

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

*Subject to approval at
the May 20, 2024
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, May 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: MJ Romano 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
Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2

Also present: Erin Harris, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Connie Shane, La Junta
Cathy Hurd, La Junta
MJ Romano, La Junta
Josh Harris, La Junta
Grant/Carter/Katie Pickering, La Junta
Nancy Bennett, La Junta
Bethany Bender, La Junta
Robert Fowler, La Junta
Gary Cranson, UB Chairman
Pauline Foss, La Junta
Angela Ayala, La Junta
Gary Reed, Rocky Ford
Adrian Hart, SECO News
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 April 15, 2024. The mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 15, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Rikhof

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

AWARD PRESENTATION: Sergeant Anthony Avila nominated Sergeant Kyle Moore for a life saving award for his quick thinking and swift actions in helping save a gentleman's life during a medical call back on February 18, 2022. Sgt. Moore was presented with a plaque and life saving band for his uniform.

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

1. Zeke Ayala, 702 Bellevue: The ART Project is teaming up with SECO News and the City of La Junta Parks and Recreation to bring the Summer Splash pool party on May 31st.

REPORTS

- A. **Crime Stoppers:** Crime Stoppers helps with tips to the police department to help make the community a better place. It's an organization that is not ran by the police department. The council has volunteered to help get this started again. If interested, go to www.crimestoppersusa.org or call 1-800-222-TIPS.

The next neighborhood watch meeting will be May 30th at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Investigator Zgorzynski will be putting on a presentation. Other officers will be available for questions.

- B. **Clean Valley Recycling:** There will be an open house and business after hours on May 17th from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Recycling Center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **City Manager Search.** The job posting went live on Friday. There is a link on the City of La Junta Public Notices Facebook page or you can google it. Maureen has been working on a community survey. There are five questions for community input. A URL and QR code will be made available.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **First Reading/AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF LANDS OF SENIOR VILLAGE SUBDIVISION.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: The Subdivision is located in the area of 8th and 9th Streets of Russell Avenue.

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

- B. **First Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Stoker

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: Just using the word "or" leaves out the requirement of having to publish in the newspaper. There was also discussion of where to find Title 17 and that you need to contact the Engineering Department.

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

- C. **First Reading/AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1573 KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE REQUIREMETN OF A NON-CIGARETTE TOBACCO RETAILER LICENSE FOR CERTAIN RETAILERS WITHIN THE CITY OF LA JUNTA" AND ENACTING A NEW ORDINANCE TO BE KNOWN AND CITED AS "THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE FROM TOBACCO ACT".** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Stoker

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: The State of Colorado raised the minimum age of the sale of tobacco products to 21. This ordinance was written and passed while the age was still 18. The only thing changing is the

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age. Information regarding e-cigarettes and our youth, plus statistics on compliance check and education was shared.

- D. Appointment of a Municipal Judge Substitute.** What do we do when our judge is unavailable? Do we need a substitute? How would we compensate? The Charter permits the City to have a substitute municipal court judge. This would take care of the possibility that Judge Manley is not here everyday either for a vacation or when he decides not to be the City's municipal court judge.

MOTION TO APPOINT A SUBSTITUTE POSITION FOR THE MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE: Rikhof

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: The municipal court judge and his staff administer the court process for municipal tickets. The most common emergency would be when law enforcement requires an additional level of protection by getting a signed warrant when entering a citizen's property because of an abandoned car or rubbish, for example. At this time, the city has only reached out to Mr. Fouracre. He is the only other person who provides the service of municipal judge that's nearby.

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

E. Committee/Board Reports

1. Senior Center Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):
 - Breakfasts and lunches will be suspended through the summer.
 - The Center will not be available for rental because of short staff.
 - A Code of Conduct is going to be worked on to help maintain some type of stability.

E. Interim City Manager Comments (Mayor Ayala received an email from Interim Davidson)

- Will have a full update on the city webpage at the next meeting.
- Signed a support letter for CDOT trying to receive a grant for the Highway 50 corridor along a 140 mile stretch of Southeastern Colorado to build twelve passing lanes.

ADDITIONAL TOPICS DISCUSSED:

- The renting of the Senior Center hasn't been decided yet.
- The tunnel systems in the arroyo area at Brick and Tile park need to be secured.

F. Governing Body Comments

1. Mayor Ayala (from Brock Hinkhouse):
 - It will be about a month before the pump in the fountain is working at City Park.
 - There's a picture on Facebook showing some toilet paper being misused in the bathroom at City Park and Brick and Tile Park. It has happened twelve out of the last fourteen days.
 - The right field fence blew down at Potter Park. It has been temporarily fixed.
2. Council Member Velasquez:
 - SBT Electric has been hired to work on the pumps located at 1st and Bradish Avenue. When they're done, both pumps should be set to automatic with a float during flooding. A canopy is also being looked into to assist in keeping them operable.
3. Council Member Rikhof:
 - Maureen and Lisa had a Ward 3 listening meeting two weeks ago. About fifteen people showed up with a range of topics. Next listening event will be Monday, May 13th at 6:00 p.m. at the Brick and Tile park.
4. Council Member Stoker:
 - Will be doing walks with his dog through his ward (Paws and Politics). The first one will be this Thursday around 6:00 p.m. and will start at the corner of 14th and Smithland Avenue.
 - Will be volunteering as a shooting sports instructor for Otero County 4H this summer.
5. Mayor Ayala:
 - Thanked Angela Ayala, Sandra Brown, Steve Hardy, Dason and the Otero College Wrestling team for their help at the first Community Clean-Up.

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6. Council Member Velasquez:
- Next week is Law Enforcement Week. If you see a cop, thank a cop.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS, UNDER C.R.S. §24-6-402(4)(e):
Stoker

SECOND: Rikhof

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

Council went into Executive Session from 7:00 p.m. until 7:27 p.m.

MOTION THAT THE CITY COUNCIL APPROVE UP TO \$1800.00 TO BE EXPENDED TO SUPPORT SUBSTITUTE JUDGES DURING THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL JUDGE, JUDGE MANLEY, ABSENCE:
Rikhof

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor