

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

***Subject to approval at
the February 7, 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 Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Mayor Ayala 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
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.
Aliza Libby, Director of Finance
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Julie Worley, La Junta
Tony/Davida Moreland, Ordway
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, 2022. After hearing none, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 3, 2022 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: McIntyre

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

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

1. Davida Moreland, Ordway: Invited everyone to the 4th Annual First Responders Celebration to be held July 9, 2022 at the Crowley County Fair Grounds from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This will be an event to honor firefighters, emergency medical technicians, sheriff's department and coroner in Olney Springs, Crowley, Ordway, Sugar City, Fowler, Manzanola, Rocky Ford, Swink, La Junta and Cheraw.
2. Julie Worley, Chamber of Commerce: Invited council to the La Junta Chambers 120th Annual Banquet on Monday, January 31, 2022 at the Otero College Banquet Room.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 18, 2022

REPORTS

- A. **Financial Packets.** Director of Finance Libby explained to the council how to read the SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) report that is emailed to them every month in their financial packets. She pointed out that the “SIC” is set by the Federal Government. This report is used to break down the collection of sales tax for the city.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **Liquor Licenses**

1. **Application for a Special Events Permit by La Junta Chamber of Commerce, Gregory Kolomitz, Event Manager.** The event is their Annual Banquet to be held January 31, 2022 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 THEIR ANNUAL BANQUET TO BE HELD JANUARY 31, 2022 AT 2001 SAN JUAN AVENUE: Pantoya

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

2. **Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage Off Premise Liquor License by Mini Mart, Inc., d/b/a Loaf N Jug, 918 W. 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 FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE OFF PREMISE LIQUOR LICENSE TO MINI MART, INC., D/B/A LOAF N JUG, 918 W. 3RD STREET: Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

3. **Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage Off Premise Liquor License by Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc., d/b/a Love's Country Store, 308 E. 1st 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 FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE OFF PREMISE LIQUOR LICENSE BY LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORES, INC., D/B/A LOVE'S COUNTRY STORE, 308 E. 1ST STREET: Ochoa

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

- B. **Partnering with Lamar.** Mayor Ayala informed the council that Lamar reached out to us and we went on a tour with them. La Junta is so similar to Lamar. It just makes sense to see what they're doing. What's working for them and what isn't. We would like to host them as well. Their council wants to meet with our council. We'll do a Doodle Poll to see what dates we are all available. La Junta will host the first one.

- C. **Downtown Walking Tour/Parks Tour.** A Doodle Poll has been sent out to see what days/times work best for everyone.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 18, 2022**D. Committee/Board Reports**

1. Utilities Board (Council Member Vela):
 - Received reports concerning wind damage to some of our infrastructure.
 - More water main leaks.
 - Holbrook water, owned by the City, will be converted back to agricultural after it is okayed by the water court.
 - Received report regarding the home owners responsibility of their trash totes.
 - Valuable data was presented concerning operational sanitation policies. Costs relative to the totes and boxes. The Board will study for more discussion.
 - Board appointed Chair McKenzie and Vice-Chair Cranson for another year term.
2. Live Well Park (Council Member Vela):
 - Artist Zeke Ayala will soon be ready to continue the murals at the park.
3. Recreation Board (Council Member Ramirez):
 - K-2 Basketball finished with 99 participants. 3-6 grade is now participating with 142 involved.
 - Soccer registration is January 31st – March 11th.
 - The armory has been being used for practices for the recreation program.
 - The (upper) tennis courts at College Overlook are slated to be resurfaced before tennis season.
 - The City Park tennis courts are in the Master Plan and will possibly be done by the end of this year or 2023 using GOCO funds.
 - Handicap accessibility to the fields and parks was also discussed.
 - The Live Well Park and Brick & Tile Park may look stagnant but things are moving forward.
4. Senior Center Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):
 - The New Year's Eve dance was attended by 37 people.
 - Mr. Tim was rescheduled for Valentine's Day.
 - On the 20th, they'll be serving noodles and mashed potatoes.
 - April 29 will be a Senior Prom for our senior community members.
 - No trip planned through the Senior Center at this time.
 - Next meeting will be February 3rd at 11:00 a.m.
5. Tourism Board (Mayor Ayala):
 - There will be stickers with QR codes with tarantulas on them which will link to the tourism website. There may be a possible Tarantula Festival.

E. City Manager's Comments

- Shared with council information regarding the City's online payment system. The numbers show that everyone is going online to pay their bills.
- Went with the Mayor to Lamar to meet with Mayor Kirk Crespín and City Manager Rob Evans. Mayor Crespín wrote us and said, "I believe an open dialog and continued conversations will help to ensure that we can work together in the future on endeavors that can be mutually beneficial. My hope is that we can continue to work together as we both work towards growing Southeast Colorado. I truly enjoyed meeting with you and look forward to having the opportunity to have our City Councils meet in the near future." Joe and I think that this would be beneficial for both communities as we have similar issues.
- The Mayor and I will be attending the Action 22 Rural Voices in Denver Wednesday afternoon through Friday. We will find out what new bills that are getting introduced that can affect our area.
- We will talk with the playground company on Brick & Tile Park to see about when we can expect delivery. We have preparation of land to do before it arrives.
- We have lost two of our veteran Water Department workers due to salaries. This is a big problem here and in America.
- We renewed our contract with AirMedCare for air transport for our citizens during their life emergencies.

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F. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Had a frustrated citizen regarding the road conditions in La Junta. The entire length of 3rd Street. The whole intersection of 9th and Raton. 2nd Street, west of Santa Fe. The drainage system at US Bank. The issue comes up frequently and nothing gets done.
2. Council Member Vela:
 - We need to get busy on the marijuana question we want to put in front of the voters.
City Attorney Malouff explained the procedure of getting an item on the ballot, whether it be by the citizenry or the council.
3. Council Member Velasquez:
 - The Police Department had a total of 16,591 calls for 2021.
4. Mayor Ayala:
 - Looking forward to going with Rick for Action 22.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor