

*Subject to approval at
the February 21, 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 Monday, February 6, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Mayor Ayala gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Vela 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.
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Gary Cranson, Utility Board
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 17, 2023. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JANUARY 17, 2023 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Vela

SECOND: Ochoa

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

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

1. There was no citizen participation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Second 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 SECOND READING: Ochoa

SECOND: McIntyre

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – February 6, 2023**NEW BUSINESS****A. Committee/Board Reports**

1. Youth Council (Council Member Vela):

- Been talking about our youth having to carry this city forward in the future. Was disappointed that we have not done anything in terms of the City of La Junta Youth Council. We should regenerate it.

MOTION TO REGENERATE THE CITY OF LA JUNTA YOUTH COUNCIL AND APPOINT THE MAYOR, COUNCIL MEMBER PANTOYA AND COUNCIL MEMBER RAMIREZ AS LEADERS OF THAT GROUP: Vela

Mayor Ayala: Hearing no second, that motion dies.

2. Senior Citizens Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):

- There are 534 members.
- Dance committee received no complaints after raising the fees to \$10.00.
- They had two dances in January and were able to make their obligation to the band.
- They will have additional dances in months where there are five Fridays.
- The board and everybody that works there and all the members, thank you for your support.
- They are having a work session on February 17th at 10:00 a.m.

3. AVRMC Board (Council Member McIntyre):

- Learned that Andy Flemmer's mother passed away. My condolences went out to him and his family.
- Have come back out with their newsletter.
- Hopefully everyone will be able to attend our joint meeting in March.

D. City Manager's Comments:

- Bill is working on our 5-year Airport Improvement Plan with FAA.
- Had a water main break on the North La Junta bridge and by Chaparral Circle.
- The Brick and Tile playground will be constructed over the next month.
- We are forming the floor for the bathroom for the Brick and Tile Park.
- Waiting for our notice to proceed to construct the trail from CDOT and the Army Corps of Engineers.
- The Fire Department is hosting an ice rescue training at City Park Pond.
- The columbarium has finally arrived over a year after it was ordered. It has been set.
- We are replacing the scoreboard for Veteran's Field. It will be an American flag.
- We will be starting crack filling this week if the weather holds.
- The library's theme this year is "All Together Now."
- Attended Rural Voices through Action 22 with Joe Ayala and Lisa Pantoya.
- We started our Leadership Academy. There were a lot of great speakers.

Council Member Pantoya: We made a lot of connections with a lot of people. We learned a lot about the needs of rural Colorado: water rights, the Colorado River, affordable housing, crime, mental health, healthcare, and education. Looking forward to the Academy and learning much more.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- Playground at Brick & Tile Park.
- Still waiting on information from the Conduit people.
- Security for the new park.
- Rumors of a mountain lion in the area of Yucca but no tracks were found.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – February 6, 2023**E. Governing Body Comments**

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Chief Todd Quick with the La Junta Police Department has been trying to get the neighborhood watch going. Only one person showed up at their last meeting. We need greater citizen participation.
 - Interested in attending the Citizens Academy? Get with Chief Todd Quick so they can get the academy going this spring.
2. Council Member Vela:
 - The Citizens Academy is a great program. I wish more of the City Council members would take part in that.
 - First National Bank of Las Animas changed it's name to First National Bank Colorado. They have banks all over the eastern side of Colorado.
 - Creekside BBQ is now open for business for seating inside.
 - Saw on Facebook, somebody had posted 100th anniversary of Koshare's. It's actually their 90th.
3. Council Member Ramirez:
 - Girls in the Middle at Otero College is set for March 4th. The theme this year is "Rivers of Discovery". Registration has been open since late January and runs through Thursday, February 9th at 5:00 p.m. You can register at girlsinthemiddle.com.
 - This is a program that is done yearly for 5th through 8th grade girls in STEAM opportunities for their future.
4. Mayor Ayala:
 - Had a great time at the Chamber Banquet. President Greg Kolomitz did a great job for the Chamber in hosting that banquet. Congratulations to our fellow Council Woman Lisa Pantoya who won Volunteer of the Year. The Community Service Award went to Rob Oquist this year. Joe Garcia gave the talk of the night.
 - The Workforce Development Council met in Denver in January. I met John Knapp who is from the Valley. We got to go to Northglenn High School and their STEM program is amazing. The second day we met at the Douglas County administration building.
 - Last month, we did a review of Mr. Klein. It's all good. We need to get together with the Utility Board to see when we can all meeting together again with Rick present.
 - We need to schedule a budget work session to get the budget finalized and see what direction we're heading.

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): McIntyre

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

Council went into Executive Session from 6:41 p.m. until 7:07 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor