

*Subject to approval at
the March 20, 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, March 6, 2023, at 6:05 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Pastor Matt Whitt, Calvary Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Ayala 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
Julie Worley, Chamber of Commerce
Amanda Krische, Young AmeriTowne
Kelli Holland, Young AmeriTowne
Kristine Rios, Woodruff Library
Kimberly Gallegos, Woodruff Library
Gary Cranson, Utility Board
Adrian Hart, SECO News
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 February 21, 2023. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 21, 2023 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Vela

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

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U.S. SENATOR BENNET'S OFFICE – Renee Martinez is the contact for constituents who need assistance with the VA, IRS, and Social Security. Senator Bennet's priorities are: agriculture, climate and clean energy, conservation, democracy, economy and jobs, education, fiscal responsibility, health care, immigration, justice and equality, national security and foreign policy rural communities and Veterans.

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

1. Julie Worley, Chamber of Commerce: The Chamber of Commerce brought Young AmeriTowne on the Road to La Junta and Three Corners Connector sponsored. The project was set up at the Armory. It is a project that teaches 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, finance, philanthropy, entrepreneurship, and free enterprise. There is a curriculum done in the classroom prior to arriving to Towne.

Kelli Holland and Amanda Krische are with Young AmeriTowne on the Road. Young Americans Center for Financial Education is a non-profit introduced into Denver by Bill Daniels. He originated the bank as a for profit bank. He wanted it to be a more education-based bank rather than a money-making bank. There is everything for young people as an adult bank has just in a kid like way. Checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, bank loans, all of the things. The community in Denver wanted it to be more than just a bank, that's when the non-profit was originated and that's where Young AmeriTowne came into play.

There is about eighteen hours of curriculum that the teachers do in the classroom before they get to AmeriTowne. They learn all about banking, budgeting and government along with philanthropy. In the Towne, they use their debit cards, write checks and have cash. Their goal is to try and make a profit for their business after their business has paid back their bank loan. Another goal is to not overdraw their personal checking account. It's really exciting to be able to expand and we look forward to next year.

Julie Worley thanked Mr. Klein and the council for the use of the Armory at no charge.

2. Council Member McIntyre: Has a constituent concerned about an asphalt area that is deteriorating by Boss Hogs going into the parking area off of Third Street.

NEW BUSINESS**A. Committee/Board Reports**

1. Senior Citizens Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):
 - Information regarding the increase in dues will go out in the Senior Center newsletter.
2. AVRMC Board (Council Member McIntyre):
 - Handed out the 1st Quarter AVRMC employee newsletter.

D. City Manager's Comments

- Received a letter from the State of Colorado Department of Local Affairs informing us that La Junta RISE has been accepted to advance to Designated status in the Colorado Main Street Program. The City will be receiving an additional \$7,500.00 to the mini-grant due to our advancement in tiers.
- Working on the rate study for utilities.
- Applied for direct funding for the runways and back-up generation.
- The Brick and Tile playground is being constructed. They should finish within two weeks.
- Poured the floor for the bathroom for the Brick and Tile Park. Will start building walls in 28 days.
- Working with CDOT and the Army Corps of Engineers on our 404 permit in order to start the bidding process for the trail.
- Had another main break on the 1400 block of Bellevue Avenue.
- Have softball, baseball, and tennis programs starting at our facilities.
- Have ordered the scoreboard for Veteran's field.
- The Senior Center is having an open house on April 21st from 1-3 showcasing their services.

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- Crack filling on 22nd-24th on Bellevue Avenue and replacing street signs.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION:

- The council cannot be the principles in organizing the committee for the next ballot issue. The committee will be created by the end of the month. Anyone interested in being on this committee may reach out to Mr. Klein.

E. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Vela:
 - Next Sunday is Daylight Savings Time. Don't forget to set your clocks forward.
 - The Knights of Columbus has put in a new floor in the entire building. The new half wall has been taken down and a new one put up.
2. Council Member Ramirez:
 - Handed out information regarding the services, amenities and programs that are offered by our local library.
3. Council Member Vela:
 - The Friends of the Library meet on the third Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Those who would like to join, show up or send Kim an email.
4. Mayor Ayala:
 - Been reaching out to the Colorado Rockies organization. It's harder to have camps and training in rural Colorado for our kids down here. May 19th has been scheduled for a camp for the youth in the La Junta area. Brock and Rufus have been helping in getting this going. Also working on the Broncos.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

ATTEST:**CITY OF LA JUNTA**

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor