

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 19, 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

PROCLAMATION: National Historic Preservation Month (May 2025)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Mayor) (Action)
Regular Meeting May 5, 2025

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

REPORTS

A. Property Management Fund Audit (City Manager) (Update)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Second 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)

NEW BUSINESS

A. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.12.080 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALIGN WITH THE AMENDED ENFORCEMENT TIMELINE FOR JUNK VEHICLE VIOLATIONS (City Attorney) (Action)

B. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8.08 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING WEEDS, RUBBISH, AND LITTER TO CLARIFY DEFINITIONS (City Attorney) (Action)

C. Committee/Board Reports

D. City Manager Comments

E. Governing Body Comments

F. ADJOURN

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – May 5, 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, May 5, 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
Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Paul Velasquez, Ward 1

Also present: Michael Hart, City Manager
Erin Harris, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
Robert Fowler, La Junta
Julie Worley, La Junta
Dottie Burnett, La Junta
Zoey Montoya/Family, La Junta
Adrian Hart, SECO News
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette



Subject to approval at the
May 19, 2025
City Council Meeting


COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

1. **Zoey Montoya:** A La Junta High School Senior, received the Boettcher Foundation Scholarship. This scholarship provides \$20,000 per year for four years along with additional institutional aid allowing recipients to attend any accredited Colorado University without significant financial burden. Zoey plans to attend Colorado State University in Ft. Collins and study in biological sciences and science communications.
2. **Robert Fowler:** Received both the Southwest/Western Region and National Pharmacist in Excellence Patient Care award. Bob has been working in drugstores here in the valley for sixty-two years. He is blessed to do what he loves in our community and loves taking care of people.

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 21, 2025. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE APRIL 21, 2025 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Ramirez

SECOND: Stoker

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – May 5, 2025**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5-minute time limit per person):**

1. There was no citizen participation.

REPORTS

- A. Vacant/Property/Zoning (Martin Montoya).** The ordinance was passed in 2017 but was not enforced until around mid-2023. About that time is when the council approved the new zoning ordinance which ties into the vacant property ordinance. The ordinance includes both residential and commercial buildings. It was basically designed to deal with blighted homes and buildings and then also make sure we're making the most use out of all of our homes and businesses.

Vacant buildings can be defined as significantly below standard utility usage. They can also be sought out by seeing overgrowth or dead vegetation, accumulation of trash, junk or debris, abandoned vehicles, or absence of items that show obvious habitation. Utility accounts with no water or electric usage are usually targeted. If it's determined that a property is vacant, they are required to come in and register with the City of La Junta in the Engineering Department. Technically, you're suppose to register ninety days after the building is vacant or you can come in 30 days after receiving a notice.

When you fill out a registration, you have to give your plan for what you are going to do with the property. The ordinance talks about two different things, either demolition or rehabilitation. There are a few exemptions: if you have an active building permit for the building, if there is fire damage, for about ninety days, then you have to come up with a plan for demolition, and the other is if its for sale with a licensed retailer. Once the Engineering Department has determined a property to be vacant, a vacant property notice is mailed to the owners. If you receive a vacant property notice, you should come into the Engineering Department and talk to us about what your plans are for the property.

For a residential property, you have to either be renovating it or rehabilitating it to fix it up to live in it yourself, to rent it or to sell it. The Engineering Department has automatically been giving six months to begin work on the properties. A meeting is scheduled with them to take pictures of the property. Then we'll schedule a six-month date to go back and make sure improvements are being done then we can look at possible extensions.

For commercial buildings, a lot of commercial buildings we've been finding vacant are due to utility usage, we send them a letter. We try to find out what they're using it for. A lot of people have been using vacant buildings to store personal items which is against the zoning. The zoning doesn't allow for storage in any of the zones in that capacity. These buildings that are in these zones are designated for specific uses. The schedule of uses gives you everything that a building can be used for according to its zone. So, when people go out and buy these commercial buildings and try to use them for their personal use, they're basically violating the zoning rules.

The next item I would like to talk about is companies or businesses using other commercial buildings, besides their own, for storage. This is also not allowed. Warehouses are allowed in our industrial zone, which is out at the Industrial Park. That would have to be approved through the Planning Commission. A warehouse is a building that was designated to be a warehouse. So, we can't buy another building and turn it into a warehouse. The buildings already existing were meant to be storefront properties/commercial business. We issue vacant property notices to these building as well. They're vacant and not being used for their correct zoning.

The fees start out at \$250 for the first year and increase \$250 each additional year to a maximum of \$1,000 each year.

(Discussion continued amongst the board and Director of Engineering Montoya.)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – May 5, 2025

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.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Stoker

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

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.** The City Clerk set this matter for Public Hearing on Monday, June 16, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

- B. A Resolution Opposing New Annexations by the City of Colorado Springs that Increase its Water Supply Gap.** Resolution No. R-9-2025 was presented for council's consideration.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-9-2025: Ochoa

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: This resolution does not address any individual property owners. It is just being resolved that we ask City of Colorado Springs to be thoughtful about their growth and remember that we're on the other end of the pipeline.

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

- 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.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Ramirez

SECOND: Ochoa

DISCUSSION: Council Member Stoker feels that since the vendor can't accept fines that are generated, we need to consider the budget before actually implementing a program and purchasing such equipment. City Attorney Harris reminded the board that the handheld device will be provided at no cost and State Statute does not allow any AVIS systems to be paid for through revenue generated from tickets. Council Member Rikhof has heard a lot of pushback from the community on the conversations that have been had and would like Chief Quick to be here during the second reading to answer any questions.

VOTE: Those voting YES: Ramirez, Ayala, Ochoa, Pantoya

Those voting NO: Stoker, Rikhof

The motion carried 4-2 (Velasquez absent)

D. Committee/Board Reports

1. Utilities Board (Mayor Ayala): Will have a joint work session with City Council on Monday, May 12th at 1:00 p.m.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – May 5, 2025**E. City Manager's Comments**

- Police Department
 - Fire arms training next week.
 - The Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training at the end of the month.
- Purchasing Department
 - We are still open for bids for the structure to cover the new de-watering equipment.
- Electric Department
 - May 1st system wide planned outage at 4:00 a.m.
 - Have some linemen attending Mesa Hotline School in Grand Junction.
- Human Resources
 - Received fifty-seven applications for the pool. We've hired twenty-five life guards and nine cashiers.
- Water Department
 - There's just one thing after another happening while working on 6th Street.
 - The RO Plant experienced a few temporary failures during the May 1st outage.
- Fire Department
 - There was a 160-acre fire in the river bottom behind Bent's Fort.
- May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Valleywide is going to be doing a children's mental health day this Wednesday at City Park from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- Had the opportunity to go to Glenwood Springs and take part in the Colorado City County Manager's Association. I was able to make lots of good contacts and networking.

F. Governing Body's Comments

1. Council Member Stoker:
 - The La Junta Elks Lodge is holding the annual fishing derby Saturday, May 24th at the City Park pond for children ages 5-15. Sign-ups are from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. I would like to thank the Colorado Bank & Trust and Colorado Parks & Wildlife for providing the fish and the prizes.
2. Council Member Ramirez:
 - Water restrictions go into effect May 15 – October 15. There is no watering between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
3. Council Member Rikhof:
 - It's Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank you to Zoey for her innovative ways and she's a fantastic recipient of the Boettcher Scholarship. Thank you to all teachers throughout our town. Otero graduation is this Saturday and starts at 9:00 a.m. this year. There will be 219 people receiving their degrees or certificates.
 - Ward 3 listening tour is next Monday night at 6:00 p.m. at the Brick & Tile Park. (May 12)
4. Mayor Ayala:
 - Thank you to Otero Museum for their wine tasting event.
 - Arbor Day celebration for Billy Remick was held at Tiger Trades Academy.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

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 19th day of May, 2025.

CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 1679

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 10.12.080 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE TO ALIGN WITH THE AMENDED ENFORCEMENT TIMELINE FOR JUNK VEHICLE VIOLATIONS

WHEREAS, the City of La Junta amended Section 10.12.070(a) of the La Junta Municipal Code by Ordinance No. 1660 to reduce the enforcement period for junk vehicle violations from fifteen (15) days to seventy-two (72) hours; and

WHEREAS, Section 10.12.080 still references the prior fifteen (15) day period, which creates a conflict within the municipal code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds it necessary to harmonize the Code and ensure effective enforcement procedures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO:

Section 1. Amendment to Section 10.12.080

Section 10.12.080 of the La Junta Municipal Code is hereby repealed and reenacted to read as follows:

10.12.080 – Issuance of Summons and Complaint.

If, after seventy-two (72) hours from the date of issuance of the notice of violation under Section 10.12.070(a), the cause of such violation has not been removed or corrected, a summons and complaint shall be issued to the person named on the notice of violation unless satisfactory arrangements for an extension of time have been made with the Police Department.

The summons shall contain at least the following information: the vehicle, by make, year, and model.

In the event that the owner of the vehicle or the owner's agent, manager, tenant, resident, lessee, renter, or occupant of the premises on which such vehicle is located cannot be located to serve such notice of violation, then a summons and complaint may be issued against the vehicle itself. Said summons and complaint shall be firmly attached to the vehicle, or parts thereof, in plain sight.

Section 2. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective upon final adoption and publication as provided by law.

INTRODUCED, PASSED ON FIRST READING, AND ORDERED PUBLISHED
this 19th day of May, 2024.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED on second reading this ____ day of June, 2024.

CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 1680

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 8.08 OF THE LA JUNTA MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING WEEDS, RUBBISH, AND LITTER TO CLARIFY DEFINITIONS.

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of La Junta (the “**Council**”) finds that the health, safety, and welfare of the community require clear, enforceable standards for the removal of weeds, rubbish, and litter; and

WHEREAS, the Council desires to modernize the definitions in Chapter 8.08 of the La Junta Municipal Code;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO:

Section 1. The following language shall be inserted alphabetically into Chapter 8.08, section 8.08.010 Definitions:

Weed includes, but is not limited to, poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, or other vegetation which:

1. Exceeds twelve (12) inches in height, except healthy trees, shrubs, or produce in a cultivated garden;
2. Harbors or conceals refuse, trash, rodents, or vermin;
3. Emits unpleasant or noxious odors;
4. Creates a fire or traffic hazard;
5. Is dead or diseased.

Section 3. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon final approval by the Council.

INTRODUCED, READ BY TITLE, AND ADOPTED on first reading this 19th day of May, 2025.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED on second reading on this _____ day of June, 2025.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor