

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, November 4, 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  
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, Treasurer Viktoriya Ehlers, Town Attorney David McConaughy 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**

Administrator Reynolds asked for items A and B to be switched.

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

New Castle resident Mary Gervais voiced her concern regarding residences crossing Castle Valley Boulevard between Bear Dance Park and the trails across from the boulevard. She asked for the council to investigate putting in a crosswalk. She also voiced her concerns about E-bikes on the roadways.

**Consultant Reports**

Consultant Attorney – Attorney McConaughy said he was here for agenda items.  
Consultant Engineer – not present

**Items for Consideration**

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

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

Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, November 4, 2025

**Consider a Special Events Liquor License Application from P.E.O. Chapter AO for an Event to be Held on December 6, 2025.**

Town Clerk Mindy Andis reported The PEO Sisterhood, Chapter AO, through its representative Mary Gervais, requests a special events liquor license for the PEO Sisterhood, Chapter AO Brunch. She also stated that Mary Gervais informed staff that Rolling Fork will cater for the brunch event and will serve champagne and orange juice in the form of mimosas. Members of PEO are Tips trained and will serve. Guests will be limited to two drinks. Alcohol will be served for a three-hour window from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

If Council's consensus is to approve the application for a special event liquor permit for PEO, Chapter AO's brunch event, the clerk's office staff recommends that council consider requiring a 100% I.D. check. Even though the applicant is a non-profit organization, it is required to collect and remit sales tax on alcohol sales. The application is complete; all fees are paid. Clerk Andis said there have been no issues in the past during the event and recommends approval.

**MOTION: Councilor Hazelton made a motion to approve a Special Events Liquor License Application from P.E.O. Chapter AO for an Event to be Held on December 6, 2025. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

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

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

**Introduction to New Staff Members –Officer Lucas Brinkdopke, Officer Misael Vasquez and Records Clerk Chea Brandt**

Interim Police Chief Stu Curry introduced Officer Brinkdopke and Officer Vasquez to the council. Interim Chief Curry said both officers come to the New Castle Police Department with many years of police experience. He said Clerk Brandt was not able to attend to tonight but would introduce to her the council at a later date.

Both officers introduced themselves to the council and shared their backgrounds. The council welcomed both officers to the town.

**Presentation - Proposed 2026 Budget**

Administrator Reynolds asked the council for direction on utility rate increases for 2026. He said there was a standing ordinance to allow for an automatic increase of three percent. Administrator Reynolds said currently the budget has the increase at three percent for water, wastewater and trash, however the town is relying on new builds in 2026, and if that doesn't happen, it might be a good idea to increase the rates by four to five percent.

Treasurer Ehlers said for each one percent increase for trash equals a \$.38 cent increase on their bill, for the revenue of \$6,740.00. Treasurer Ehlers said for each one percent

increase in the revenue for water and wastewater equals almost \$29,000.00. Administrator Reynolds said the next big project would be the south side intercept. Treasurer Ehlers said 2026 is the last year that the town can use the ARPA funds, which is funding the current town projects. The current surplus in the budget is because of the developments and the ARPA funds. Administrator Reynolds said town engineer is looking into phasing the south side intercept project. Mayor A. Riddile asked staff to see what the surrounding municipalities have done for their increase and report back to council. Councilor Hazelton suggested having the town engineer give an update on the south side intercept after the first of year. The council agreed to increase the utility rates by three percent for 2026.

Councilor Leland said CEC will meet on November 20, 2025, he believes the commission would agree to pay for some of the dump days charges from this year's CEC budget and can discuss what the commission can help with in the future.

**Executive Session for a conference with the Town Attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions, and for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, specifically regarding the former Chief of Police. See § 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e).**

**MOTION: Councilor Leland made a Motion at 7:30pm to go into Executive Session for a conference with the Town Attorney to receive legal advice on specific legal questions, and for the purpose of determining positions relative to matters that may be subject to negotiations, developing strategy for negotiations, and/or instructing negotiators, specifically regarding the former Chief of Police. See § 24-6-402(4)(b) and (e). Mayor A. Riddile seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.**

Executive session concluded.

At the end of the executive session, Mayor Art Riddile made the following statement:

"The time is now 8:26p.m. and the executive session has been concluded. The participants in the executive sessions were: Councilor Mariscal, Councilor Carey, Councilor Hazelton; Councilors Copeland, G Riddile, Town Administrator Reynolds, Town Attorney McConaughy. For the record, if any person who participated in the executive session believes that any substantial discussion of any matters not included in the motion to go into the executive session occurred during the executive session, or that any improper action occurred during the executive session in violation of the Open Meetings Law, I would ask that you state your concerns for the record."

No concerns were stated.

### **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.

October 21, 2025, minutes  
October Bills \$970,592.36

**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 employee Christmas Party on December 12, 2025, at the Red Barn Ranch. Staff are looking for help to set up and clean-up. The clean-up would be on Sunday. Administrator Reynolds said he and Assistant Rochelle Firth had a meeting with River Center Executive Director Gina Long to get updated and he explained the town’s budget for 2026. Administrator Reynolds said he did receive a Thank You card from the Garden Club for the gifts the town had given to them for their work on the planters along Main Street. Administrator Reynold said the town did receive an updated cost for the roundabout landscaping project. Public Works Director is finishing the contract with the contractor and finishing paperwork with CDOT.

Administrator Reynolds said he and Planner Smith met with representatives from Nutrient Farms to review their plans and what they had in mind moving forward. Nutrient Farms received a recommendation of denial from the county planning and zoning. Nutrient Farms are planning on moving forward to the county board of commissioners with the list of conditions from P&Z. Nutrient Farms believes the conditions are items they can correct. Nutrient Farms are first asking for a zoning change to the property and later site-specific applications. Administrator Reynolds said he reviewed the meeting recording from October 2023 when council met with Nutrient Farms. He reviewed his notes from that meeting with the council. Council did voice some concerns during that meeting which included County Road 335, evacuation and lack of complete plan of the project with detail. Administrator Reynolds said the council requested to be updated by Nutrient Farms with each application submitted to the county. Administrator Reynolds said Nutrient Farms has plans to work with the Vulcan Ditch for water. Councilor Carey asked about the slaughterhouse. Administrator Reynold said Nutrient Farms attorney told staff the slaughterhouse would be moved and minimize it to be a processing plant for the restaurant. Administrator Reynolds said Nutrient Farms have been working CRFR with a fire mitigation plan which includes fire break lines. Nutrient Farms would like to move forward with the county. Administrator Reynolds asked the council if they would like to have Nutrient Farms to give an updated presentation to the council. The council agreed to have Nutrient Farms to present to the council if they choose to.

**Town Clerk** – Clerk Andis said she and Assistant Michelle Huster will be starting election webinar training next week to prepare for the April 2026 municipal election. Candidate packets for the election will be ready on January 2, 2026, and will need to be turned in a couple weeks later. More to come as we get closer. Clerk Andis said she started training Assistant Huster on utility billing, and she explained what the process would look like

moving forward. Clerk Andis reviewed the draft agenda for the council meeting on November 18, 2025.

**Town Treasurer** – not present

**Town Planner** – not present

**Public Works Director** – not present

### **Commission Reports**

**Planning & Zoning Commission** – Councilor G. Riddile said they did not meet and he is no longer on the commission. Mayor A. Riddile said is now on the commission.

**Historic Preservation Commission** – had not met

**Climate and Environment Commission** – had not met

**Senior Program** – Clerk Andis reviewed the number of riders for the traveler for the months of July, August and September, also reviewed the numbers for the senior meals for July, August and September. Clerk Andis said she is still willing to stay on the board but needed to know if Councilor Copeland would still want to be the alternate for if another councilor would like to. The meetings are on the fourth Friday of each month at 9am.

**RFTA** – have not met. Mayor A. Riddile said the county cut back funding to RFTA by 50 percent.

**AGNC** – nothing to report.

**GCE** – have not met

**EAB** – have not met

**POSTR** – have not met

### **Council Comments**

Councilor G. Riddile reminded the council that it is not necessary to have a formal comment on citizen comments or any regular council agenda item.

Councilor Leland said there is need for an organization similar to United Way to help with fund raising for non-profit organizations. He reminded the council the Lions Club Thanksgiving Dinner will be November 15, 2025, from 5pm-6:30pm at the Community Center. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Councilor Carey said Rifle Community Foundation does help non-profit organizations. She said she would look further into the foundation.

### **Items for Future Council Agenda**

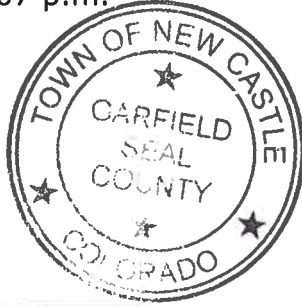
There were no items for future council agenda

**Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Art Riddile

Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC