

***Subject to approval at
the June 3, 2024
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, May 20, 2024, 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 1
Paul Velasquez, Ward 1
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2

Also present: Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
Erin Harris, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Todd Davidson, Chief of Police
Jessica Madrid,
Tom Seaba, Director of Water/WW
Connie Shane, La Junta
Cathy Hurd, La Junta
Julie Worley, La Junta
Henry/Jansen/Everett Ediger, La Junta
Dottie Burnett, La Junta
Gary Cranson, UB Chairman
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 May 6, 2024. The mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MAY 6, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Ochoa

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

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

1. There was no citizen participation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. City Manager Search.** There is a link for the community survey on the City website and Facebook public notices page. Thirty-four responses have been received as of this morning. The survey will be open until the end of the month. There can only be one response from each computer. At the end of the survey time, a report will be compiled for Council and the Committee. The posting is live

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and there have been a few applications. Mr. Lovato, on the Search Committee, is stepping aside. He selected Megan Bender who is an Assistant Principal.

- B. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT OF LANDS OF SENIOR VILLAGE SUBDIVISION.** Ordinance No. 1661 was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 1661 ON SECOND READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: This land is not owned by the City. The Planning Commission, along with the Engineering Department, approved the final plat for Senior Village Subdivision and is waiting for Council approval.

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

- C. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 1573 KNOWN AND CITED AS “THE REQUIREMENT 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.”** Ordinance No. 1663 was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 1663 ON SECOND READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Application for a Special Events Permit by Our Lady of Guadalupe/St. Patrick Parish, Delbert DeLeon, Event Manager.** The event is a Community Festival to be held July 12 and 13, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 202 Lincoln Avenue. The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fees have been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE/ST. PATRICK PARISH FOR A COMMUNITY FESTIVAL TO BE HELD JULY 12 AND 13, 2024 FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AT 202 LINCOLN AVENUE: Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

- B. A Resolution Concerning the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and Aurora’s Compliance with the October 2003 Intergovernmental Agreement.** Resolution No. R-7-2024 was presented for the council’s consideration. The City Attorney explained that this resolution is not asking the City of La Junta to take specific action. It is symbolic and is put forth to the city to make sure that the city has talked about these issues. Specifically, a news release (Attached) that was given from the District to try and explain why the District believes its useful for the city to bring a resolution against what has happened with the sale of water to Aurora. Director of Water and Wastewater commented further on this issue and answered questions of the Council.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION NO. R-7-2024: Rikhof

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: Council Member Rikhof believes in the cooperative governance behind the original document and will be supportive of this resolution.

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

- C. A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Real Property – 1212 Adams Avenue.** Resolution No. R-8-2024 was presented for the council's consideration.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION NO. R-8-2024: Rikhof

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: The last few years of taxes and the value of the property were looked at along with checking with Engineering on the size of the lot to determine a value for the starting bid. There was lengthy discussion regarding how the bid process works and surplus property of the city.

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

- D. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1627 "AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING APPLIANCE DISPOSAL OF GOODS AND OTHER FURNITURE ITEMS".** Ordinance No. 1664 was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 1664 ON FIRST READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Ochoa

DISCUSSION: Council Member Rikhof stated that this ordinance should be consistent with the Colorado Revised Statutes.

MOTION TO AMEND THE TITLE OF THE SECTION TO BE "UNLAWFUL TO DISCARD OR ABANDON ICEBOXES OR MOTOR VEHICLES AND SIMILAR ITEMS": Rikhof

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: Gary Cranson was thanked for bringing this to the attention of the council.

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

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: The motion carried 6-0 (Stoker absent)

E. Committee/Board Reports

1. Utility Board (Council Member Velasquez):

- Board agreed unanimously to raise water rates. Have an aging infrastructure below and above the ground.
- Electric employees will not get in a bucket truck if winds are in excess of 35 mph or if there's any rain; but they are on site waiting.
- Calei Armendariz was the winner of the Electric Department and ARPA scholarship.
- The pumps at 1st and Bradish Avenue are currently on manual until more parts are received.
- The cracks in the 1400/1600 block of Bradish and Grace are being repaired.
- Septic trucks dumping directly into manholes or grease traps is illegal.

2. Senior Citizens Center (Council Member Velasquez):

- The Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Sage lunches are still occurring. The monthly breakfasts and covered dish will not occur during the summer months.

E. Interim City Manager Comments

- Water Department started a waterline project at the Brick & Tile Park which is still being funded through a grant.
- The Airport is almost finished with putting in the new navigation aid project. When finished, the FAA will come and recertify the equipment.
- The work on the 3rd Street and Adams bridge over the arroyo started today.
- New trash cans are being issued. They are black and orange to show school colors.
- Summer programs are beginning and the pool is getting ready to kick off.

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- The City of La Junta received a Starburst grant through the Colorado Lottery for the Brick & Tile Park. They will be coming down this Thursday around 8:00 a.m. to make a video about the park.

F. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Shout out to Jerry Martinez with Jerry's Painting who gives out scholarships every year. Eighteen kids were awarded scholarships this year ranging from \$300-\$500.
2. Council Member Rikhof:
 - Along with Lisa, met at the Brick & Tile Park for a Ward 3 Listening Event. It's working well. Will continue to have these events every 2nd Monday at 6:00 p.m.
3. Police Chief Quick:
 - Next Neighborhood Watch meeting will be May 30th at the Senior Center at 6:00 p.m.
4. Council Member Pantoya:
 - Toured the Water Treatment Plant with Jennifer Sobonet, Chancellor of UCCS, Micah Espinoza, Regional Program Manager and Tony Salazar, VP of Outreach and Engagement for Southern Colorado for the CU System.
 - Met with Ty Winter, Colorado State Representative for House District 47. Along with Council Member Ochoa and members of the Chamber of Commerce.
5. Council Member Rikhof:
 - Concerned about the City's website and feels its our best tool for being transparent and we're not living up to the expectation for a municipal website.

Interim Davidson: Stated that we've run into some snags but have been given an extension on the grant. He will look into the details of the grant and share them with the council. Once complete, Triad Computers will be maintaining the website.
6. Mayor Ayala (for Council Member Stoker):
 - The grass at Tippy Martinez looks great.
 - He will be doing his "Paws and Politics" on Thursday evening for Ward 2.
7. Mayor Ayala:
 - Participated in Clean Valley Recycling's Business After Hours.
 - Had an Arbor Day Celebration at Brick & Tile Park. A tree was donated by former Council Member McIntyre.

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:**CITY OF LA JUNTA**

 Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

 Joe Ayala, Mayor