

*Subject to approval at
the February 6, 2023
City Council Meeting*

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

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 Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Father Joseph Matitu gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Pantoya led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following Council Members were present:

Damon Ramirez, Ward 1
Paul Velasquez, Ward 1
Elaine McIntyre, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Edward Vela, Ward 3
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: none

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Cynthia Nieb, Director of ED/UR
Nancy Bennett, Urban Renewal
Sara Blackhurst, Action 22
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Adrian Hart, SECO News
Zeke Ayala, La Junta
Chad Penner, La Junta
Brittany Baylor, Inspiration Field
John Garcia, La Junta
Cheryl Lindner, La Junta
William Macdonald, 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 January 3, 2023. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 3, 2023 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: McIntyre

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

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ACTION 22: Sara Blackhurst, Action 22 President gave praise and thanked the board's chair Rick Klein. Action 22 serves 22 counties. A couple things happened on the legislative side that have been of concern over the last couple of years. Regardless of where you sit, the divide between urban and rural has become greater. Rural areas have been pushed aside and marginalized. It's not just the legislation but a trend toward not having adequate stakeholder process. In addition, there has been an upward turn in legislation by decision-making. So, if there's something the legislature can't carry than a commission is put together. This is a decision-making commission and they either send rules up with new rules or they send recommendations for the legislature. The problem with a diversion from stakeholdering and this legislation by rule making is evident in a lot of different areas in our region. There are several areas of concern: crime, pre-emptive land use, housing, homelessness and how to access funds.

The mission of Action 22 is to build a stronger voice and influence how leadership is done throughout our region. An academy was started in order to train local leaders at a higher level. Mayor Ayala and Council Member Pantoya were invited to be part of this class. The purpose of this class is to have some skill development for local leaders, producing a professional fellowship. The idea is to build a deeper bench in leadership. The class will be worth six undergrad credits and 6 master level credits. There will be seven key areas: introduction to the Colorado legislative process, local government in Colorado, Colorado fiscal policy, non-profit admin and organizational leadership, federal legislative policy, ballot initiatives in Colorado and the wrap-up, forecasting and graduation.

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

1. City Manager Rick Klein: During the Utility Board meeting, the Director of Finance received a message on her phone: "Action notice from your electric company. Please be aware that your electric service will be discontinued in the next 30 minutes due to non-payment. Immediate action is required to avoid disconnection today." This is not us. If you receive this, delete it.
2. John Garcia, 1406 Colorado Avenue: The pavement is half gone in front of his house just off the curb. The sidewalk is at different levels causing people to trip. Also, the trash truck always dumps and drops trash and they don't pick it up.

NEW BUSINESS**A. Liquor Licenses**

1. **Application for a Special Event Permit by La Junta Chamber of Commerce, Timmery Foster, Event Manager. The event is the 122nd Annual Chamber Banquet to be held January 30, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 2001 San Juan Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fee has been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO LA JUNTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE 122ND ANNUAL CHAMBER BANQUET TO BE HELD JANUARY 30, 2023 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AT 2001 SAN JUAN AVENUE: Pantoya

SECOND: McIntyre

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

2. **Application for a Special Event Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is the Lovers Steak Night to be held February 14, 2023 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fee has been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO INSPIRATION FIELD FOR THE LOVERS STEAK NIGHT TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 14, 2023 FROM 4:30 P.M. TO 7:30 P.M. AT 612 ADAMS AVENUE: Ochoa

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SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0 (McIntyre abstain)

3. **Application for a Special Event Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is a Mardi Gras party to be held February 18, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fee has been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO INSPIRATION FIELD FOR A MARDI GRAS PARTY TO BE HELD FEBRUARY 18, 2023 FROM 11:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. AT 612 ADAMS AVENUE: Ochoa

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0 (McIntyre abstain)

4. **Application for Renewal of a Lodging & Entertainment Liquor License by VanceOwen LLC, d/b/a Fox Theatre, 11 E. 3rd Street.** 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.

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A LODGING & ENTERTAINMENT LIQUOR LICENSE BY VANCEOWEN LLC, D/B/A FOX THEATRE, 11 E. 3RD STREET: Vela

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

5. **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.

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

SECOND: Ochoa

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

B. Annual Resolution

1. **Designating Official Depositories for City Funds.** Resolution No. R-2-2023 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 2023:

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;
6. Other financial institutions that comply with the intent of the terms of this resolution.

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.

Priority considerations shall be given to institutions that offer competitive interest rates on City deposits.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-2-2023: Pantoya

SECOND: Ochoa

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

C. Board Appointments

1. Tourism Board

a. John Yergert (term to expire 12/31/2025)

MOTION TO REAPPOINT JOHN YERGERT TO THE TOURISM BOARD: McIntyre

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

2. Urban Renewal Board

a. Nancy Bennett (term to expire 12/31/2027)

MOTION TO REAPPOINT NANCY BENNETT TO THE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD: Vela

SECOND: McIntyre

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

b. Justin Miller (term to expire 12/31/2027)

MOTION TO REAPPOINT JUSTIN MILLER TO THE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD: Vela

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

c. Toni Madrid (term to expire 12/31/2026)

MOTION TO APPOINT TONI MADRID TO THE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD: Velasquez

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

D. Approval of Updated Urban Renewal By-Laws. Urban Renewal Director Cynthia Nieb informed the council that the Authority does not need approval of City Council for their by-laws. There is nothing in the state statute and they are an independent authority. The by-laws were prepared by Daniel Horton. She would be happy to answer any questions but apologizes for wasting the council's time.

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- E. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA AMENDING THE UNIFORM BUILDING CODE AND RELATES UNIFORM CODES PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: McIntyre

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

F. Committee/Board Reports

1. Senior Citizens Board (Council Member Velasquez):
 - First dance of the year was January 6th. There were twenty-seven people in attendance.
 - There's 522 members.
 - Discussed raising dues from \$9 to \$12.
 - Planning a tea and art event.
 - Possibly forming a formal volunteer program.
2. Urban Renewal (Mayor Ayala):
 - The way they did their board appointments was the way we need to do all of our board recommendations. It was very professional.
3. Utility Board (Mayor Ayala):
 - Lots of work needs to be done. Some of which is regarding the conduit and solar.

D. City Manager's Comments (provided in packet):

- Fire Stage 1 fire restrictions.
- Have submitted an application for a 404 permit from the Corp of Engineers for the Brick and Tile project.
- Will be crack filling on the east side of town.
- The senior trip to Mackinac Island is full.
- Trimming trees around potter park and finishing removing five trees in City Park.
- 915 Grace was burned due to homeless. We have the rights to demolish.
- Repaired a storm sewer lateral at 5th and Cimarron. It was ten feet deep.
- In February, the Fire Department will be hosting an ice rescue class at City Park Pond.
- We have the rights to demolish the Gibson building and 1010 Raton.
- The plumbers have started working on the bathroom at Brick and Tile Park.
- Placing new street signs along 3rd and 5th Street, then will replace Smithland, Colorado and Topeka Avenues.
- K-2 basketball ended and 3-6 has started.
- Replacing an irrigation main at the cemetery.

City Manager Klein:

- A transformer blew up on the south side of town twice. They are currently working on it.
- You'll notice the sidebar on your agenda showing all of council's goals that were gone over with Michael Yerman.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- Lots of potholes need to be patched.
- Need to tend to the parking lines downtown.
- There are a few people who are sore about the library and senior center reduction in activities.
- The 1% sales tax and needing more publicity.

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E. City Attorney's Comments

1. **AVRMC Joint Meeting with City Council.** The governing boards meet once a year. The council agreed to schedule this meeting for Tuesday, March 28th.

F. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Vela:
 - Would like to see the Youth Council regenerated again. Our youthful council can have a positive impact on the students from the high school. We need to be more active in this.
2. Council Member Ochoa:
 - Noticed that there were a few comments regarding the smell from the waste treatment center on the east side of town.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS, UNDER C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e):
Ochoa

SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

Council went into Executive Session from 7:19 p.m. until 7:41 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor