bill that is important to follow because there is a concern. HB26-1001, involves residential development on qualifying properties owned by certain non-profit organizations such as school districts. The organization that owns 5 acres or less parcel could build to state standards and not to the town standards for housing. The bill undermines the town’s authority on density and such. The bill doesn’t take into account the town’s infrastructure and how the system would be able to handle the development.

GCE – Councilor Leland said he passed on being the secretary and they voted in a new secretary.

EAB – have not met

POSTR – have not met

Council Comments

Councilor G. Riddile said he looked at the Town of Silt and they did a master plan redoing everything townwide. Councilor G. Riddile asked the guest who was in person in the chambers if he would like to say something. Mr. Thomas Wright, a New Castle resident, said he is running as a candidate for Garfield County Sheriff. He said it is important for him to understand what the town is doing.

Councilor Leland reminded everyone about the Spellabration on Friday, February 13, 2026. He said he had spoken with two new residents at the senior housing and they like it there.

Councilor Mariscal said she would not be able to attend Founders Day. She said there would be a pastors meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 10am at town hall. She also thanked Councilor Leland and Mayor A. Riddile for all they have done during their time on the council.

Councilor Carey said she would not be able to attend Founders Day. She said there will be a Woman’s Night at Medley on Main on March 12, 2026. Councilor Carey said CML is opposing HB26-1001. She said she had sent CML’s position paper to Administrator Reynolds for him to send out to everyone. She said she had sent a letter to Representative Velsaco opposing the bill. Councilor Carey said CML asked for submissions on sessions for their conference in June. She said that she is so proud of the work that the town staff does with a limited budget. She had sent in a proposal to CML and it was selected for the town to do a session at CML Conference. The name of the session could be “Doing more with less and serving our communities with excellence”. The session would be with the Town of New Castle and Town of Rico. There was a meeting with New Castle, Rico and CML last week.

Councilor Hazelton said the town should support Emily Jack-Scott with her trying to help our resident. He said there was a collared wolf within a couple of miles of town. He said Mayor A. Riddile did a great job with the proclamation for the cheer team.

Items for Future Council Agenda

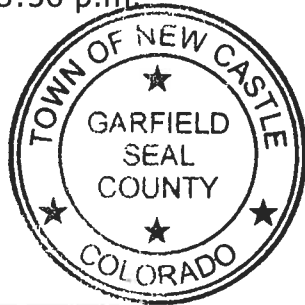
Councilor Leland said since the town now has a Code Enforcement Officer it might be a good idea to discuss what codes should be focused on and enforced. Mayor A. Riddile said that could be discussed during a work session.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mindy Andis
Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

Arthur B. Riddile

Mayor A. Riddile

E-Bike Recommendations

Create a version of the graduated driver's license laws but municipal that includes:

- Recommend requiring helmets for all classifications (currently helmets are only required by Colorado Law for Class 3)
- No passengers

Recommended Restrictions

- Class 3 not allowed on trails
- Multi-use paths (class 1 permitted, but not class 2 and 3)
- Sidewalks (restrict class 2 and 3 or ban altogether)

Permitted

- Roads and bike lanes where traditional bicycles are allowed
- Multi-use paths (class 1 and class 2)

**Town of New Castle
Proposed Emergency Drought Response Plan
January 2026**

Introduction:

The Town of New Castle and its surrounding watershed is experiencing drought conditions of significant concern. During a drought, water supplies will be below normal, requiring all customers to reduce their water use for a period of time. This Emergency Drought Response Plan has been developed to provide the Town with a proactive, effective, and systematic approach to reduce the impacts of a water shortage. This plan focuses conservation efforts on our largest potable water user, outdoor irrigation. This plan recommends a phased response to worsening drought conditions and has two components: drought triggers and response actions.

In Addition to this document, the Town of New Castle Utility Staff has developed a detailed Standard Operating Procedure for the blending of East Elk Creek and Colorado River Water. This treatment approach will be necessary if we enter a Phase Two scenario. The scope of this internal document includes:

- Augmentation Station intake operations.
- Treatment process control procedures.
- Chemical dosing and inventory planning.
- Normal and increased production conditions

Background Data:

- The Town of New Castle's average summertime water demand is 1.8 million gallons per day, or 54 million gallons per month.
- Outdoor landscape is our single largest consumer of potable water. During the summer months, 83% of the potable water that we produce goes towards irrigating. That equates to approximately 1.5 million gallons per day, or 45 million gallons per month.
- Only 300,000 gallons per day, or 9 million gallons per month of potable water is required to provide our residents with all their indoor needs.
- Our Bulk Water sales account for 2% of our monthly total consumption, or about 1 million gallons per month.
- Our Construction Water sales account for less than 0.05% of our monthly total consumption, or about 200,000 gallons per month.

- The Town of New Castle has two water rights that can be diverted from East Elk Creek. The first is the New Castle Water Works System. This right is the #1 domestic water right, but not the overall most senior right on the creek. This water right has been “called” in the past, making it unreliable in severe drought conditions. The second water right is the Coryell Ditch. This is a senior water right and is not likely to be “called”.
- Our New Castle Water Works System water rights have the potential to provide 1.6 million gallons per day, or 48 million gallons per month.
- Our Coryell Ditch water rights have the potential to provide approximately 1.1 million gallons per day, or 33 million gallons per month.
- As an alternative supply, the Town has two water rights that it can divert from the Colorado River. The first water right is the New Castle Augmentation. The second water right is the New Castle Augmentation 1st Enlargement. Combined, both water rights can provide 6.4 million gallons of water per day, or 192 million gallons per month.
- The New Castle Augmentation water rights are not senior water rights, but they are secured with our Rudi Reservoir Water diversion rights. These water rights are nearly guaranteed to be available, even in the most severe drought conditions.
- The New Castle Augmentation water rights are conveyed from the river to the water treatment plant by way of the Augmentation Station.
- 70% of the capacity in our water storage tanks is intended for emergency fire flows. The other 30% provides volume for fluctuations in water supply verses water demand.

Phase One - Voluntary Conservation

- Triggers:
 1. During the spring season as a preventative measure.
- Response:
 1. Public Education Campaign: The Town will initiate a public information campaign to educate all water users of the Best Practices for outdoor watering. This information campaign should include multiple forms of media including the internet, electronic message boards, and paper pamphlets (door hangers).

Phase Two - Mandatory Watering Restrictions

- Triggers:
 1. When the New Castle Water Works System water right diversions are limited, due to a call by a senior water rights holder.
- Response:
 1. Public Education Campaign: The Town will initiate a public information campaign to educate all water users of the Phase Two Summer Water Restrictions. This information campaign should include multiple forms of media including the internet, electronic message boards, and paper pamphlets (door hangers) Phase Two Summer Water Restrictions are defined below:
 - A. Application. The watering restrictions apply to all users of the town's potable and raw water systems.
 - B. Irrigation Restrictions. Summer irrigation shall be limited to four hours per day, between the hours of twelve a.m. to ten a.m. or six p.m. to midnight and shall be limited to every other day based on odd and even address numbers. Addresses ending in odd numbers may irrigate on odd days, and addresses ending in even numbers may irrigate on even days. The irrigation restriction applies to the irrigation of lawns, trees, shrubs and other vegetation planted in the ground.
 - C. Bulk Water Sales. Town water may be purchased at a designated bulk water station with no restrictions
 - D. Construction Water. Town water may be used for construction purposes from a hydrant or otherwise, including but not limited to tire washing, dust suppression, and to clean construction debris from streets, only with a valid permit from the town or pursuant to an authorized sale of bulk water.
 2. Enforcement: Enforcement should include monitoring and reporting. Local law enforcement will patrol neighborhoods looking for violations, or residents can report infractions.
 3. Fine Schedule. The following fines shall be issued for violations of this section:

- A. First offense during a calendar year: written warning.
- B. Second offense during a calendar year: twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fine.
- C. Third offense during a calendar year: one hundred dollar (\$100.00) fine.
- D. Additional offenses during the same calendar year: two hundred dollars (\$200.00) fine, plus the town may disconnect water service until the fine is paid and the offender has provided written assurances of future compliance. The town may assess a reconnection fee as set by the town's fee schedule.

Phase Three – Emergency Rationing

- Triggers:
 - 1. When the potable water demand exceeds potable water supply to the point that any of our water storage tanks drops below 85% of full capacity
- Response:
 - 1. Public Education Campaign: The Town will initiate a public information campaign to educate all water users of the Phase Three Summer Water Restrictions. This information campaign should include multiple forms of media including the internet, electronic message boards, and paper pamphlets (door hangers) Phase Three Summer Water Restrictions are defined below:
 - A. Application. The watering restrictions apply to all users of the town's potable and raw water systems.
 - B. Irrigation Restrictions. Phase Three irrigation shall be limited to four hours per day, between the hours of eight p.m. to midnight. Irrigation watering shall be limited to two days per week. Addresses ending in odd numbers may irrigate on Mondays and Fridays, and addresses ending in even numbers may irrigate on Wednesdays and Sundays. The irrigation restriction applies to the irrigation of lawns, trees, shrubs and other vegetation planted in the ground.
 - C. Bulk Water Sales: To prioritize local needs, bulk water sales will not be permitted
 - D. Construction Water. Town water may be used for construction purposes from a hydrant or otherwise, including but not limited to tire washing, dust suppression, and to clean construction debris

from streets, only with a valid permit from the town or pursuant to an authorized sale of bulk water.

- Enforcement: Enforcement should include monitoring and reporting. Local law enforcement will patrol neighborhoods looking for violations, or residents can report infractions.
- Fine Schedule. Same as Phase Two

Phase Four – Critical Shortage

- Triggers:
 1. When potable water demand exceeds the potable water supply capacity to the point where the storage capacity of any potable water tank drops below 70% of full.
- Response:
 1. Public Education Campaign: The Town will initiate a public information campaign to educate all water users of the Phase Four Summer Water Restrictions. This information campaign should include multiple forms of media including the internet, electronic message boards, and paper pamphlets (door hangers) Phase Four Summer Water Restrictions are defined below:
 - A. Application. The watering restrictions apply to all users of the town's potable and raw water systems.
 - B. Irrigation Restrictions. All outdoor landscape irrigation shall be prohibited. The irrigation restriction applies to the irrigation of lawns, trees, shrubs and other vegetation planted in the ground.
 - C. Construction Water. Water for construction purposes shall be prohibited.
 - D. Bulk Water Sales: Bulk water sales shall be prohibited.
- Enforcement: Enforcement should include monitoring and reporting. Local law enforcement will patrol neighborhoods looking for violations, or residents can report infractions.
- Fine Schedule. Same as Phase Two