

***Subject to approval at
the July 1, 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, June 17, 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
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: Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
Erin Harris, City Attorney
Lexi Bradshaw, Deputy City Clerk
Christina Tozzie, Chamber of Commerce
Katie/Grant/Carter Pickering, La Junta
Julie Worley, La Junta
Toby Tyler, La Junta
Roberta Calkins-Mendoza, La Junta
Douglas Golding, La Junta
Josh Harris, La Junta
Bob Borne, 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 June 3, 2024. The mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JUNE 3, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Rikhof

SECOND: Stoker

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

LA JUNTA CHILDREN'S THEATRE: Noah Nunez Rebel invited everyone to the Children's Theatre presentation of "The Lightning Thief" The Percy Jackson Musical. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00 and can be purchased at the door or from any of the actors of the show.

HANDHELD RADIO INFORMATION: Toby Tyler invited everyone to a demonstration being given by the Arkansas Valley Ham Radio Club out of Lamar. It will be this weekend at the gazebo by the pond from noon to 8:00 p.m. It is open to the public.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – June 17, 2024

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Christina Tozzie, Chamber President, thanked the council for their service and dedication and shared a list of upcoming events.

- Next monthly zoom BLT is June 27th.
- Wet/Dry Parade will be July 4th. No balloons.
- July 25th, Annual in-person Business Lunch Talk.
- August 6th at the Otero College Student Center from 11:00 to 1:00 (lunch is included), topics are small business marketing and introduction to Canva.
- August 29th, monthly zoom BLT.
- Early Settler's Day will be held September 7th.

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

1. Douglas Golding, 1316 Lincoln Avenue: Hit a large pothole and was wondering if there is a schedule for fixing potholes. (Interim City Manager Davidson will be getting with the City Engineer to come up with a temporary plan to start addressing this issue.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **City Manager Search.** The search was kept open an extra week. One more candidate was received. A female local resident of La Junta. Larry Gilly, with SGR, wants to start the interviewing process next week. There are a total of eight candidates for the position.

NEW BUSINESS**A. Committee/Board Reports**

1. There were no committee/board reports.

E. Interim City Manager Comments

- On June 29th, AMR (American Medical Response) will be hosting the AMR Safety Jam at the City Park beginning at 10:00 a.m. There will be safety events, give aways, a helicopter landing, food, vendors, etc. AMR is located out of Rocky Ford.
- Hats off to all the first responders, other responders and other agencies who assisted with the tragedies over the past couple of weeks.
- Kudos to all the city departments after the storm on Friday with cleaning up after the winds and rain.
- Swimming pool has good attendance.
- It's too late to put on a fireworks show; however, the decision was made to allow fireworks to be sold and used in the community safely.
- In the process of working with the state on a campaign called "Bucket It." You place your used fireworks in the bucket and fill with water to ensure they're out.
- Any fireworks that go in the air and explodes or make noise is illegal in the State of Colorado.

F. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Rikhof:

- Last Ward 3 meeting went well. There were a couple of people and a couple of phone calls. The next meeting will be July 8th at 6:00 p.m. at the Brick & Tile gazebo (to stay away from the mosquitos.)

Interim City Manager Davidson: The temperature, wind and a lot of other factors have to take place in order for the mosquito spraying to be efficient. If not, money is being wasted.

2. Mayor Ayala:

- With all the moisture, the weeds are getting really bad. We need to take care of that at our homes and stay on top of it.
- The fountain at the City Park has been repaired and is now working.
- The cemetery crews have been working hard to try and get the cemetery in the best shape as possible without a sprinkler system.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – June 17, 2024

3. Council Member Pantoya:
 - La Junta Rotary went out last Saturday and helped pick up branches and clean up stones at the cemetery.
4. Mayor Ayala:
 - The audit went well. Since this week is CML, the audit work session will be rescheduled to allow everyone to attend.

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor