

*Subject to approval at
the June 17, 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 Pro Tem Pantoya on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Mayor Pro Tem Pantoya gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Pantoya 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
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Joe Ayala, Mayor

Also present: Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
Erin Harris, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Aliza Libby, Director of Finance
Chris Archuleta, Electric Superintendent
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
Brock Hinkhouse, Director of Parks/Rec
Jennifer Hinkhouse, Purchasing Director
Tom Seaba, Director of Water/WW
Lexi Bradshaw, Deputy City Clerk
Katie/Grant Pickering, La Junta
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Nancy Harrington, La Junta
Dottie Burnett, La Junta
Gary Reed, La Junta
Everett Ediger, La Junta
Bethany Bender, La Junta
Gary Cranson, UB Chairman
Adrian Hart, SECO News
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem Pantoya asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 20, 2024. The mayor pro tem asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MAY 20, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Stoker

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – June 6, 2024**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5-minute time limit per person):**

1. Bethany Bender, 802 Carson Avenue: Reminded everyone of SECCP's Brew Fest this Friday from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **City Manager Search.** Interim City Manager Davidson shared information from SGR received from the Mayor. The search is closed. Seven applicants were received. Two from Colorado, one from Florida, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Washington D.C. consisting of six males and one female. SGR can leave the position open longer or review the applicants received. The Mayor will stay in touch.

- B. **Second 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 SECOND READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Stoker

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Presentation of the 2023 Audit Report.** Patrick Hancock and Andrew Froese with Hancock, Froese & Company went over the independent auditor's report and the government-wide financial statements. The ratio analysis worksheet shows the key financial ratios for the General Fund, Electric Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund and Sanitation Fund. (Analysis worksheet attached).

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. Senior Citizens Center (Council Member Velasquez):
 - Board meeting will be this Thursday the 6th at 10:00 a.m.

E. Interim City Manager Comments

- SBT Electric is about half way done with the navigation aid project at the airport.
- The waterline installation at the Brick & Tile Park is moving along. They're about ready to install the fire hydrant at 9th and Nevada.
- The 3rd Street bridge by Adams was finished a week earlier than expected on the top layer.
- The library is very busy kicking off their summer activities.
- The health insurance committee decided to change from being self-funded and went with a new benefit package that will benefit both the employee and employer. Open enrollment begins next week.
- Opening day for the pool was last Friday with around 470 people attending.
- Police Department has been very busy.
- The Fire Department responded to a devastating fire last week. It was a double fatal.

F. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Stoker:
 - Shoutout to Adrian with SECO News, Zeke and Stacey Ayala for the A.R.T. Project along with Brock and his team. The Summer Splash Pool Party last Friday was packed and it was a good event. Check out the new paintings.
2. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Attended a Neighborhood Watch presentation at the Senior Center on the 30th. Thanked Shirley Benz for her presentation and a very successful neighborhood watch program in her neighborhood. Also thanked Mitch and Todd from the La Junta Police Department. A special shoutout to Mr. David Polley. He's a concerned citizen who has ideas on different presentations to be done.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – June 6, 2024

3. Council Member Rikhof:
 - Have the City Manager Survey results in.
 - Lisa, Chandra and Maureen attended the CML District 6 meeting in Rocky Ford last week.
 - Lisa and Chandra will be meeting next Monday at the Brick & Tile park for their Ward 3 listening tour at 6:00 p.m.
 - Asked what is next with the audit and how the budget process works (Aliza Libby explained).

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor