

***Subject to approval at
the April 18, 2022
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, April 4, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Council Member McIntyre 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
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Edward Vela, Ward 3

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Angela Ayala, 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 21, 2022. After hearing none, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 21, 2022 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: McIntyre

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ochoa and Vela absent)

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

1. There was no citizen participation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Application for a Special Events Permit by La Junta Rotary, Aimee Hill, Event Manager. The event is an Annual Manicures and Mimosas Party to be held May 14, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 315 Santa Fe 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 ROTARY FOR AN ANNUAL MANICURES AND MIMOSAS PARTY TO BE HELD May 14, 2022 FROM 9:00 a.m. TO 5:00 p.m. AT 315 SANTA FE AVENUE: McIntyre

SECOND: Ramirez

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 4, 2022

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ochoa and Vela absent)

- A. A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property.** Resolution No. R-10-2022 was presented for council's consideration as follows:

WHEREAS, the City is a Home Rule City organized under the laws of the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to purchase certain real property described as follows:

A tract of land lying in Lot 9, Industrial Addition to the City of La Junta, as shown by the recorded plat thereof, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the NE/4 of Section 10, Township 24 South, Range 55 West of the 6th P.M.; thence N.88°19'31"E., along the North line of said NE/4, a distance of 690.75 feet; thence S.0°47'11"E., along the East Right-of-Way line of Lawrence Avenue a distance of 405.56 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence N.45°26'52"E., 285.79 feet; thence N.20°28'14"E., 44.92 feet; thence S.0°47'11"E., 56.84 feet; thence S.12°48'29"W., 72.29 feet; thence S.25°47'22"W., 223.36 feet; thence S.70°49'43"W., 111.45 feet to a point on the East line of Lawrence Avenue; thence N.0°47'11"W., along said right-of-way line, a distance of 122.44 feet to the True Point of Beginning. County of Otero, State of Colorado. The Tract contains 0.72 acre.

WHEREAS, the City desires to purchase the real property from VERNER L. GILTNER for the sum of \$160,000.00.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO as follows:

1. This resolution authorizes the City to purchase the above property.
2. The resolution is enacted by the City Council of the City of La Junta.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-10-2022: Velasquez

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ochoa and Vela absent)

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. There were no committee/board reports.

C. City Manager's Comments

- New turf is being installed at the 22nd Street Ball field by Otero College.
- We have 20 new picnic tables being delivered.
- Weed season is upon us. All crews are starting spring clean up.
- Moltz Construction is coming to inspect the water tank pump replacement project.
- Two fires at opposite sides of town at the same time. We had the Rocky Ford Fire Department to help cover.
- Soccer has started practices.
- The sales tax position has been cut. We will be going to State tax collected.
- Two of the workforce houses have been sold. Otero County is buying one.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 4, 2022**ADDITIONAL TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

- Asphalt should be coming in May.
- Still working on alley clean up.
- Downtown cameras have been ordered.
- Will look into the status of the street signs.
- Recycle bins at the park.
- The demo of the house on 2nd/3rd and Carson.

D. Governing Body Comments**1. Council Member Velasquez:**

- Shared the following information regarding feral cats from the Manheim Township Police Department out of Lancaster Pennsylvania:

FERAL CATS CANNOT BE CARED FOR AND HERE'S WHY! – Dated April 22, 2021

The Manheim Township Police Department has seen a recent increase in complaints and questions from residents regarding domesticated cats being outdoors, also known as feral cats. We have drafted this news piece to help answer some of those questions.

LOCAL LAW

In 2000, Manheim Township enacted an ordinance which addressed cats and other animals running at large or causing a nuisance. An animal is defined as all mammals, birds, fowl and reptiles normally or ordinarily domesticated (including household pets such as dogs and cats) or raised in this area or climate as livestock or for work or for breeding purposes. It is illegal for any person to harbor, care for, shelter or maintain any animal in such a manner as to disturb or unduly annoy the public through the animal's noise, barking, smell, mischief or other harmful propensities. This includes feeding/caring for feral cats and/or feral cat colonies. Similarly, it is illegal for the owner of any animal to allow the animal to go beyond the boundaries of their premises or to run at large over the streets or public grounds or upon the property of another.

PET CONCERNS

There are many potential dangers faced by outdoor cats, some of which can be mitigated. Outdoor cats can be exposed to a litany of diseases to include rabies, feline leukemia, and the feline immunodeficiency virus. Similarly, by being outdoors, cats can also be exposed to fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes, all of which can transmit diseases such as feline infectious anemia and heartworms. Another preventable problem associated with outdoor cats is unwanted pregnancies.

To avoid these concerns, pet owners should ensure their cat(s) are up to date on all vaccinations, as well as maintaining a proper flea/tick and heartworm preventative regimen. Also, due to the persistent and staggering overpopulation issue, it is imperative to have your cat(s) spayed or neutered before they are permitted outside. Also having a collar with proper identification information upon it can aid others in returning a lost cat.

Unfortunately, unsupervised outdoor cats are also at risk for several serious problems that cannot be easily avoided. These include incidents with motor vehicles, encounters with other animals, and exposure to toxins, both man-made and natural. All of these factors need to be heavily considered before permitting a cat to have access to the outdoor world.

HUMAN AND WILDLIFE CONCERNS

The presence of feral domestic cats can create negative consequences for humans and wildlife. Communities can become healthier and safer when feral cats are removed in lieu of maintaining them in feral cat colonies.

Public health scientists, public health agencies, and professional organizations such as the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians recognize that maintaining cat(s) outdoors is bad for human health. Domestic cats are consistently the #1 carrier of rabies among domestic animals and are disproportionately more likely to expose people to rabies than wildlife. Thanks to modern medicine, once exposed, most people do not acquire rabies. However, the exposure is dangerous and costly. Similarly, cats are the only definitive hosts for the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which causes toxoplasmosis. Up to 74% of all cats will host this parasite during their lifetime and excrete hundreds of millions of infectious eggs into the environment through their feces. When a person accidentally ingests this parasite, they may experience blindness, miscarriage, a child born with developmental problems, memory loss, or death.

Cats have contributed to the extinction of numerous species and are a non-native, invasive species in North America that can cause severe ecological disruption and degradation. Cats often kill birds and other mammals or spread disease to other wildlife which greatly impacts the environment. In addition to destroying wildlife, they can disturb flowerbeds and landscaping as well.

It should be noted that trap, neuter, release programs are considered bad policy. Over time, TNR programs have consistently failed to reduce feral cat populations. These programs facilitate the spread of diseases and maintain cats in unsafe conditions. Feeding feral cats, often associated with TNR programs, does not reduce predation on wildlife.

There was lengthy discussion that this has become a dangerous situation in La Junta and needs to be addressed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor