

STATE OF COLORADO)
COUNTY OF OTERO) SS
CITY OF LA JUNTA)

*Subject to approval at
the January 18, 2022
City Council Meeting*

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Mayor Ayala on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Council Member McIntyre gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following Council Members were present:

Damon Ramirez, Ward 1
Elaine McIntyre, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Edward Vela, Ward 3

Absent: Paul Velasquez, Ward 1
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Aliza Libby, Director of Finance
Angela Ayala, La Junta
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mayor Ayala asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of December 20, 2021. After hearing corrections, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as corrected.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE DECEMBER 20, 2021 MINUTES AS CORRECTED: McIntyre

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Velasquez, Ochoa and Pantoya absent)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5 minute time limit per person):

There was no citizen participation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Application for Renewal of a Tavern Liquor License by Eagle Lanes LLC, d/b/a Eagle Lanes, 2420 San Juan Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. Appropriate fees have been tendered and the City Attorney recommends approval.

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MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE BY EAGLE LANES LLC, D/B/A EAGLE LANES, 2420 SAN JUAN AVENUE: Vela

SECOND: McIntyre

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Velasquez, Ochoa and Pantoya absent)

B. Annual Resolutions for the year 2022

1. **A Resolution Concerning Posting of Open Meetings.** Resolution No. R-1-2022 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

WHEREAS, public can not exercise its right to attend open meetings unless sufficient notice is provided to its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Open Meetings Law requires the public to receive full and timely notice of any meetings held; and

WHEREAS, the Open Meeting statute (24-6-402) provides in part as follows:

Any meetings at which the adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action occurs or at which a majority or quorum of the body is in attendance, or is expected to be in attendance, shall be held only after full and timely notice to the public. In addition to any other means of full and timely notice, a local public body shall be deemed to have given full and timely notice if the notice of the meeting is posted in a designated public place within the boundaries of the local public body no less than twenty-four hours prior to the holding of the meeting. The public place or places for posting such notice shall be designated annually at the local public body's first regular meeting of each calendar year. The posting shall include specific agenda information where possible.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of La Junta, the Board of Utility Commissioners, the Planning Commission of the City of La Junta, the Airport Advisory Board, the Urban Renewal Authority, the Tourism Board, and any other advisory boards which have been created by Ordinance and which are required by ordinances of the City of La Junta to comply with the open meetings law shall comply with this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notice of the meetings shall be issued by the Clerk of the City of La Junta.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that designated place for posting of the meetings shall be the main foyer of the City Building, located at 6th and Colorado, La Junta, Colorado.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-1-2022: McIntyre

SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Velasquez, Ochoa and Pantoya absent)

2. **A Resolution Designating Official Depositories for Various City Funds.** Resolution No. R-2-2022 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Junta that the following are hereby designated as official depositories for the various funds for the City of La Junta for the calendar year 2022:

1. The Colorado Bank & Trust Company of La Junta;
2. State Bank and Trust Company of La Junta;
3. TBK Bank;
4. First National Bank of Las Animas and La Junta;
5. U.S. Bank.

Whenever investment circumstances exist that prohibit banks from accepting City funds as deposits without requiring deposit fees be paid by the City, the City Manager or his designee, is authorized to locate other financial institutions; provided however that all funds be maintained in a federally insured account and all funds must be fully insured by the FDIC.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-2-2022: Vela

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Velasquez, Ochoa and Pantoya absent)

3. **A Resolution Concerning Discovered or Reported Offenses against City Property.** Resolution No. R-3-2022 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Junta that it shall be the policy of this Council that all discovered or reported offenses against the property of this City shall be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency in this county for such action as may be deemed proper.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-3-2022: McIntyre

SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Velasquez, Ochoa and Pantoya absent)

4. **A Resolution Concerning Publication of Legal Notices.** Resolution No. R-4-2022 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of La Junta that all legal notices required to be published by the ordinances of the City of La Junta shall be published in the La Junta Tribune-Democrat, a paper of general circulation within the City of La Junta.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-4-2022: Ramirez

SECOND: McIntyre

DISCUSSION: There was discussion regarding the reliability of the local newspaper and whether notices could be published in another area newspaper. It was decided to continue as is and look into the matter in three months.

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Velasquez, Ochoa and Pantoya absent)

5. **A Resolution Concerning City Enterprise Funds.** Resolution No. R-5-2022 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

WHEREAS, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights anticipates that certain City enterprises are exempt from the provisions of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights defines the criteria upon which an enterprise becomes exempt from the operative provisions of the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, it is the belief of the City of La Junta that certain operational funds within its control are "enterprises" as defined by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the following City of La Junta funds are considered to be "enterprises" as used within the Tabor Amendment:
 - a. Electric Fund;
 - b. Sewer Fund;
 - c. Water Fund;
 - d. Sanitation Fund;
 - e. Property Management Fund.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-5-2022: Vela

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Velasquez, Ochoa and Pantoya absent)

- C. **La Junta City Council Chamber Audio Visual Update.** City Manager Rick Klein spoke with Mayor Ayala and Dan Hyatt regarding splitting the project into four different phases. Phase 1: voting and microphone equipment with audio mixing system. Phase 2: PTX camera system including software. Phase 3: sound system with wall speakers. Phase 4: LED wall system with TV monitors.

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO CONTRACT WITH DNAV PROFESSIONAL SYSTEMS DIVISION FOR THE PURPOSE OF INSTALLING VOTING AND MICROPHONE EQUIPMENT WITH AUDIO MIXING SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$34,489.00 WITH A BUDGETARY AMENDMENT TO FOLLOW: McIntyre

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Velasquez, Ochoa and Pantoya absent)

- D. **Presbyterian Church located at 3rd and Santa Fe.** Council Member Vela said that there are a lot of people who are against having the Presbyterian Church and he would like to look into selling the building.

City Attorney Malouff recommends encouraging City management to look at possibilities of selling. If there are possibilities of selling, they would have to come back to the Council with a formal resolution declaring it to become excess public property.

Mayor Ayala: Let's see what interest there might be out there for this building. I would also like some more information as to the details of this project, who the five person committee is and then see from there how we move forward.

E. Committee/Board Reports

1. There were no committee/board reports.

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- Just got back from vacation.
- We live in the best area of the United States.

Mayor Ayala: Chandra wanted to know if there was any way to get security cameras downtown.

City Manager Klein: We looked at a system like that with Motorola. We can bring them back again for further discussion.

- Today, we had to double up employees on trash service. It was icy out there, some people called in, so we didn't have full crews. We got done as much as we could. Thank you for your patience.
- Please slow down for the conditions that we're in. There are a lot of people driving too fast.

Mayor Ayala: Have we been doing anything about the traffic study on Carson?

City Manager Klein: Yes, Mike has been in contact with everyone involved. There's going to be signs put up after the study is complete.

Mayor Ayala: Also, at some point, we want to look into having a dog park. We just need to find a place for it.

City Manager Klein: Having a dog park is included in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Council Member Vela: The fires happening around the Boulder area, could that happen here?

City Manager Klein: A couple of years ago, I had Darren clear out the trees over in Wickham. I also had him clear out along the Anderson and then go down the King Arroyo. That's for resiliency and fire breaks. What I'm doing is creating clear zones to make sure our people have the ability to stop actions like that. We're very fortunate to have the railroad between us and the river.

- We need to get rid of the rest of the dead Elm trees. We have a program starting up. If you have a hazardous tree come let us know. This program is a 50/50 program. Let's take care of our community and take care of all of those hazards.

Mayor Ayala: Who is doing the MSOB grants? Is it us or is it Urban Renewal?

City Manager Klein: It's going through City of La Junta.

Mayor Ayala: I'd like to talk more about what the criteria was? There's a lot of confusion and misinterpreting. Communication needs to be better.

G. Governing Body Comments**1. Council Member Vela:**

- People are quitting their jobs and going to higher paying jobs because minimum wage is going up. I would like for us as a council to get a comparison of tax increases. I would like to have it for the public to understand.

Director of Finance Libby: Those are sent to you every month in your financial packets.

Mayor Ayala: Asked Aliza to attend the next meeting to explain the information that is included in those packets.

- Concerning the BBB (Build Back Better), have we gotten any money on that yet?

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City Manager Klein: Just started looking at that to see what kind of money is out there. This will be impacting us over the next eight years. This is the Infrastructure Bill. These are two separate things. Rick explained the breakdown of monies.

Attorney General Phil Weiser reached out to Action 22. We're going to start having a series of meetings where we'll try to educate everybody, all the towns who are a part of Action 22, on how small towns can access that money.

- Give a big shout out to First Responders for their efforts over the past Christmas and New Year's. The cold weather has made it more challenging. Good job to the Fire Departments, Police Departments and EMT's.
- It was a big loss for the Creekside BBQ that burned. That's a real tragedy for La Junta.

2. Mayor Ayala:

- Numerous council members attended the funeral for Ron. It was an amazing send off for him. It troubles us deeply to lose any one of our employees. It was an amazing service and we send out our thoughts and prayers to the family.
- All of our Streets team, with the different pick-ups because of the Holidays and the dump being closed, did a great job getting out there and getting it done.
- All of our departments are doing a wonderful job.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor