

*Subject to approval at
the August 5, 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, July 15, 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
Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2

Also present: Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
Erin Harris, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Todd Quick, Chief of Police
CaSandra Thomas, La Junta
Elaine McIntyre, La Junta
Nancy, Bennett, La Junta
Brittany/Jason Baylor, La Junta
Norma Haugen, La Junta
Everett Ediger, La Junta
Susan Dietrich, La Junta
Gary Cranson, UB Chairman
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 July 1, 2024. The mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JULY 1, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Ramirez

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

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

1. There was no citizen participation.

REPORTS

A. Citizen Academy. Chief Quick invited council members and the public who have not attended a Citizen's Academy to attend the upcoming one beginning Tuesday, August 20th at 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. It will be at the training facility at the Industrial Park. They will meet two times per week and it will last for six weeks.

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- B. Plays in the Park.** Bethany Taullie, director of Plays in the Park, which is a K-12 theatre program in La Junta, invited everyone to this summer's production. The Little Mermaid Jr. is a two-week camp. Production dates are July 26th, 27th and 28th at 7:00 p.m. at the La Junta Live Well Park. General admission is \$10.00. Gianna Ayala, who plays Ariel, sang for those in attendance.
- C. Downtown Walking Tour.** Mayor Ayala asked those who participated to look at three different areas: 1) safety, 2) how would visitors view the downtown, and 3) would a prospective business come to our downtown. Following are some highlights:
- Traffic does not stop for pedestrians
 - Curbs outside the City building, the north side pavement are broken up
 - Lots of debris built up from the businesses downtown
 - Low hanging branches on several trees over sidewalks
 - Some awnings are dilapidated
 - The fence going on to the sidewalk at the Plaza Building
 - Lots of lighting was out
 - Homeless in our downtown area
- City Attorney Harris: Created a summary of five cities throughout Colorado who have various anti-camping ordinances. Some are very bare bones and others are very detailed. There was lengthy discussion amongst the council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. City Manager Search.** There are two finalists for the City Manager. They will get to meet with the public, the search committee and the council.

- B. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 1242 (THE ZONING ORDINANCE) OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA AS CONCERNS TO VACATING OF AN ALLEYWAY.** 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: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS**A. Liquor Licenses**

- 1. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is the Hall of Fame to be held October 5, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fee has been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO INSPIRATION FIELD FOR THE HALL OF FAME TO BE HELD OCTOBER 5, 2024 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AT 612 ADAMS AVENUE: Pantoya

SECOND: Rikhof

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

- 2. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is their 13th Annual Monster Bash Dance and Costume Party to be held October 26, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fee has been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

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MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO INSPIRATION FIELD FOR THEIR 13TH ANNUAL MONSTER BASH DANCE AND COSTUME PARTY TO BE HELD OCTOBER 26, 2024 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AT 612 ADAMS AVENUE: Pantoya

SECOND: Rikhof

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

3. **Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is their 3rd Annual Sip N' Shop Craft Show to be held November 2, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fee has been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO INSPIRATION FIELD FOR THEIR 3RD ANNUAL SIP N' SHOP CRAFT SHOW TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 2, 2024 FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AT 612 ADAMS AVENUE: Pantoya

SECOND: Rikhof

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

- B. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE GENERAL FUND, INTERNAL SERVICE FUND, ELECTRIC FUND, WATER FUND, WASTE WATER FUND, AND SANITATION FUND FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2024.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Velasquez

SECOND: Stoker

DISCUSSION: Council Member Rikhof expressed concern for the large mid-year supplemental and that the council is not doing their due diligence during the budget process.

VOTE: Those voting YES: Ramirez, Velasquez, Stoker, Ayala, Pantoya

Those voting NO: Rikhof

The motion carried 5-1 (Ochoa absent)

C. Committee/Board Reports

1. Utility Board (Council Member Velasquez):

- The standing water at Hwy 109 and Vine in North La Junta is river water seeping up to ground level.
- Deadline for the lead and copper survey is October 15th.
- The board will be sitting back and being patient with the Ark Valley Conduit given the tremendous price increase.
- Electric department conducted bucket and pole rescue training with all the ARPA members.
- The electric crew worked on an energized pole at 10th and Carson Avenue so that 1,200 people would not be affected by an outage.
- Have already reached a 21-megawatt demand on the electrical system.
- Trash trucks should be arriving this week.
- Commercial businesses are encouraged to lock their dumpsters if homeless are digging through them. It's not up to the sanitation department to go back and clean it up.
- One pump on 1st Street is now on full auto.

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F. Interim City Manager Comments

- The second pump on 1st Street is now on the float device. The shed cover has also been built.
- Finishing the last leg of the intersection at 2nd Street and Carson Avenue. Will pour the pan tomorrow and do the asphalt next week.
- The bridge has been removed at the Brick and Tile Park for safety concerns. We're in a good replacement program right now. Will be able to get funding. Went back to the engineers to re-design the bridge.
- Received another thirty-day extension for the website. The target date is August 31st.
- Some upgraded changes have been made to the utility website.
- On July 30, 2024, there will be an open public engagement with the department supervisors at the La Junta Senior Center from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Cemetery stats:
 - Four employees
 - 44 acres
 - Over 14,000 headstones
 - 300+ trees
 - Water lines at least eighty years old
 - No sprinkler system
 - About 2/5 of the water lines have been replaced

G. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Clean Valley Recycling requested a rate increase from \$7.00 to \$9.00 effective September 1, 2024.

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

ATTEST:**CITY OF LA JUNTA**

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor