

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

*Subject to approval at
the March 21, 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, March 7, 2022, 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
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Edward Vela, Ward 3
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: Elaine McIntyre, Ward 2

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Brad Davidson, Fire Chief
Gary Cranson, UB Commissioner
Daniel Hyatt, La Junta
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Jacqueline Armendariz Unzueta, SCCED
Michael Yerman, SCCED
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 22, 2022. After hearing none, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Vela

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD: Bill Jackson, Assistant City Manager, was presented with a certificate and pin commemorating twenty-five years of service with the City of La Junta.

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

1. Daniel Hyatt, DNAV: DNAV is an equipment manufacturer, distributor and integration company that works all across the country with audio and visual solutions. We've been entrusted by you to upgrade the voting and microphone system in the council chambers. We are just a few weeks out of having that equipment manufactured. It is currently being manufactured in Burbank California and

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very soon, we will be moving that manufacturing process to La Junta Colorado. It is very exciting to be installing this new system for you.

Mayor Ayala: After the installation of the new audio/microphone system, I will be asking all of the boards, anyone doing meetings, to conduct them in the council chambers for transparency.

REPORTS

- A. Southern Colorado Economic Development District, SCEDD:** Jacqueline Armendariz Unzueta, SBA Community Navigator Pilot Program Co-Leader shared a power point on the ARPA funding at work. The SCCED Community Navigator Pilot Program (CNPP) provides access to training, counseling, and financial capital – at no cost – to underserved small businesses via its targeted network of direct service providers. SCEDD is the “hub” of the program working with its “spokes,” a model inspired by similar successful efforts in the healthcare field. All organizations are considered Navigators whose role is to connect entrepreneurs to services within the program or other relevant resources in the regional network. This is a two year Small Business Administration grant developed in response to small business needs which traditional offerings struggled to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall Scope of Navigator Program Services:

- Custom training programs
- Access to technical assistance, coaching and consulting in:
 - Financial services
 - Online platform optimization
 - Cyber security
 - Marketing
 - Business start-ups
- Specialized technical assistance for creative industry businesses
- Access to capital

- B. Fire Department.** Brad Davidson shared a brochure comparing how many calls for service there have been over the last three years along with the types of calls they received. He also shared information regarding the large structure fire located at 222 Steen. After investigating, it was determined that it was totally accidental and there was nothing suspicious. Brad was very thankful for the community support they received that day.

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

1. Senior Citizens (Council Member Velasquez):
 - Back to having dances on the first and third Friday.
 - Having their “Senior” prom on April 29th. Mr. Tim will be providing the entertainment and the theme is the Kentucky Derby.
 - Serving corn beef and cabbage on the 17th for St. Patrick’s Day.
 - Dawn Block has been appointed to the Governors Clean Transit Enterprise Commission.
2. City Attorney Malouff: AVRMC would like to meet on May 31st at the hospital for their annual meeting.
3. Utility Board (Council Member Vela):
 - Meets tomorrow at 4:00 p.m.
4. Mayor Ayala: We have our Lamar work session Wednesday March 16th at noon.

B. City Manager’s Comments

- Hancock & Froese accountants will start the audit on February 21 through April 4th.

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- We had a structure fire at 3rd & Steen. The Fire Department did a great job.
- We are finishing removing the trees for workforce housing at 4th & Hayes.
- We had to increase salaries to save our workforce. We had to make the adjustment now.
- We have started the Brickyard Park. Still working on trail design with CDOT.
- We have ordered the downtown cameras.
- We have implemented the route changes in Sanitation.
- Dean and I have been working on a house for next year's EPA project.

C. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - The park tour was fantastic. Thank you Brock and thank you Paula for the snacks.
2. Mayor Ayala:
 - Thank you to Brock, Rufus and Paula, along with the parks and cemetery crew. They did an amazing job.
 - As far as the cats, we are still working through some suggestions. Please be a part of the solution.
 - We're looking at signage around the entire city.
 - Congrats to Otero College on hosting Region 9 Tournament.
 - Good job to the La Junta High School on hosting the Class 1A Regional basketball tournament.
 - I've talked to Todd today: Someone needs to stand up and say something to help bring closure to the Chaparro family. Please, if you know anything, contact the La Junta Police Department.
3. Council Member Velasquez:
 - During the parks tour we went to the newest park and it's already been vandalized. If you see something, say something.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:**CITY OF LA JUNTA**

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor