

Council Goals

Envision a safe, flourishing downtown that provides a strong commercial tax base

Strive to be active stewards of existing aging infrastructure

Recognize importance of experience, well trained, and community minded staff

Ensure its electorate is well informed of on-going successes and future plans

Envision a safe, secure community for its families and youth

Promote redevelopment of existing businesses and neighborhoods and increase quality of life for all its residents



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA CITY COUNCIL

La Junta, Colorado
May 5, 2025
6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Municipal Building
601 Colorado Avenue

CALL TO ORDER (Mayor Ayala)

INVOCATION (Mayor Ayala)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Mayor Ayala)

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

Council Members

Supervisors

Others

Ramirez
Velasquez
Stoker
Ayala
Ochoa
Pantoya
Rikhof

COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

1. Zoey Montoya
2. Bob Fowler

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Mayor) (Action)
Regular Meeting April 21, 2025

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

REPORTS

A. Zoning (Martin Montoya) (Information)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second Reading/ AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 10.04 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 10.04 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT THE 2024 EDITION OF THE MODEL TRAFFIC CODE (City Attorney) (Action)

NEW BUSINESS

A. Set for Hearing/Application for a Tavern Liquor License by New Venture LLC, d/b/a Strike & Play, 2420 San Juan Avenue (City Attorney) (Action)

B. A Resolution Opposing New Annexations by the City of Colorado Springs that Increase its Water Supply Gap (City Attorney) (Action)

C. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO TO ADOPT RULES CONCERNING USE OF AUTOMATED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS (City Attorney) (Action)

D. Committee/Board Reports

- E. City Manager Comments
- F. Governing Body Comments
- G. ADJOURN

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 21, 2025

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

CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Mayor Ayala on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Mayor Ayala 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
Paul Velasquez, Ward 1
Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2

Also present: Michael Hart, City Manager
Erin Harris, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Jamie McNerney, Library
Ashli Hernandez, Swink
Julie Worley, La Junta
Pam Denahy, Director of Tourism/ED
Nancy Harrington, La Junta
Josh Harris, La Junta
Jack Goble, LAVWCD
Nancy, Bennett, La Junta
Danae Stratton, Property Craft
Adrian Hart, SECO News
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette



Subject to approval at the
May 5, 2025
City Council Meeting



MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mayor Ayala asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of April 7, 2025. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 7, 2025 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Rikhof

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD

A. April 2025

- 1. Jamie McNerney, Library – 10 years.** Jamie McNerney was hired on April 14, 2015 as a Patron Service Technician for the Library. Mayor Ayala presented her with a certificate and pin for her years of service. Thank you.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 21, 2025

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

1. There was no citizen participation.

REPORTS

- A. Property Craft (Danae Stratton).** The company does demo, asbestos, mold, fire, loss of life, fentanyl and meth mitigation. We are working with Rocky Ford on a demo project and also abating the old Bents Fort. I realized that your six-county community is highly underserved when it comes to mitigation and abatement. We're considering opening up a shop out here. Our main office is located in Pueblo. Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself and the company.
- B. Lower Arkansas Valley Water Conservancy District (Jack Goble).** We were voted in in 2002 by five counties, including Otero, because this valley had seen a lot of farmlands dried up over the years and the detrimental effects that it had to our economy and environment in our communities. We work in a variety of areas but tonight, I'd like to talk to you about water quantity. The Karman Line annexation of Colorado Springs is about 1900 acres and will include 6500 homes along with some commercial space. It will need approximately 1700-acre feet of water per year every year. That would require 50,000 – 60,000 acres of farmland that would need to be permanently dried up in the valley. Colorado Springs, as it sits today, to build it out, needs 34,000-acre feet of water. The reason I'm here today is to ask you to consider adopting a resolution in opposition to Colorado Springs annexations.
- C. Tourism and Economic Development (Pam Denahy).** The Tourism Board is in the middle of the Destination Blueprint Program through the tourism office in partnership with Bent's Old Fort. We are helping them with communication and have updated all the websites that are out there. We will be having a Bent's Old Fort private tour on May 20th and City Council is invited. The Resident Sentiment Survey is part of the Blueprint Program as well. There have been 163 responses. Most say they agree or strongly agree that the positive impacts of tourism outweigh the negative impacts. They also agree or strongly agree that the tourism industry in La Junta has a positive impact on local business. We also have the Stakeholders Survey that will be sent out specifically to stakeholders.

During the Tarantula Fest, we had the Outdoor Recreation Department under the State of Colorado film a Rocky Mountain PBS series called "Colorado Uncharted" in partnership with the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. It will air on April 24th at 7:30 p.m. and then re-aired on May 11th at 5:30 p.m. Southeast Colorado will be highlighted as well as Ouray, Moffit County and the San Luis Valley.

The Visit La Junta website was created in 2017 and the technology has since changed. We have a really hard time updating the back-end information of the website so we were looking at doing a facelift. It was presented to the Tourism Board and it was decided to keep the website the way it is now but give it a refresh and redesign so we can update new businesses or new information.

For 2025, Economic Development will be focusing on outreach, networking and connections. We've had a lot of local engagement with businesses like Lewis Bolt, Copper Kitchen and Otero College. We are also focusing on monthly meetings with organizations like Otero County Economic Development, Southeast Colorado Enterprise Development, Southeast Business Retention and Expansion Attraction. Doing projects anywhere from transportation to housing to different regional projects. Continued outreach is being done with the state through DOLA, OEDIT and Colorado Workforce Center. We're also trying to focus on data or the lack thereof. We're subscribing to a CRM (customer relationship management) tool that will help us track who our businesses are and how we contact them. This will benefit Economic Development, La Junta Mainstreet and we've talked to the Chamber of Commerce about partnering with that as well.

We're wrapping up phase 1 of the RTAP (rural technical assistance program) Program. This is a project through Outdoor Recreation Office and CU Masters of the Environment. We've identified the goals to revitalize downtown and expand economic opportunities. Strength and collaboration,

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 21, 2025

community engagement, volunteerism and partnerships, outdoor recreation, infrastructure and programming, destination and marketing and promotion of outdoor and cultural assets. Those are the goals that we're working on and we have action items and steps under each one of those. The students working on this will have it completed on the 29th of April and I can share it with you then. We had a lot of participation in the workshops. So, it's not necessarily going to all be led by the City of La Junta. We'll have some great partners that will be helping to lead different efforts. One area of enhancing outdoor recreation is to look more into birding, how do we attract more people for birding since we have some very unique birds here. We'll be increasing our partnership with the Rocky Mountain Bird Association to do that.

As a reminder, we are a La Junta Mainstreet and Creative District. Both of these fall under state programs. We used to call ourselves La Junta Rise. The board is currently taking a step back to see if La Junta Rise is the right name. The strategic working plan of that board is based on the funds we get from DOLA and Creative Industries. We may be calling ourselves La Junta Creative Mainstreet and looking to re-evaluate and re-envision the strategic plan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Property Management Fund Audit Update (City Manager Hart).** After receiving the information from CIRSA at our last meeting and how they are not going to be able to conduct the audit, Brock and I will begin this process. We met last week and we discussed a little bit of what was going on and what we were looking for. He was in agreement with what the mission is. We'll probably get together within the next couple of weeks to put a plan together. We're going to go through the finances, look at each property lease we have and see if they're performing the way they should be. Also, we're going to look at the buildings that the City has and determine if they are assets or liabilities. If they're liabilities, why are we continuing to sustain them. Any input is welcome at any time from you all.

- B. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE ELECTRIC FUND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: Velasquez

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: Those voting YES: Ramirez, Velasquez, Ayala, Pantoya, Rikhof

Those voting NO: Stoker

The motion carried 5-1 (Ochoa absent)

NEW BUSINESS**A. Board Appointment**

- 1. Appoint Erika Lively to the La Junta Historic Preservation Board.**

MOTION TO APPOINT ERIKA LIVELY TO THE LA JUNTA HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD: Stoker

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

- B. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 10.04 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 10.04 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT THE 2024 EDITION OF THE MODEL TRAFFIC CODE.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

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City Attorney Harris: In the midst of doing research in connection with all of the speed enforcement that we've been talking about doing. I began researching what our current code looked like and I found that the last time we as a city adopted a model traffic code was in 2010 and it is true that the model traffic code is not updated every year but the last time it was updated was 2020. So, there's quite a lot of changes that have happened. I suggested that if we were going to be moving towards some of the more modern parts of traffic enforcement, which might include the AVIS (automatic vehicle identification systems), that was discussed at the previous meeting. This would be a good first without having to make any adoptions that are outside of what the City of La Junta has already done.

Council Member Stoker: Since we did miss the update in 2020, is there a way where we make sure we stay on top of that for whenever new ones come out or do we just have to hope somebody remembers?

City Attorney Harris: I don't have a story around what happened whether 2020 historically was a difficult year for everyone. My guess is it might have been easily missed. My conversation with Chief Quick is that he does keep abreast of these but until recently wasn't really aware of his ability to influence what we might do here. So, it sounds like that might be a natural change.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: Stoker

SECOND: Rikhof

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-1 (Ochoa absent)

C. Committee/Board Reports

1. Utilities Board (Council Member Velasquez):

- Sanitation
 - Martin will start placing more cardboard collection containers to reduce the amount of cardboard going to the landfill. We'll offset the cost of putting up those containers in a couple of years.
- Water/Wastewater
 - They're in routine maintenance mode at both plants. Also doing hydrant maintenance throughout the city.
 - They are working on providing water to the Brick & Tile Park.
- Electric
 - If people keep hitting poles at the rate they are, the City of La Junta will have a dark sky environment pretty quick. There were three poles that week not to mention the traffic control light at 3rd and Colorado Avenue.
- Water
 - During times of black outs, don't go outside and start watering your lawn. We can't replenish water to the tanks and we will deplete that in short order if everybody goes outside during a blackout in the middle of the day.
 - Level 1 water restrictions begin May15th.

2. Planning Commission (Council Member Rikhof):

- Appreciate that City Manager Hart looked up in the State Statute what the Planning Commission should be doing and I think we're going to be updating our mission and probably the composition of the board as well.
- Martin gave a fantastic presentation and update on efforts with vacant buildings and bringing them up to their full use. One-hundred eleven properties received letters. This is only 2 ½% of the residential properties in La Junta. Also, twenty-two commercial buildings are part of this. It is not compatible with our current building code to be using buildings only for storage. If you've received a letter, go talk to Marilyn and Martin in the Engineering Department.

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3. Library Advisory Board (Council Member Rikhof):

- There's no city money anymore supporting the Summer Reading Program. The Friends of the Library have really taken over on that. If you participated in the book sale last week, that got us about halfway there of the \$3,000 cost to do the Summer Reading Program. They raised \$1,600 approximately.
- There's a question about a half position that is currently on hold in the circulation. We (City Council) had passed it in our budget, when we approved the budget last year, but now, the position is vacant but not being able to be filled and I just wanted to know the background of that because the understanding is that City Council set to put it on hold but I don't remember that conversation.

City Manager Hart: When that position became available, I was contacted by several council members as well as other city employees that it was discussed and agreed upon that if there was a vacancy in the library at any point this year, that it would not be refilled because of potential budget issues.

Council Member Rikhof: I don't remember that conversation happening during the budget conversation.

City Manager Hart: I wasn't here for that at that time. All I had was to rely on the folks that all told me. I had seven different people between elected folks and appointed folks that all told me the same exact thing. Now, again, I do understand that position is there and it may have been budgeted. However, with budgets the way they are, that's what I was told.

Council Member Rikhof: Are there any other positions or departments that are being told not to fill positions if they come open?

City Manager Hart: I was not told of any of the conversations with any other department heads of similar fashion.

Council Member Rikhof: Okay. Does anybody else remember the conversation?

Council Member Stoker: We had the lengthy discussion on the budget as it pertained to the library as far as salaries being way over the income and at the time it was more of a compromise instead of cutting positions. I felt it was an agreement with council that those positions would not be filled if they became open and that kind of a compromise versus cutting the actual positions or firing somebody or cutting the hours. I know cutting hours was also part of the discussion. Kind of trying to put a band-aid on the library budget due to the ninety some percent revenue versus expense.

Mayor Ayala: I do know when that happened that Michael did his due diligence on calling previous people that were in those discussions. So, I know he did that side of it.

Council Member Rikhof: Alright. I just don't remember us deciding that as a council. It may have been part of discussions around the budget but I just want to make sure that we're being transparent when we're doing that. Right now, the library's hours are three hours less than they used to be but that change in schedule isn't really having any cost savings. The numbers of people who are accessing the library are slightly down from last year on checking out books and that sort of thing. So, just putting it out there that if we're not having cost savings, I'm not sure closing the library for three hours is helpful to the community.

Council Member Stoker: I also think that those hour changes have to do with the change of work week schedules. I believe that's when the change to the library hours happened because of the change of work schedule for everyone else.

Council Member Rikhof: I'm not sure it totally makes sense to cut a service just the same way we didn't cut the hours that police and firefighters are available. I think the library is more of a service that the hours they're operating might have made sense the way they were if it's not having cost savings and people are still working the same number of hours. Just something that I think might want to be re-visited.

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Council Member Pantoya: I don't think comparing the police department to the library is comparing apples to apples.

4. Tourism Advisory Board (Mayor Ayala):

- We talked about putting some local brochures in the Amtrak station. We have times throughout the week that they're stuck here for a prolonged period of time. So, we wanted to make sure that we're putting something out there that promotes La Junta possibly using stickers. Also, maybe doing something with our sports tourism with big QR codes that have the website for Visit La Junta at our ballfields, city recreation sports and high school sports.

City Manager Hart: Can we circle back to the library? Who sets those hours? Me? So, no one's ever told me that. That's something I didn't know was within my realm to look at. I will look into that and see if there are better times and days that the library should be open. I'll put a report together and get back to you.

Council Member Stoker: I do know, at that time, Brad got with Heather and those hours are figured because they were the least traffic times. That's why they came up with what they did for the schedule.

City Manager Hart: Which makes complete sense having the most folks there during the highest volume of patrons there. I'll get with Heather and put something together and get back to you.

Mayor Ayala: When you did make that decision on that part-time position, you did get with Heather, correct?

City Manager Hart: Yes, there was a discussion that Heather and I had whenever that position became vacant and again, that's when I made all the phone calls that I did and asked all the folks. Seven of you all indicated that that's what was agreed upon. I can only go off what I'm told. I'll look into this and again see if we do need to shift the hours some, shift when folks are there, or not.

D. City Manager's Comments

- Working on updating some policies. Will be getting final drafts to you on the vehicle policy and the take-home vehicle policy.
- Also working with Erin and Chief Quick on the AVIS and weed/rubbish ordinance.
- MMOF (multi-modal transportation and mitigation options fund) We've had a couple of meetings discussing this. The city received a grant of about \$525,000 to do the design of it. I don't think the city is in a position to take on the project because of the budget but that doesn't mean some other entity can't. We will meet with other entities and see if someone wants to take this on. However, when you think down the road, 5 years, 10 year, 15 years, who's paying to operate that?
- Met with some of the owners of Strike & Play, the new bowling alley. Talked about some of the obstacles that they're facing and some of the ways the city may or may not be able to help. They're in the process of searching for grants but due to where they're at right now, there's not many out there.
- Took a tour of Blue Stem Nursing Center. They are now taking Medicare and Medicaid so they're going to be doing another open house type event. They currently have fifteen or so residents and they can hold up to fifty-four or so.
- Ribbon cutting for the Otero County Detention Center went on last week. It's a very nice facility.
- CASA lunch was last week as well. It's a great program.
- We have a new light pole holder at 3rd & Colorado. It's one of our trucks that's holding the light up. We're in the process of trying to get some bids to get that fixed.
- Will be out of town beginning tomorrow for the rest of the week to attend the Colorado City County Managers Association workshop in Glenwood Springs.

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E. Governing Body's Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Would like to see a resolution for the Conservancy District before the next meeting.
2. Council Member Rikhof:
 - Thanked the people of Ward 3 who came out for the listening meeting last Monday. There were nine folks, with a couple of new ones. Everyone is welcome to come. You don't have to live in Ward 3. The next one will be May 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the Brick & Tile Park.
 - There are a lot of questions about Urban Renewal. I would love for Nancy to possibly come to one of our Ward meetings sometime.
 - There's also a lot of conversation about Strike & Play bowling. We're very excited about it and really happy to hear that it was mentioned several times tonight.
 - Special memory to Sally Hibbs. She passed last week. She was a very special person to this town along with her husband Tom. Their impact to La Junta will always be huge. A celebration is planned May 18th.
 - In addition to bowling, we also have a lot of people who play foosball. Two from La Junta, Tina Harper and Rob Guernsey, won the Hall of Fame International Tournament in Las Vegas last weekend. They were first in doubles.
3. It's about that time where you'll probably be seeing less of me here as I am helping coach the Otero County 4-H shooting sports team. Since it is 4-H season, you'll probably be seeing kids coming around seeking donations. Consider making a donation because a lot of hard work goes into all these projects every year.
4. Mayor Ayala:
 - Condolences to the Hibbs family.
 - We'll be planting three trees for Arbor Day. One at the Primary School, City Park and Tiger Trades Academy. The celebration will take place on May 30th at 11:00 a.m. at Tiger Trades Academy in memory of Billy Remick.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

ATTEST:**CITY OF LA JUNTA**

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 1677

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO REPEALING AND REPLACING CHAPTER 10.04 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADOPTING A NEW CHAPTER 10.04 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE TO ADOPT THE 2024 EDITION OF THE MODEL TRAFFIC CODE

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule authority and Section 31-15-401, C.R.S., for purposes of promoting health, safety, morals and the general welfare of the community, the City Council has the authority to create laws that prevent and suppress activities that could prove harmful to the health, safety and welfare of its citizens, and pass and enforce all necessary police ordinances; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule authority and Section 31-15-702(1)(a)(I), C.R.S., the City is authorized to regulate the use of streets; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1-102(48), C.R.S., the City is defined as a “local authority” having the authority to adopt local police regulations under the constitution and laws of the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-4-110(1)(b), C.R.S., the City Council may adopt by reference all or any part of a model traffic code that embodies the rules of the road and vehicle requirements set forth in Article 4 of Title 42, C.R.S.; and

WHEREAS, the City previously adopted the 2010 edition of the Model Traffic Code promulgated by the Colorado Department of Transportation by reference in its entirety, and

WHEREAS, the Colorado Department of Transportation has promulgated a 2024 edition of the Model Traffic Code which has been reviewed by City staff, which updates the Model Traffic Code to comport with changes in state law; and

WHEREAS, City staff recommends adoption of the 2024 edition of the Model Traffic Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the residents, taxpayers, and visitors of the City to adopt the 2024 edition of the Model Traffic Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO, ORDAINS:

Section 1. Repeal of Chapter 10.04 of the La Junta Municipal Code.

Chapter 10.04 of the La Junta Municipal Code is hereby repealed in its entirety.

Section 2. Adoption of a new Chapter 10.04 of the La Junta Municipal Code.

A new Chapter 10.04 of the La Junta Municipal Code is adopted hereby to read as follows:

TITLE 10 - Vehicles and Traffic

CHAPTER 10.04 - Model Traffic Code

10.04.010 - Adoption.

There is hereby adopted by reference the revised 2024 edition of the *Model Traffic Code for Colorado*, promulgated and published as such by the Colorado Department of Transportation, Traffic Engineering and Safety Branch, 2829 W. Howard Place, Denver, Colorado 80204. The subject matter of the *Model Traffic Code* relates primarily to comprehensive traffic control regulations for the City. The purpose of this Article adopted herein is to provide a system of traffic regulations consistent with state law and generally conforming to similar regulations throughout the state and the nation.

10.04.015 -Copies on File.

Three (3) copies of the *Model Traffic Code* are now filed in the office of the City Clerk and may be inspected during regular business hours.

10.04.025 - Amendments.

The Model Traffic Code is adopted as if set out at length, save and except the following amendments:

- (1) The Model Traffic Code is amended with the following deletions which are declared to be inapplicable to this municipality and therefore expressly deleted:
 - (a) The classification of an offense in any subsection of the Model Traffic Code as a class A or class B traffic infraction is amended to classify such offense as a traffic infraction without reference to class A or class B.
 - (b) The classification of an offense in any subsection of the Model Traffic Code as a petty offense is amended to classify the offense as a traffic infraction.

10.04.030 - Interpretation.

This Chapter shall be so interpreted and construed as to effectuate its general purpose to conform with the State's uniform system for the regulation of vehicles and traffic. Article and section headings of this Chapter and adopted Model Traffic Code

shall not be deemed to govern, limit, modify or in any manner affect the scope, meaning or extent of the provisions of any article or section thereof.

10.04.040 - Application.

This Chapter shall apply to every street, alley, sidewalk area, driveway, park and every other public way, public place or public parking area, either within or outside the corporate limits of the City, the use of which the City has jurisdiction and authority to regulate. The provisions of Sections 1401, 1402, and 1413 of the adopted Model Traffic Code, respectively concerning reckless driving, careless driving, and eluding a police officer, shall apply not only to public places and ways, but also throughout the City.

10.04.050 - Penalties.

Except as provided in Section 1208(9) of the Model Traffic Code, the following penalties, herewith set forth in full, shall apply to this Chapter:

(1) It is unlawful for any person to violate any of the provisions adopted in this Chapter.

(2) Every person convicted of a violation of any provision adopted in this Chapter shall be punished by a fine not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00), or by imprisonment not to exceed one hundred eighty (180) days or by both such fine and imprisonment.

10.04.060. - Validity.

If any part or parts of this Article or the adopted code are for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Article or the adopted code. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Article, the adopted code, and each part thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one (1) part is declared invalid.

10.04.070. - Enforcement.

Law enforcement personnel of the City or any entity with whom the City contracts to provide law enforcement services, the Oter County Sheriff's Office, and the Colorado State Patrol are authorized to implement and enforce the provisions of this Article.

10.04.080. - Disposition of fines.

All fines for violations of this Chapter shall be paid to the City's General Fund.

INTRODUCED, READ BY TITLE, AND PASSED on first reading this 21st day of April, 2025.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED on this 5th day of May, 2025.

CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. R-9-2025

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING NEW ANNEXATIONS BY THE CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS THAT INCREASE ITS WATER SUPPLY GAP

WHEREAS, the City of La Junta, incorporated in 1881, is a home rule municipality in Otero County, Colorado, committed to sustaining its agricultural heritage, supporting its local economy, preserving its water resources, maintaining stream flows for fish and wildlife habitat, and ensuring the well-being of its residents and businesses in the Lower Arkansas Valley; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Junta has experienced the detrimental impacts of permanent dry-up of farmland resulting from water being purchased and permanently removed from the Lower Arkansas Valley by Colorado Front Range municipalities, affecting our local economy, water quality, environment, cultural heritage, and rural way of life; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Junta is concerned about the growth of Colorado Front Range municipalities, including the City of Colorado Springs, that occurs without responsible planning to limit permanent water transfers out of the Lower Arkansas Valley; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Junta understands from testimony provided by Colorado Springs Utilities to the Colorado Springs City Council on January 14, 2025, that the City of Colorado Springs requires an additional 34,000 acre-feet of water per year to support full buildout of land already within its city limits, and that any new annexations will further increase this water supply gap; and

WHEREAS, according to the Colorado Springs Utilities 2017 Integrated Water Resources Plan, much of this additional 34,000 acre-feet of water supply per year is expected to be sourced from agricultural transfers from Lower Arkansas Valley farms, including those in and around La Junta; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Junta questions whether an additional 34,000 acre-feet of water per year can be acquired by the City of Colorado Springs—whether through Colorado West Slope trans-basin imports, enhanced conservation and reuse measures, or from Lower Arkansas Valley farms—without causing significant harm to La Junta and surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Colorado Springs has already purchased and continues to acquire irrigation water rights in the Lower Arkansas Valley, including in Otero County, and has filed water court change case applications and an exchange case application to permanently transfer this water out of the Lower Arkansas Valley for municipal use; and

WHEREAS, the City of La Junta recognizes that the current inventory of homes for sale in Colorado Springs is near a ten-year high, that Colorado Springs has over 70,000 lots not yet developed within its existing city limits, and questions the necessity of increasing its inventory of developable land through annexation, thereby adding to its existing 34,000 acre-feet annual water supply gap.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved as follows:

1. The City Council of the City of La Junta hereby states its opposition to any new annexations of land by the City of Colorado Springs that will increase its existing 34,000 acre-feet annual water supply gap.
2. The City Council of the City of La Junta hereby urges the City of Colorado Springs to carefully consider the consequences of additional water supply demands caused by new annexations on La Junta's economy, water quality, environment, cultural heritage, and rural way of life, as well as the broader Lower Arkansas Valley.

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 1678

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LA JUNTA, COLORADO TO ADOPT RULES CONCERNING USE OF
AUTOMATED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule authority and Section 31-15-401, C.R.S., for purposes of promoting health, safety, morals and the general welfare of the community, the City Council has the authority to create laws that prevent and suppress activities that could prove harmful to the health, safety and welfare of its citizens, and pass and enforce all necessary police ordinances; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its home rule authority and Section 31-15-702(1)(a)(I), C.R.S., the City is authorized to regulate the use of streets; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 42-1-102(48), C.R.S., the City is defined as a "local authority" having the authority to adopt local police regulations under the constitution and laws of the State of Colorado, now therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO, ORDAINS:

Section 1. Chapter 10 of the Municipal Code of the City of La Junta is amended by the addition of a new Chapter 10.05 to read as follows:

Chapter 10.05. – Automated Vehicle Identification System

Sec. 10.05.010– Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following words shall have the following meanings:

Automated Vehicle Identification System includes a system to detect traffic violations imposed by traffic signals or traffic signs, and/or a system used to detect violations of a bus lane or bicycle lane restrictions. The term includes a system whereby:

- (1) A machine is used to automatically detect a violation of a traffic regulation and simultaneously record a photograph of the vehicle, the operator of the vehicle, and the license plate of the vehicle; and

- (2) A notice of violation or civil penalty assessment notice may be issued to the registered owner of the motor vehicle.

Notice of Violation shall mean a notice mailed via first class mail or personally served to a registered owner of a vehicle involved in any traffic violation detected by an automated vehicle identification system advising that the violation has been detected, or a similar notice mailed to the operator of the vehicle identified by a registered owner of said vehicle.

Civil Penalty Assessment Notice shall mean a notice mailed via first class mail or personally served to a registered owner of a vehicle involved in any traffic violation that has previously received a notice of violation.

Residential Neighborhood means any block on which a majority of the improvements along both sides of the street are residential dwellings and the speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less.

Sec.10.05.020. – Notices of Violation in General.

- (a) If the City detects any alleged violation of a county or municipal traffic regulation or traffic violation under state law through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, then the City shall issue, or cause its vendor to issue, to the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation, by first-class mail or personal service, a Notice of Violation.
- (b) The City may only issue a Notice of Violation for violations that occur:
 - (1) Within a school zone;
 - (2) Within a Residential Neighborhood;
 - (3) Within a maintenance, construction, or repair zone designated pursuant to C.R.S. § 42-4-614;
 - (4) Along a street that borders a City park; or
 - (5) Along a street, or portions of a street, which the City designates as an automated vehicle identification system corridor as set forth in Sec. 10.05.030.
- (c) The Notice of Violation must be served:
 - (1) The name and address of the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation;
 - (2) The license plate number of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation;

- (3) The date, time, and location of the alleged violation;
 - (4) The amount of the civil penalty prescribed for the alleged violation;
 - (5) The deadline for payment of the prescribed civil penalty and for disputing the alleged violation; and
 - (6) Information on how the registered owner may either dispute the alleged violation at a hearing or pay the prescribed penalty.
- (d) To protest the Notice of Violation, the registered owner must request, in writing, a hearing to dispute the alleged violation. The deadline to request a hearing to dispute the Notice of Violation must be at least 45 days after the date of the Notice of Violation. At a hearing, the City may not require the registered owner to disclose the identity of the driver of the vehicle who is detected through the use of the automated vehicle identification system, but may require the registered owner to submit evidence that the owner was not the driver at the time of the alleged violation.

Sec. 10.05.021– Speeding.

- (a) *Violations.*
- (1) For a speeding violation of less than ten (10) miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed under a county or City traffic regulation or under state law through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the violation shall be cited as follows:
 - a. For the registered owner’s first offense, a written warning with no penalty of surcharge; and
 - b. For the registered owner’s second or subsequent offense, a Notice of Violation.
 - (2) For a speeding violation of more than ten (10) miles per hour over the reasonable and prudent speed under a county or City traffic regulation or under state law through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the City shall issue the registered owner a Notice of Violation.
- (b) *Civil Penalty.* The maximum civil penalty for a speeding violation under this Section, including any surcharge, is forty dollars (\$40.00), unless the violation is within a school zone, in which case the maximum penalty shall be eighty dollars (\$80.00). However, a

violation that occurs within a maintenance, construction, or repair zone designated pursuant to C.R.S. § 42-4-614 may be subject to a civil penalty of eighty dollars (\$80.00).

- (c) *Signage.* The City shall place an appropriate temporary or permanent sign in conspicuous place not fewer than 300 feet before the area in which the automated vehicle identification system is to be used to notify the public that an automated vehicle identification system is in use immediately ahead.

Sec. 10.05.022– Disobedience to a Traffic Control Signal.

- (a) If the City detects a violation of a municipal traffic regulation or traffic violation under state law for disobedience to a traffic control signal through the use of an automated vehicle identification system, the maximum penalty, including any surcharge, is seventy-five dollars (\$75.00).
- (b) The City shall not use an automated vehicle identification system designed to detect disobedience to a traffic control signal or other violation of a local traffic ordinance unless the City posts a sign notifying the public that an automated vehicle identification system is in use immediately ahead. Such sign shall:
 - (1) Be placed in a conspicuous location not less than 200 feet and not more than 500 feet before the automated vehicle identification system; and
 - (2) Use lettering that is at least four (4) inches high for upper case letters and two and nine-tenths (2 and 9/10) inches high for lower case letters.

Sec. 10.05.030– Automated Vehicle Identification System Corridors.

- (a) Pursuant to C.R.S. § 42-4-110.5(2)(g)(l), the City identifies the following corridors as automated vehicle identification system corridors:
 - (1) Corridor 1: NONE AT THIS TIME.
- (b) Prior to using an automated vehicle identification system on an automated vehicle identification system corridor, the City shall post a permanent sign not fewer than 300 feet before the beginning of such corridor and a permanent sign not fewer than 300 feet before each camera within the corridor or a temporary sign fewer than 300 feet before any mobile camera.

- (c) The City shall illustrate, through data collected within the past five (5) years, incidents of crashes, speeding, reckless driving, or community complaints on the streets designated as an automated vehicle identification system corridor.
- (d) The City will coordinate with the Department of Transportation and Colorado State Patrol in designated corridors.
- (e) The City will publish a report on its website disclosing the number of citations and revenue generated by the automated vehicle identification system corridor.
- (f) The City shall not locate an automated vehicle identification system corridor on any highway that is part of the federal interstate highway system.

Sec. 10.05.040– Civil Penalty Assessment Notices.

- (a) If the City has not received the prescribed civil penalty or written notice requesting a hearing to dispute the alleged violation by the deadline provided in the Notice of Hearing, then the City shall issue, or cause its vendor to issue, a Civil Penalty Assessment Notice to be served on the registered owner either by first-class mail or personal service.
- (b) The Civil Penalty Assessment Notice shall contain:
 - (1) The name and address of the registered owner of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation;
 - (2) The license plate of the motor vehicle involved in the alleged violation;
 - (3) The date, time, and location of the alleged violation;
 - (4) The amount of the civil penalty prescribed for the alleged violation;
 - (5) The deadline for payment of the prescribed civil penalty; and
 - (6) Information on how to pay the prescribed civil penalty.
- (c) If the registered owner fails to pay the full prescribed civil penalty by the deadline stated in the Civil Penalty Assessment Notice, a final order of liability shall be entered against the registered owner of the vehicle. The final order must be personally served to the registered owner. Final orders of liability may be appealed as to matters of law and fact to the Weld County Court.

- (d) The City may initiate or pursue a collection action against the registered owner of a motor vehicle for debt resulting from the final order of liability.
- (e) The City shall not report to the Department of Transportation any conviction or entry of judgment against a defendant for a violation of a municipal traffic regulation or traffic violation under state law if the violation was detected through the use of an automated vehicle identification system.
- (f) If the registered owner fails to pay the full prescribed civil penalty, the City shall not attempt to enforce the penalty by immobilizing the registered vehicle owner's vehicle.

Sec. 10.05.050– Vendors.

- (a) No portion of any fine collected through the use of an automated vehicle identification system may be paid to the manufacturer or vendor of the automated vehicle identification system equipment. The compensation to such vendor by the City shall be based on the value of such equipment and the value of any services provided and may not be based on the number of traffic citations issued or the revenue generated by such equipment or services.

Sec. 10.05.060– Data Retention.

- (a) The City shall:
 - (1) Program the automated vehicle identification system to retain data only when a violation of a county or municipal traffic regulation or traffic violation under state law occurs;
 - (2) Treat all photographs and video collected by the automated vehicle identification system as confidential and exempt from disclosure and inspection pursuant to the "Colorado Open Records Act" part 2 of Article 72, Title 24, C.R.S.;
 - (3) Not use, disclose, sell, or permit access to photographs, video, or personal identifiable data collected by the automated vehicle identification system except to the extent necessary to operate the program, including for purposes of processing violations, for other law enforcement purposes, for transferring data to a new vendor or operating system, or, pursuant to a court order, for use in unrelated legal proceedings; and
 - (4) Destroy any photographs and video of a violation collected by the automated vehicle identification system within three (3)

years after the final disposition of the violation unless the photographs or video are maintained in a separate system for other purposes allowed by law.

INTRODUCED, READ BY TITLE, AND ADOPTED on first reading this 5th day of May, 2025.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED on this _____ day of May, 2025.

CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk