

***Subject to approval at
the April 3, 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 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Pastor Brandon Mills, First Southern Baptist Church, gave the invocation.

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
Edward Vela, Ward 3
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2

Also present: Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Todd Quick, Police Chief
Julie Worley, Chamber of Commerce
Mike Bourget, La Junta
Chad Penner, La Junta
Bethany Bender, 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 March 6, 2023. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 6, 2023 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: McIntyre

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

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

1. Mike Bourget, 2411 Santa Fe Avenue: Made a public disclosure. Mr. Bourget is an elected official for the City of La Junta Utility Board. In his private life he is a contractor and is proposing to have a contract with the City of La Junta for the La Junta Police Memorial Training Facility, installing some handicap bathrooms at the firing range.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor Licenses

1. **Application for Renewal of a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License by Mexico City Café Inc., d/b/a Mexico City Café, 1617 Raton 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 Asst. City Manager recommends approval.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – March 20, 2023

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A HOTEL & RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE BY MEXICO CITY CAFÉ INC., D/B/A MEXICO CITY CAFÉ, 1617 RATON AVENUE: McIntyre

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

2. **Application for Renewal of a Tavern Liquor License by Red Dog Revisited LLC, d/b/a Red Dog Revisited, 709 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 Asst. City Manager recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE BY RED DOG REVISITED LLC, D/B/A RED DOG REVISITED, 709 E. 3RD STREET: Pantoya

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. AVRMC Board (Council Member McIntyre):
 - Shared a copy of the AVRMC Executive Summary.
 - Joint dinner meeting is next Tuesday, March 28th at 6:00 p.m.

D. City Manager's Comments (Given by Asst. City Manager Jackson)

- Looking at chip sealing about twenty-nine blocks this year.
- The Brick and Tile playground is being constructed. Weather has slowed down the progress.
- Poured the floor for the bathroom for the Brick and Tile Park. Will start building walls in twenty-eight days.
- Should receive the Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, in order to start the bidding process for the trail, in the next couple of weeks.
- The EPA is going to start testing for PFAS. We are working with our engineers on this.
- We have 200 kids signed up for soccer. There were only thirteen kids in the 7th-8th grade, so we don't have enough kids for that age group.
- Have ordered the scoreboard for Veteran's Field. It won't be delivered until the end of July.
- The Senior Center is having an open house on April 21st from 1:00-3:00 p.m., showcasing their services.

Asst. City Manager Jackson: The budget was approved as presented. Now staff is operating on a 24% reduction in the general fund. We need to solidify that and explore other options for individual departments.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET WITH REDUCTIONS MINUS THE PERSONNEL CUTS; IF THERE ARE GOING TO BE PERSONNEL CUTS, THAT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO CITY COUNCIL AT A LATER TIME: Pantoya

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: The Ark Valley Conduit and pending utility rate increases have no impact on the General Fund, these are Enterprise Funds. The original budget was already approved. The internal changes for the 24% cuts need to be approved as an amendment to the budget. It is up to the Council to approve what each department in the general fund was able to cut.

VOTE: Those voting YES: Ramirez, Velasquez, Ayala, Vela, Pantoya
 Those voting NO: McIntyre
 The motion carried 5-1 (Ochoa absent)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – March 20, 2023

E. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Reminder about the Mass Tragedy Event Preparedness overview that's going to take place on the 22nd at the Otero College Student Center.
 - Our tumbleweed pile by the bowling alley is back.
2. Council Member McIntyre:
 - Last Friday, attended the Library's Friday Fillers movie with my grandkids. Fox Theatre sponsors that with a \$5 snack box kit for the kids and the Library pays for the movie. Thank you.
3. Mayor Ayala:
 - The Picketwire had Theatre 101. It was a two-day event. My kids attended and really enjoyed it.
 - Gearing up for the Summer Reading Program at the Library. Any volunteers that are interested in helping out with that would be welcome.
 - AmeriTowne was amazing. I got to meet the mayor. It was a really great event and I hope it continues to build.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor