

**New Castle Town Council Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 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, 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 conflicts of interest

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

PUBLIC HEARING – Opened at 7:03pm

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.

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Consider a Special Events Liquor License Application from West Elk Trails for an Event to be Held on January 31, 2026

Town Clerk Mindy Andis explained this special event is the second time West Elk Trails has held a fundraiser. The event is a dinner with a wine pairing and Rolling Fork will be catering the dinner. Mary and Marty Gervais are Tips trained and would serve the alcohol. Clerk Andis said the application was in order and there are no concerns and staff recommended approval of the special event liquor license. Mayor A. Riddile asked how many people they were expecting. Ms. Gervais said about 40 people.

PUBLIC HEARING - Closed 7:07pm

MOTION: Councilor G. Riddile made a motion to approve a Special Events Liquor License Application from West Elk Trails for an Event to be Held on January 31, 2026. Councilor Copeland 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 reconvene the Town Council meeting, Councilor G. Riddile seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Items for Consideration

Presentation – Raising a Reader – Suzanne Wheeler-Del Piccolo

Administrator Dave Reynolds said Raising a Reader is an organization that council has not heard from before. They will be applying for grant money from the town. Executive Director Suzanne Wheeler-Del Piccolo reviewed the handout with the council (**Exhibit A**). Council thanked Ms. Wheeler-Del Piccolo for the presentation and the work that she does.

Consider Request from Coal Seam for Extension of Prelim/Final PUD

Administrator Reynolds said on December 10, 2025, the planning commission conditionally approved recommendation of a combined subdivision/preliminary/final application for Riverside Park Lot 1 (aka "Coal Seam") pursuant to section 17.124.010. The application contemplates a 71-room hotel, a restaurant, and four workforce housing units west of the River Park condominiums between County Road 335 and the Colorado River.

As part of the final application phase, section 17.100.060 requires the council decision within 60 days of the planning commission's recommendation, or within such time as is mutually agreed by the town council and the applicant. The applicant has been working diligently over the past month and a half to address the remaining conditions necessary

for council review, specifically conditions A, B, F, G, & H of the P&Z resolution by the scheduled meeting date of February 3, 2026. The applicant feels more than 60 days will be required to attend to the numerous engineering insufficiencies noted by the town engineer.

Therefore, the applicant is requesting an extension to meet with town council on March 3, 2026. Staff is confident the extension will be adequate for all revisions to be made and for staff re-review.

Mayor A. Riddile asked if March 3, 2026, would be the extension date. Administrator Reynolds said March 3, 2026, would be the meeting date the application would be brought to council and for a decision to be made. The council could extend it longer if they chose to. He said council could extend it to March 17, 2026, meeting in case March 3, 2026, needed to be continued for some reason.

Councilor Leland asked if the council was obligated to make a decision on March 3, 2026, or could they continue to March 17, 2026. Administrator Reynolds said that would be correct. The council could extend the request to March 17, 2026, in order to give council some leeway.

Applicant Abdi Pirzadeh said he should be able to make the March 3, 2026, meeting work. He is still working on some minor engineering details.

MOTION: Mayor A. Riddile made a motion to Approve the Request from Coal Seam for Extension of Prelim/Final PUD Until March 17, 2026, with the Caveat Council Would Make a Decision on March 3, 2026. Councilor Mariscal seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Consider 2026 Proclamations for Town Council

Administrator Reynolds said the summer of 2025 council considered and adopted a proclamation policy that would establish guidelines governing when and how proclamations could come before council.

Pursuant to the adopted policy, town council is responsible for reviewing proposed proclamations prior to their placement on a council agenda for formal recognition. In an effort to proactively plan for annual recurring proclamations, as well as newly identified proclamations for 2026. Staff is requesting directions on council would like to proceed with the annual proclamations and the two new proclamations.

Potential 2026 Proclamations:

Arbor Day (April)

Parkinson's Awareness Month (April)

Historic Preservation Month (May)

Clerks Week (May)

Parks & Rec Month (July)

Coal Ridge Sports Teams

Coal Ridge Cheer Team

250th Anniversary of the United States of America

150th Anniversary of the State of Colorado

Councilor Leland said he has a proclamation for Bob Gordon who was a former councilor and mayor who has passed in the fall of 2025. Councilor Leland asked if the council should go ahead and read the proclamation into the record at a future council meeting.

The council agreed to move forward with the proclamation for Bob Gordon.

The council agreed to the list of annual proclamations for 2026.

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 6, 2026, Minutes

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 Colorado River Valley Economic Development Partnership (CRVEDP) he has sat on their board representing the Town of New Castle for a while and then Councilor Carey has sat on the board for a while. Councilor Carey is no longer able to attend the meetings and Administrator Reynolds has started sitting on the board again. Administrator Reynolds said CRVEDP wants to have a representative from each municipality. He asked if there was another councilor who would like to be part of the CRVEDP Board. In the meantime, Administrator Reynolds said he would be happy to attend the meetings. He would bring it back to the council in April. Administrator Reynolds said staff has gone through the Incident Command Training and there was a possibility of council going through part of the training. Administrator Reynolds said the idea for the training is to explain the chain of command if there is a major event such as wildfire. If you are interested contact Assistant Rochelle Firth. Administrator Reynolds said he has reviewed the drought emergency plan that the town adopted several years ago. The plan is very outdated he is having Public Works Director John Wenzel and Utility Manager Daniel Becker review the plan. Director Wenzel and Manager Becker are working on a revised plan. The 2026 summer could be rough since we have not gotten much snow. Public Works Director Wenzel will present the revised plan to council at the next meeting.

Administrator Reynolds said staff is also working on a plan to help residents prepare for

wildfires. There is information about wildfire readiness that staff will put onto the website and have available for the public.

Administrator Reynolds said he and Chief Stu Curry have been working on recommendations for e-bikes. Chief Curry will present the recommendations to council at the next meeting.

Administrator Reynolds reminded the council about the joint Board of County Commissioners meeting on February 3, 2026. He asked the council if there was anything specific that they would like to discuss with the commissioners and if there was to please let him know. Administrator Reynolds asked the council if they would like to have the work session with the county commissioners at the community center in the small room and then come back to town hall for the regular council meeting. The council agreed. Administrator Reynolds said the non-profit Rifle Community Foundation distributes outgoing grants to other non-profits. The City of Rifle Manager has asked other town managers if it wouldn't be simpler to have Rifle Community Foundation to distribute outgoing grants for each town instead of each town having their own grant cycles. The council agreed to continue the way they are currently doing outgoing grants.

Administrator Reynolds said he had met with the owner of 600 W. Main Street Aaron Shcockley and his realtor to explain the restrictive covenant and how that would look for a prospective buyer. Council had agreed at a prior meeting to have the prospective buyer meet with council to explain what their plans are and what the timeline would be like. Then, it would be up to council to agree to change the restrictive covenant or not.

Administrator Reynolds said he had received a question from Climate and Environment Commission (CEC) regarding funding for trails. CEC is working on large volunteer project for cleaning up Burning Mountain Trail and to do some trail maintenance. Administrator Reynolds met with CEC at their last meeting to explain the funding. He said for 2026 New Castle Trails through Roaring Fork Mountain Bikers Association (RFMBA) had project \$36k or \$39k which was for trails maintenance. New Castle Trails are currently looking at what the trails maintenance projects would be. He said the town did not put any additional money in the budget for trails maintenance for 2026 budget.

Administrator Reynolds said he received a call from Riverside Middle School asking to partner with the town on a joint FMLD Grant for new playground equipment. Riverside Middle School did a presentation to council a few months ago asking for funding.

Administrator Reynolds asked what the match was going to be. The project is roughly \$400k and the match would be about \$130k. He explained to the school that the town didn't budget any money for this project. Currently the school has \$40K through fundraising efforts. Administrator Reynolds asked council if they would like to partner with the middle school for a joint grant and give some money. Mayor A. Riddile asked how staff feel about the joint grant. Administrator Reynolds said staff have gotten good at grant writing and that would be the only thing staff would do. The middle school would still need to manage the grant. Mayor A. Riddile suggested the middle school approach The Town of Silt since middle schoolers from Silt attend Riverside Middle School. Councilor G. Riddile

suggested giving \$20k from CTF towards match money. Councilor Carey agreed to ask Silt to partner with the town and the school. Having three partnerships could help the grant application look stronger. Councilor Carey said the town gave money to one school we should give to the other two schools since the schools are here in town and are accessible to the public after school hours. The council was in agreement for funding of \$20k from CTF.

Administrator Reynolds passed out the Solar Assessment report from GCE.

Administrator Reynolds said there will be a managers meeting at Redstone on Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

Town Clerk – Clerk Andis said she had nothing new to report. Clerk Andis did review the agenda for the next meeting. She said there will be a proclamation for the Coal Ridge Co-Cheer Team; discussion regarding e-bikes, Chief Curry will be at the meeting for the discussion; discussion about drought policy, Public Works Director John Wenzel will be at the meet to present.

Town Treasurer – not present

Town Planner – not present

Public Works Director – not present

Commission Reports

Planning & Zoning Commission – Mayor A. Riddile said the commission approved R2 townhouses from rent to selling at market price and will have three units that will be affordable housing.

Historic Preservation Commission – Councilor Copeland said she was not able to attend the meeting. On the agenda they were going to discuss wording for the designation plaque for the cemetery and Founders Day presentation.

Climate and Environment Commission – Councilor Leland said there will be a drought film at the New Castle Library on February 11, 2026. The film is similar to the wildfire film that was shown in 2025. The commission is planning Earth Day in April. He said the Business Grant for the bag fee money will be opening up again soon. The commission will be taking applications for the grant to the Chamber Business After Hours at the end of January.

Senior Program – have not met

RFTA – Councilor Copeland said they did a year end review and elected a new board.

AGNC – have not met

GCE – Councilor Leland said he did a quick review of the report Administrator Reynolds handed out. He said the town has offset at least \$10k a year in electrical bill with the solar array. He asked if the recommendations that were listed in the report for maintenance could be passed onto public works. Administrator Reynolds said public works is already working on it. Councilor Leland said there is a seminar coming up on Geothermal Heating and Cooling. The seminar is primarily for public works, building departments and project developers. The seminar is February 11, 2026, from 11am – 1pm in Glenwood.

Councilor Leland said CLEER will be applying for an Impact Accelerator Grant and they would like to have a letter of support from the Town of New Castle. The grant will be used for the reenergized rebates. The reenergized program is for lower to middle income houses to get an evaluation and to prepare for energy savings. If, council agrees he will prepare the letter of support and bring it back to council on the February 3, 2026, consent agenda. Council agreed.

EAB – have not met

POSTR – have not met

Council Comments

Councilor G. Riddile said he has been in conversations with CREVDP regarding transportation and in June the Hogback route will be out of funding and will terminate service passed New Castle.

Councilor Leland suggested making the 250 celebration a volunteer day. He said Spellabration will be Friday, February 13, 2026, looking for a town team. Councilor Carey said she would create a team. The theme this year is Celebrating Bad Luck.

Councilor Mariscal said she is starting the Pastors meeting again starting in February. She said would like to start Pulse of the Community by having Coffee with a Councilor in Spanish. Coffee with a Councilor would be at New Castle Coffee. She said she would share what she learned with council.

Councilor Carey said the emergency water plan and wildfire mitigation should be easily found on the town's website and making sure the information is also in Spanish.

Councilor Hazelton said if we ask the BOCC for more funding for the roundabout then we need to be very specific on what the need is. He asked about the parking lot that the town leases from Garcia's since it is up for sale. Administrator Reynolds said he doesn't believe there has been much interest in the lot. Councilor Hazelton said he has heard concerns from the public about the shortage of parking downtown. He said he has noticed some possible parking violations. We will need to start paying attention to parking, especially if the lot sells.

Mayor A. Riddile said he had attended the FMLD luncheon to accept the annual awards that the town has received and was told that the Town of New Castle is known for applying for grant properly and has received the most grants due to how well written the grants are. Mayor A. Riddile said he would not be running for mayor or for council.

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 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mindy Andis
Town Clerk Mindy Andis, CMC

Allen B. Riddile

Mayor A. Riddile



Raising A Reader Aspen to Parachute



Town of New Castle
Presentation
2026





Raising A Reader Aspen to Parachute

Celebrating 20 years of early childhood literacy work
in the 24-25 school year!

This is our 21st year of supporting children and families!

Our mission is to foster early literacy bonds between children and their parents to ensure that all young children from Aspen to Parachute develop a love of books and the skills to become successful readers.

We supported 1877 children and their families with books, programs and resources in 24-25 year – an increase of 13%



Red Book Bag Programs

- Signature Program—Our 21st year providing red bags in our region
- Book Bag Rotation Program
- Provided to both kindergarten and preschool families for 642 children and their families
- 84% of families who participated in the program said reading increased at home



123 Let's Read

- Program provided to all public preschools and in-home childcare programs
- Prek book "gift" program
- Serving 886 children, and 86 children in Town of New Castle
- 88% of children who participated in the program's book interests increased
- Added 83 kids in 13 licensed in-home child cares in Gar Cty in Feb 2025, now 102 children including children in the Town of New Castle



Programming Growth for RAR- Why 2-Generation Programming?



- Our programs are based on the fact that a child's brain is 90% developed by the time they are 5 years old!
- **Builds a child's vocabulary in their home language which is key to learning to read.**
- Promotes a love of reading with someone they love
- **Develops attention, memory, comprehension, and imagination skills-all important early literacy skills**
- Strengthens the bond between parents and child
- **Helps close the early childhood equity gap in our region.**
- Support family well-being

Bolsitas Rojas Programs

- 2Gen weekly program provided to parents and kids ages 0-5 in Spanish.
- Structure-Storytime, prek activity, parent engagement, healthy snack, and the red book bags!
- 9 programs from Aspen to Parachute; 6 in the Garfield County Libraries including Town of NC Library



Bolsitas Rojas Impact



- 95% of families who participated in the Bolsitas Rojas programs said they increased time spent reading aloud at home with their children.
- 87% of parents said that they have a routine for reading at home.
- 92% of parents engage daily with their child in a shared activity that involved lots of conversation (vocabulary development).

“At first, I joined just so my little one wouldn’t get bored, but later I understood it had a bigger purpose. I started doing it for him, but as a mom, it helped me too. I learned how to help him grow and learn, especially with reading. Through this group, I met many moms. We’ve become friends, and now we meet outside the group with our little ones.” – Jennifer, Bolsitas Rojas program parent



RAR Summer Camps

- 2025 communities-El Jebel, Glenwood Springs, Rifle, Parachute, Silt and Carbondale.
- 150 children and their caregivers participated last summer
- Spanish-language, 2Gen Literacy and Learning together in the Park!
- 3 weeks, 2 days a week, 2 hours a day in June.
- 98% of families who participated in one of our Summer Camps said they increased time spent reading about at home with their children.

Blue Book Bag Days

- *Blue Book Bag Day events help families sustain the habit of reading at home by connecting families to their local public library to continue borrowing and sharing books.*
- 805 New Blue Bags
- 381 New Library Cards
- 10 volunteers prepared 800 Blue Book Bags for Spring, 2025
- 65 Blue Bags for children in the Town of New Castle



SIGN UP FOR FREE BOOKS

Inspire a love of reading.



REGISTER TODAY
imaginationlibrarycolorado.org



Raising A Reader & Garfield County Public Libraries

New Program and partnership for
all of the children ages 0-5 in
Garfield County-March 2025

Serving 1060 children in
Garfield County-Increase of
170 children since we started in
March!



Raising A Reader

Children's Arts and Literacy Festival

- Over 700 children and families attended this past year!
- Multiple children's book authors, 10 arts and literacy vendors, books & bags, and more! FREE for all children and families:)
- Join us on Saturday, October 10, 2026 for our 5th annual festival!



Thank you for your partnership to support
early literacy and learning for so many
children and their families in our region!

We could not do this without partners like
YOU!

