

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – June 16, 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, June 16, 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 1
Paul Velasquez, Ward 1
Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3



Subject to approval at the
July 7, 2025
City Council Meeting

Absent: none

Also present: Erin Harris, City Attorney
Cristian Estrada, Deputy City Clerk
Nancy Harrington, La Junta
Bette McFarren, RF Daily Gazette
Julie Worley, La Junta
Kathy Benz, La Junta
Tom Paper, Lewis Bolt & Nut
Brett McIntosh, Lewis Bolt & Nut
Cheryl McIntosh, Lewis Bolt & Nut
Gary Reed, Rocky Ford
Carly Johnson, La Junta
Cayle Hines, La Junta
Sharon Jones, La Junta
John Smith, La Junta
Dottie Burnett, La Junta
Tom Seaba, Waste Water/Water Dept.
Nancy Bennett, La Junta



PUBLIC HEARING: Application for a New Tavern Liquor License by New Venture, LLC, d/b/a Strike & Play, 2420 San Juan Avenue

- A. Cayle Hines shared with the board about the changes going on with the old bowling alley, now called Strike & Play. He mentioned that they are in the process of taking over the building. They are also in the process of updating/remodeling/modernization of the premises. The pool hall is currently open; new dartboards are in; there is a new jukebox in the bar as well as a completely new remodel of the bar and new menu. The bowling piece of the business is completely open again, with all twelve (12) lanes open and fully operational. Hours of operation: closed on Mondays; Tuesday through Thursday: 6:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.; Friday & Saturday: 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.; Sundays: 2:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.
- B. Cristian Estrada, Deputy City Clerk reported that all paperwork was in order; the premises is not near any other liquor establishments or school districts; they have also properly followed the

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procedure for City Council consideration. The City Clerk recommends that the council approve the liquor license.

- C. The Council shared excitement to visit the new establishment and seeing all the good that has been done.
- D. Melanie Scofield, City Clerk, gave thanks to Cayle Hines for demonstrating a new liquor training that is more thorough than the TIPs training. The City Clerk's office will recommend this new training from now on (called the Alcohol Beverage Training, or "ABT").

MOTION TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION FOR A NEW TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE BY NEW VENTURE, LLC D/B/A STRIKE & PLAY, 2420 SAN JUAN AVENUE: Stoker

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mayor Ayala asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of June 2, 2025. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 2, 2025 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

INFORMATION**A. Eagle Scout Project**

1. Michael Hart – Introduced John Smith, Eagle Scout; has recently completed his project; I was invited to the celebration for the completion of the project; I was out of town at that time, but had visited with John Smith and his mother and congratulated him on his efforts.
2. John Smith – Thanked Michael Hart for introducing him to the Council; thanked the communities of La Junta, Rocky Ford, and Cheraw as they were very supportive of his Eagle Scout project. Had received 800 lbs. of donated items; the project was collecting canned food, necessities for people in need and donating it to the Rocky Ford Food Share program. In the last couple months, has organized a few food drives around La Junta, Cheraw, and placing a collection bin at the Rocky Ford High School. This took up a majority of his time last year. Had the help of a few businesses such as the La Junta radio station for allowing me to promote the food drive; also had help from D.O.C. Barber Shop, the laundromat, Twisted Steel Gym, and the Frontier Diner. My future plans are going to college for Mechanical Engineering.

B. Police Department

1. Todd Quick, Chief of Police spoke on the AVIS (Automated Vehicle Identification System) project. Explained that this is not a replacement for officers; trying to figure out a force multiplier (having more officers). Wanting compliance with the laws of the state and city. The City of La Junta and Police Department have not made a decision on the system. This would help with the number of officers. The Police Department is currently fully staffed, which allows for two officers on each shift, unless of course they are out due to vacation or paternity/maternity leave. Clarified that the Police Department has not signed any contracts with any vendors. There are several vendors out there, and will work with Michael Hart before making any concrete decisions. We would also work with the Judge. We are conducting a lot of research. Emphasized that this is not to make money. This is to correct the behaviors.
2. Mayor Ayala – AVIS would also count license plate readers and red-light cameras as part of the AVIS system, correct?
3. Chief Quick – It can; if it is a wanted vehicle, it would immediately notify us. A few weeks ago, we were investigating a drug dealer in town, who was in Kansas. His vehicle was picked up by those

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area's AVIS system. They ended up losing their trace due to the fact that when they entered Colorado, there is no AVIS tracking in the area.

4. Council Member Stoker – Doesn't think that there are no particular issues with the ordinance itself; previously Chief Quick explained that, with the previous system, they looked into the process of obtaining the machine, utilization and how tickets and fines are paid, as well as what the expectation of how it would affect the Police Department budget. There is a cost with any system we go with.

5. Chief Quick – If we go with the first company, there is a contract, and to end the contract, both parties would need at least 30 days' notice. The reason for that is so the Police Department can gather any and all tickets within those 30 days before the system is removed.

Chief Quick continued with explanations and breakdowns of the AVIS system costs. There is a fee with AVIS – dependent on the number of tickets written, essentially the service would cost \$300 per hour. There are no tiered levels of cost; there would need to be a line item in the P.D. budget. The Council also reassured the City of La Junta by mentioning even with the passing of the ordinance, it does not give the green light for choosing this particular system. Council Member Stoker explained that P.D. needs to look into various options with the budget in mind. Perhaps looking into hiring human police officers depending on the cost. The cost of hiring an actual police officer is \$27 per hour (around \$60,000 per year). Investigating accidents, especially fatal accidents, tend to be very costly. Adding that together with the cost of AVIS may cost more. Council Member Stoker reiterated that this ordinance is not to approve lidar, but to adopt rules concerning the use of AVIS systems. Vehicles would have to be going at least ten (10) mph over the speed limit before the AVIS detects speeding. The City would need approval from CDOT to place signs announcing the use of said system on the state highways; we would not need special permission within the city or school areas.

Chief Quick also made an announcement regarding the Citizen's Academy, it will start August 19th and the last day will be on September 30th. It will be announced on Facebook. Come check it out to see what officers actually do. Anybody out there with interest in this and would like to learn more about the on goings of police officers, please attend the academy. The Reserve Academy is scheduled three months out; with the Reserve Academy, citizens are trained like a police officer. We currently have three (3) members in the Reserve Academy. We would like to have at least ten (10) participants.

C. Water Update

1. Tom Seaba, Dir. Waste Water/Water – described what PFAS are (specifically called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which are substances that are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been widely used since the 1940s due to their ability to repel water, grease, and stains. It is virtually in everything we use on a daily basis. These are also known as “forever chemicals” as they are exceedingly hard to treat. There are some ways to defeat them so they no longer exist as that specific chemical, but it is expensive. Consuming these chemicals lead to various health risks. There are “unregulated contaminants” in much of the water of the world. A lot of which does not concern us here in La Junta. About two (2) years ago, La Junta along with 10,000 other water systems and communities joined a class action lawsuit called the Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF) product liability litigation (which involves lawsuits against manufacturers of firefighting foam due to environmental and health damage caused by PFAS chemicals it contains). There was a couple of starts and stops, but with some help with Meghan Wiker, were able to complete the application, submitted, and approved to participate in the lawsuit. Most chemicals are tested in parts per million or parts for billion, however, PFAS are tested in parts per trillion. That is how small the PFAS are. After treatment at our RO plant, we have no detectable amounts of these chemicals except for the following three: PFBS, PFHXS, and PFOS. Where are we getting PFAS introduced into our water systems from? As you all know, the Fountain River, which goes through Colorado Springs, Fountain, Fort Carson, and Pueblo, picks up everything that goes through those areas or discharged into those bodies of water and soil; it confluences with the Arkansas River just east of Pueblo. All of our wells are part of the Arkansas River Alluvium, which means they are recharged from Arkansas River water. That pathway is how PFAS have reached down to us.

2. The good news – back in April, the AFFF product liability litigation finally started handing out awards. La Junta, with all of our qualifying wells, has recently received some significant awards.

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There are four (4) manufacturers of PFAS that are part of this litigation: 3M, DuPont, Tyko, and BASF. Tyko and BASF are currently on a pause and will focus more this fall as they collect more information. DuPont awarded the City of La Junta a one-time award of \$417,114. From 3M, it will pay out over the course of 10 years the total amount of \$4,171,145. We have received our first payment of \$834,229.01. This is great news for Waste Water and Water departments. We are splitting the award between both of those enterprise funds, since both departments will need to find specific ways in the future to deal with this issue through various forms of treatment. We also have submitted applications for various emergent contaminant grants, which are so far untouched (and very generous) pots of money. We should soon get notice of a \$300,000 design and engineering grant to help develop what our treatment processes would look like. On November 5th, once our plan is completed and presented, we will be applying for a \$30,000,000 grant for the remainder of the design and construction. This would be awards of \$10,000,000 over the course of three (3) years. There is no guarantee that we would receive this grant, but it is good news regardless.

3. Maureen Rikhof – Thanked Tom Seaba and Meghan Wiker for their persistence in completion of all applications for the grants; this will make conversations about the waste water & water budget a lot easier in the future.

4. Jeremiah Stoker – Agreed with Council Member Rikhof regarding the conversations regarding the budget in the future; especially after hearing the audit results of those funds. This is good news.

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

1. Julie Worley, 2417 San Juan Avenue: Spoke about the SECCP Brew Fest June 6th cancellation due to weather conditions; the rescheduled date for the SECCP Brew Fest is Saturday, July 26, 2025 from 6:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. at the Santa Fe Plaza Park. Ms. Worley also informed the council and public regarding petitions for a citizen initiative that may be on the November 2025 ballot. It is not a vote for or against the initiative; this petition is to be able to add this measure to the ballot. We are needing between 350 to 400 signatures. The initiative is as follows:

“SHOULD THE 4½% LODGING TAX THAT IS PRESENTLY COLLECTED BY THE CITY OF LA JUNTA WHEN SOMEONE LODGES IN A HOTEL, MOTEL, OR OTHER LOCAL LODGING PROPERTY, AND WHICH IS PRESENTLY USED TO PROMOTE TOURISM, CONTINUE TO BE COLLECTED BY THE CITY OF LA JUNTA FROM THE TIME OF PASSAGE OF THIS INITIATIVE BUT BE REALLOCATED AND USED FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF REPAIRING STREET POTHoles OR REPAIRING OR REPLACING CURBS AND GUTTERS OR PERFORMING GENERAL AND VARIED STREET IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE.”

2. Gary Reed, 18975 State Highway 202 Rocky Ford: Commended John Smith and his Eagle Scout project; those projects involve a lot of time and it is usually something a whole family will help with as well as leadership from Boy Scouts; also spoke regarding the AVIS system. Has done research through the state website; understands the AVIS system itself. Is still unsure with the exception for using the lidar speed camera. It takes a bit of time (about one month or longer) for people to receive their ticket in the mail after being caught by these cameras. Is sure that each of these companies are different; the presenter from Louisiana mentioned that their system had a return of 80%. The AVIS system, if it is working on its own, is good; however, is not in agreement with the use of the speed cameras alongside with the AVIS system.

COMMUNITY EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Joe Ayala – Children’s Theater June 18th through June 21st at 7:00 P.M. for the play titled “Between the Lines”; tickets are \$10 and the show is being held at the La Junta High School Auditorium.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

1. Daniel Aragon, Industrial Park & Golf Course – Celebrating 10 years of employment with the City of La Junta. Congratulations to Daniel for his years of service here at the City of La Junta.

REPORTS

- A. Property Management Fund

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- a. Michael Hart – Audit going smoothly so far; is working on this together with Brock Hinkhouse; backing up, when first starting the position, wasn't sure what Property Management was and the way it worked. Was not given straightforward answers, which is what prompted the audit. There are multiple properties that the city owns. One question that comes to mind is "Are there properties that the city is not using?". For the most part, these properties are essentially where the city stores junk (at least three (3) properties that fall under this description). There will be a few thorough site tours happening in the future; the city has quite a few Conex storage trailers that are filled with construction remnants and another filled with office furniture. If there are any material(s) that the city is able to utilize, then it will be inventoried. If it is not useful to the city and is still in decent shape, perhaps visiting the idea of a surplus sale to reduce the number of items being stored. There will be a full report at the second City Council meeting in July.
- i. Council Member Maureen Rikhof inquired about the raises that were awarded to the Property Management employees, and what information has come out regarding those raises. Those were the reasons for requesting the audit.
 - 1. Michael Hart responded that a breakdown is possible, most of that was mentioned predates him starting his position. Not saying that is not a concern to him; will need to do more research and questioning as to how and why the raises were authorized.

B. Lewis Bolt & Nut

- a. Tom Paper & Brett/Cheryl McIntosh gave a presentation detailing the beginnings of the Lewis Bolt & Nut company, the 1998 expansion, as well as what they have done for the community of La Junta, especially in the term of offering employment. A short introduction to the company is included below:

"Lewis Bolt & Nut Company (Lewis) of Minnesota, originally named Indian Bolt & Nut, was started in 1921 by the Northern Pacific Railroad to make bolts for the repair of railroad cars. In 1927 the company was sold to its steel supplier, Paper Calmenson & Company, owned by Joe, Meyer and Dave Paper. The company, renamed Lewis Bolt & Nut Company after the brothers' father, Lewis Paper, was run by Paper Calmenson until 1937 when Meyer Paper and his brothers parted ways and Meyer, with the help of his sister Hattie Harris, took control of Lewis. Today Meyer's son, Mark Paper, and Mark's son, Tom Paper, are the sole owners of the company." From lewisbolt.com/our-history.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**A. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE SANITATION FUND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025**

MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE SANITATION FUND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2025: Stoker

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

B. 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

MOTION TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO TO ADOPT RULES CONCERNING USE OF AUTOMATED VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEMS: Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION:

- 1. Council Member Stoker – Has no particular issues with the ordinance; would like to ensure that, whatever method is sought after that the budget is kept in mind. It will take about 7½

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- paid citations to cover the cost of one hour of ticket processing. Would like to make sure that there is budget room; hopefully we can work something out to where we increase the police force/presence as well as have the use of AVIS to aid the Police Department. Keeping in mind that this will take time; if someone gets a speeding ticket today, it will not correct the behavior until a month or so later. Remaining within the maintainable budget is key. Would rather not make supplemental appropriations in the future.
2. Council Member Ramirez – Ok with the ordinance; Todd Quick has been doing his due diligence on this subject by looking at other options so the board can make the correct decision that works for La Junta.
 3. Council Member Rikhof – Mentioned that the 'big brother' nature of the surveillance is a bit problematic; appreciated Chief Quick's real-life example; as what Council Members Stoker and Ramirez have mentioned previously, passing this ordinance is not green lighting the AVIS system, but rather putting in an option.

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

NEW BUSINESS**A. Liquor Licenses**

1. **Application for a Special Events Permit by Our Lady of Guadalupe/St. Patrick Parish, Angela Ayala, Event Manager. The event is their Annual Bazaar to be held July 11 and July 12, 2025 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 City Clerk recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENTS PERMIT BY OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE/ST. PATRICK PARISH, FOR THEIR ANNUAL BAZAAR TO BE HELD JULY 11 AND 12, 2025 FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M.: Rikhof

SECOND: Ochoa

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. Senior Citizens Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):
 - From the Senior Center, all of transit will be free during the summer months (June 2025-August 2025). In the previous years, there has been questions regarding where the funding for the free transit came from. This is a result of SB 22-180 to save gas and reduce ozone. A typical family spends about \$0.16 per \$1.00 that they have on transportation. Call the Senior Center to request a ride – they will not take you door-to-door, but rather curb-to-curb.
 - The Senior Center is holding strong at 511 members.
 - Senior Swim has returned to the La Junta Wipe Out.
2. Utilities Board (Council Member Velasquez)
 - The Electric Department has started tree trimming; please do not place your own tree trimmings out in the alley, as they are not picking up the public's tree trimmings. If you do that, you will receive a visit from the Code Officer.
 - Pole reinforcements are the focus to extend the life of the utility poles.
 - Sent seven (7) line crew members to the Mesa Hotline School in Grand Junction for training; this maintains that safety and uniform procedure throughout the state.
 - Regarding the "Big Budget" amendment that was done a few months ago for the SF6 breaker replacement at the Industrial Park, it was successful. It will help keep the amazing companies out in the Industrial Park working.

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- There was a meeting with Eaton, who is going to be conducting a project. Completion of the project is projected for 2026, rather than 2027.
- The Transfer Station on 5th Street has been intermittently closed due to the fact of the trucks having hydraulic/electronic issues. There were no trucks to remove the bins out at the Transfer Station. If the Transfer Station closes during the week, you will see updates on the La Junta Public Notices Facebook. The only time they would not post updates to the Facebook page is during the weekend.
 - Mayor Ayala: There are a few reasons why the Transfer Station or the Tree Dump would be closed during operational hours. The first reason for the Transfer Station being closed is due to the fact that there is only one employee that works out there. If he has vacation or sick time, we try to back fill that with staff, but that is not always the case. Also, the roll-offs start off empty at the beginning of the day, but then it fills up. Once full, we smash down the refuse. After it has been smashed down three (3) times and fills up again, then it will be at capacity and the Transfer Station will close. Both the Transfer Station and Tree Dump are closed on days with high winds. If this happens during the business week, then updates will be posted on Facebook. If this happens during the weekend, there will not be updates posted.

3. Library Board (Council Member Rikhof)

- Library Board met today; most conversations regarding the Summer Reading Program. Wanting to clarify something mentioned at the previous meeting: there is about \$4,500 in expenses – that is prizes, crafts, snacks, and entertainers. The Friends of the Library used to only pay for the entertainment, and now they've taken over the entire expense of \$4,500. Even though they've done book sales for a while now and have accumulated some money, it is not a sustainable option for Friends of the Library to continue taking over the Summer Reading Program. It is an excellent program for school-aged students to prevent any summer loss of academic skills. Plus, it keeps them involved over the summer. The library is one of the only cool (temperature-wise) places for people to go; it is an important place for our community, especially on days that surpass 100 degrees.
 - Mayor Ayala: Would like the Library Board to have meetings at the Municipal Building and streamed to the public, as well.

4. Planning Commission (Council Member Rikhof)

- There will be no public meeting this month from the Planning Commission, as there is not anything to be discussed on the agenda. The Planning Commission is meeting in July, instead. The subject of that meeting would be the annual amendment review.

C. City Manager's Comments

- The water leak that happened this morning on 14th street on the south side of City Park has been taken care of. All repairs have been made and services should be restored.
- The paving over on Conley Road (by Walmart) has been completed. The crews will now head over to 2nd street to complete the pavement at the new detention center, as well as on 5th street by the library.
- On Wednesday, the Electric Dept. will be conducting a Pole Top and Bucket training. Reminding the public that they will be out doing tree trimming; please do not place your own tree trimmings in the alley as the Code Officer will pay you a visit.
- The Electric Dept. is still reinforcing the transmission poles to get more life out of them.
- The Fire Department will be doing a grain bin rescue class.
- On June 28th, AMR (American Medical Rescue) will be having their Annual Safety Jam at the City Park. Lots of cool activities for the community are planned.
- On June 24th, bids were opened to redo the tennis courts at City Park. Anticipates to begin the project sooner rather than later.

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- The budget process begins next month (July). Will be meeting with Aliza and all supervisors and departments; will hopefully get back with something for council to look at in August.
- There are 329 participants in the library's Summer Reading Program this year, and there is still time to join and participate. Were able to get 16 teenage volunteers to assist with that during the summer, with one paid intern that is working 20 hours a week.
- The Police Department will be conducting the Citizen's Academy starting August 19th and going through September 30th. Chief Quick mentioned that they can host up to 25 participants. In the past, they have not gotten that many participants during one time. Putting the challenge out to the community to participate. It is a great way to find out what the P.D. does.
- Youth softball and baseball are in full "swing". Encouraged the community to participate and support these youth in their learning endeavor.
- No fares charged for City Transit from June through August. Call the Senior Center to schedule a pickup with City Transit.
- The planning phase for the airport runway resurfacing project is still going on; it is looking to be completed sometime in the summer/fall of 2026.
- It is getting hot – please be weather aware. Take care of yourselves if you're susceptible to heat injuries. Encourages lots of water and shade if outside.
- Brock Hinkhouse mentioned that the first "Dive-In" at the pool was filled to capacity and was a great success; they are holding another "Dive-In" at the Wipe Out pool on July 2nd and the movie being shown is "The Sandlot".

D. Governing Body's Comments**1. Mayor Ayala**

- Thanked Michael Hart and his father for assisting with the clean up at Little Potter Park this past weekend.
- Maureen Rikhof brought up a point regarding Citizen's Participation and the agenda preparation procedure at the last council meeting. Spoke with Erin Harris regarding the procedure. Contacted CML (Colorado Municipal League). The CML representative responded that talking with our City Clerk and getting the procedure from them is key, and then City Council can visit the procedure and is allowed to vote to keep them as they are or to change the procedure. This will be placed on the next agenda. Until we adopt the new procedure, the current procedure will still stand.
- The mayor sets the agenda, unless there is a "rogue" mayor who doesn't want to place items on the agenda, then two council members are needed to override the mayor.
- Will place the code of ethics on the next meeting's agenda, as well.

2. Council Member Rikhof

- For the work session that was proposed, believes that the agenda process, as well as code of ethics and communication between council members, council members to city manager and city employees, all should be discussed at a work session. One question is that the code of ethics we were sent by Erin Harris was for council members that are paid (specifically Denver). Would like to visit a different code of ethics of communities where the council members are not paid, such as our council. The reason why their code of ethics is 27 pages is because the council members in Denver are paid \$110,000 annually.
- Following up on the audit; felt like there was a very thorough presentation, but not a lot of chance to follow up with the auditors. Did go and meet with the auditors personally and asked follow up questions. The sewer is not covering their operating expenses with their revenue. One thing that was not understood is why the wastewater fees are amongst the highest in the state. Problems won't be solved with raising the fees. There will be some assistance with the money awarded from the class action lawsuits to the water and waste water departments, and that is quite a gift.
- Shout out to Aliza Libby, Finance Director, with what she's done with the investment strategy and the returns that the investment strategy is yielding. Appreciates the work that Aliza does with Colorado Trust.

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- Note about 2A: heard a lot of people saying that they've skimmed the audit and mentioned that La Junta receives so much more in tax revenue. Have mentioned that La Junta is replenishing our reserves. Please see the success of 2A, as it is moving La Junta in the right direction.
 - Surprised to see the city leasing vehicles for city-use; it seems like a multi-year long term commitment and it is a significant policy shift if the city decides to lease rather than purchase outright. There has been a lot of scrutiny on city vehicles already. There are four (4) leased vehicles that were not reported on the audit. Would like to be kept in the loop regarding the leased vehicles in the future.
 - Shout out to Tom Seaba for all of his work at the water plant; Tom is a La Junta graduate and grew up in the area. Kids from La Junta can have really cool futures and careers. Then comes in Lewis Bolt & Nut offering plenty of opportunities to the community as well. Thank you to Tom and the Paper family for choosing La Junta as their home base.
3. Council Member Ramirez
- The only thing to mention regarding the agenda process/code of ethics/communication and having a work session with those topics is that we have more time in a work session to have discussions. Wants to be able to be thorough before making any decisions. Given three days to review the agenda and paperwork does not seem like enough time.
 - Mayor Ayala: The agenda preparation is actually being put together one day faster now; there is a lot that doesn't make the agenda due to the fact of not having paperwork in order. Does not see how to make the process faster without missing even more things for the agenda. Does compiling the agenda faster sound feasible to the city attorney?
 - Erin Harris: More communication is better. It sounds like having work sessions would be a good idea; having the council get together and have conversations about the agenda items may make the process faster. As Council Member Ochoa was mentioning, it could take a while to "digest" the information being presented by me. It could be done slightly differently to gain more input. The concern is the city attorney is not a council member and would like to give as much variable information as possible. Input from council about what specific research is needed or requested is also ideal. What kind of ethics treatment does the City of La Junta want to do that they already haven't got on board?

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Cristian Estrada, Deputy City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor