

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, February 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 Mariscal
Councilor Carey
Councilor Hazelton
Mayor A. Riddile
Councilor Copeland
Councilor Leland

Absent Councilor G Riddile

Also present at the meeting were Town Clerk Mindy Andis, Administrator Dave Reynolds, Public Works Director John Wenzel and members of the public.

MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to excuse Councilor G. Riddile' s absence. Councilor Carey 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

Thad Porter introduced himself to the council. Mr. Porter owns Fire & Weed Management Services. He currently has 60 goats that he loans out to property owners to help will mitigation. Mr. Porter offered his services to the town.

Consultant Reports

Consultant Attorney – not present
Consultant Engineer – not present

Items for Consideration

Proclamation Honoring Bob Gordon

Mayor A. Riddile read the proclamation into the record and presented the proclamation to

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 17, 2026

Jennifer Harbottle and Brenda Simonson.

PUBLIC HEARING – Opened at 7:09pm

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

MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to Recess the Town Council Meeting, Convene as the Local Liquor Licensing Authority, 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 Bad Art on February 28, 2026; Sampling Events on July 30, 2026, and August 27, 2026; Special Event for Burning Mountain Festival on September 11 &12, 2026; Special Event for Chili Cook-off on December 4, 2026

Town Clerk Andis said the recreation department has applied for special event liquor licenses for all of their events for 2026. The application was completed in a timely manner, and everything is in order. Clerk Andis said the servers at the events will either be staff or volunteers who are TIPS trained. Therefore, staff recommends approval. Councilor Leland asked about the mapping for the Community Market Sampling Area. Clerk Andis said Rec Director Kelley Cox would like to try opening the entire Burning Mountain Park as the sampling area. The purpose is for the public be able to visit vendor booths without being rushed with a sample.

PUBLIC HEARING - Closed 7:10pm

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve a Special Events Liquor License Application New Castle Recreation for a Special Event Liquor License for their Bad Art on February 28, 2026; Sampling Events on July 30, 2026, and August 27, 2026; Special Event for Burning Mountain Festival on September 11 &12, 2026; Special Event for Chili Cook-off on December 4, 2026. Councilor Hazelton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

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

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to recess the Local Liquor Licensing Authority and reconvene the Town Council meeting, Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Discussion of Emergency Drought Plan Policy

Administrator Reynolds said he had reached out to the town attorneys to make sure the policy and municipal code matches. The attorneys have not had a chance to review the policy. Council Leand discovered a few discrepancies while writing a newsletter article. Administrator Reynolds explained what the discrepancies were. The policy has phases one-four depending on the severity of the drought conditions. The first watering restrictions are in the second phase of the policy. However, the municipal code has watering restrictions in place yearly from May 1st to October 1st. Staff suggests using the

municipal code restrictions that are mandatory. Administrator Reynolds said he and Public Works Director John Wenzel would continue to watch for calls on Elk Creek. The second issue was in the code. When watering restrictions are in effect it only applies to potable water not raw water. The policy applies restrictions to both potable water and raw water. Staff's opinion is the restrictions should apply to both potable water and raw water. Staff recommends changing the code to match the policy for both potable water and raw water. The third issue is in the code there are two sections 13.28.010(D) Wasting of water prohibited – Penalties which has a fine schedule; 13.28.020(H) Summer water use restrictions – Fine Schedule. The policy reflects the fine schedule in 13.28.020(H). Staff's recommendation is to have the fines and penalties to be in line with one another. Councilor Carey said the wasting of water should be clearly defined in the code. Councilor Leland said the potable is more expensive to produce compared to raw water, but now with the possible drought situation the town is now looking at the availability of water. Public Works Director Wenzel said at the time the code was written, the town tried to incentivize the use of raw water irrigation as an alternative and the town wasn't putting any restrictions on raw water. He said with the possible drought situation there should be restrictions on both potable water and raw water. Administrator Reynolds said once the attorneys look at the policy and the code changes it will come back to council for approval.

Consider Resolution TC 2026-07 - A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Supporting the Application for a Mini Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for Water and Wastewater Computer Control System Upgrades

Administrators Reynolds said the FMLD mini grant is to replace the Skata computers for the water and wastewater plants. The computers remotely control the water plant and the wastewater plant. The current computers are at the end of their life. The grant is for \$30k because that is the maximum ask for the mini grant; but the expected total for the project is estimated to be between \$40k and \$50k.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2026-07 A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Supporting the Application for a Mini Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for Water and Wastewater Computer Control System Upgrades. Councilor Copeland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Consider Resolution TC 2026-08 - A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Supporting the Application for a Traditional Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for Street Capital Improvements

Administrator Reynolds said the FMLD grant is to help keep the town's streets in good condition. The grant is asking for \$400k, the expected total for the work is estimated to be \$600k.

Councilor Leland said in the resolution it states it costs \$5,250.00 to maintain the town

streets. Administrator Reynolds said it is in direct correlation to the grant money FMLD gives to the town. It is estimated to be \$5,250.00 to maintain the portion of the streets that the grant money is for.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2026-08 A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council Supporting the Application for a Traditional Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for Street Capital Improvements. Councilor Carey seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Consider Resolution TC2026-05 – A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council for Providing Cancellation of the April 7, 2026, Regular Municipal Election in Accordance with Section 1.16.040 of the Town of New Castle Municipal Code.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to approve Resolution TC 2026-05 A Resolution of the New Castle Town Council for Providing Cancellation of the April 7, 2026, Regular Municipal Election in Accordance with Section 1.16.040 of the Town of New Castle Municipal Code. Councilor Mariscal 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.

February 3, 2026, Minutes

Lazy Bear Restaurant Liquor License Renewal

Hogback Pizza Liquor License Renewal

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 the CEC had a movie at the library last week regarding water drought. He said Tuesday, February 24, 2026, Colorado River Valley Chamber of Commerce is having their annual State of the Community at Grand River Hospital. Administrator Reynolds said there is a scheduling conflict for the baseball fields at Elk Creek Elementary School. Staff are working with the school to settle the issue. Administrator Reynolds said he would be attending the CEC meeting to give an update on the state recycling program. He said staff has just received application number three to be filled out for the state recycling program. He said it will be this summer when the state would provide the town with a contract and at that time the town can decide whether or not to move forward with the program. Administrator Reynolds said he and Planner Paul Smith are working with a developer about affordable housing. He said they

might reach out to the regional housing coalition which works specifically on deed restricted properties to see if a partnership could be formed. Administrator Reynolds said Downtown Colorado Inc has Town of New Castle as a finalist for the Downtown of the Year. He said there is also a photo contest going on. Administrator Reynolds said the River Center sent the town a "Thank You" for the funding for 2026. Administrator Reynolds said there is a non-profit called Employers Counseling that specializes in HR work. He said he has been speaking with them about the type of work they do and the company works with municipalities. The company does salary surveys and handbook policy and would be able to keep the town current on HR items.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said she currently sits on the River Center Financial Board there was a meeting today. She reminded the council of the River Center Adult Prom on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 6:30pm – 10:00pm at the Lakota Clubhouse. Tickets are available at the River Center. Clerk Andis listed the items for the next council meeting.

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 – have not met. Councilor Copeland said Founders Day was a great event.

Climate and Environment Commission – have not met

Senior Program – have not met

RFTA – Councilor Copeland said they did add a mid-day Hogback route to Rifle.

AGNC – Councilor Hazelton said they meet tomorrow and it's ZOOM only meeting.

GCE – have not met

EAB – have not met

POSTR – have not met

Council Comments

Councilor Mariscal said there was supposed to have been a pastors meeting on Thursday, February 5, 2026, but no one attended. There will be another meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

Councilor Carey said the CML Policy Committee meets Friday, February 20, 2026, if there is anything to bring to the committee's attention to let her know.

Councilor Hazelton said he attended the CEC movie event at the library the panel discussion was great.

Councilor Leland thanked Councilor Carey for representing the town at Spellebration. He said if the town has an opportunity to have the mitigation goats in town, we should.

Mayor A. Riddile said Founders Day was a great event and a nice way to honor Cemetery Caretaker Mike Miller.

Items for Future Council Agenda

There were no items for future agenda.

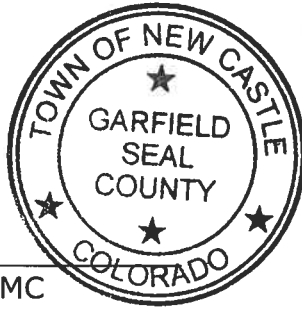
Adjourn


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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC





Mayor A. Riddile