

*Subject to approval at
the August 21, 2023
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 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: MJ Romano gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council Member Vela led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following Council Members were present:

Paul Velasquez, Ward 1
Elaine McIntyre, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Edward Vela, Ward 3
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: Damon Ramirez, Ward 1
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2

Also present:	Rick Klein, City Manager	Fred Boetcher, La Junta
	Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager	Jay/Cathy Bollacker, La Junta
	Phil Malouff, Jr., City Attorney	Matthew/Janae McIntyre, Swink
	Melanie Scofield, City Clerk	CaSandra Thomas, La Junta
	Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.	Kristine Rios, La Junta
	Todd Quick, Police Chief	Virgil Lindsay, La Junta
	Ben Mason, La Junta	Stan Lindsay, Swink
	Cameron/Tracey Salzbrenner, La Junta	MJ Romano, La Junta
	Sydney Williams, La Junta	Kimberly Gallegos, La Junta
	Matt Perea, La Junta	Zeke/Stacey Ayala, La Junta
	DC/Laura DiPrince, La Junta	Aaron Pearson, La Junta
	Matt Lowe, La Junta	Claudia Conley, La Junta
	Carl Anderson, La Junta	Frank McKenzie, UB Chairman
	Gary Addington, La Junta	Norma Haugen, La Junta
	Robert May, La Junta	Tina Haugen, La Junta
	Andy Flemer, AVRMC	Cathy Herd, La Junta
	Lawrence/Joani Ramirez, La Junta	Connie Shane, La Junta
	Douglas/Janet Golding, La Junta	Pat Engebrecht, La Junta
	Audrey Berg, La Junta	Gary Armitage, La Junta
	Curt/Kimi Kelley, La Junta	Angela Ayala, La Junta
	Gil Esquibel, La Junta	Nancy Bennett, La Junta
	Liz Roberts, La Junta	Gary Cranson, UB Vice-Chairman
	Colleen Oquist, La Junta	Julie Worley, La Junta
	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 17, 2023. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE JULY 17, 2023 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Vela

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ramirez and Ochoa absent)

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Council Member Elaine McIntyre: Thanked the community of La Junta and the constituents of Ward 2 for voting for her and allowing her to serve this great community. Through prayer and discussions with family, she has decided to resign from City Council for personal reasons effective immediately. She also thanked the city employees, Mayor Ayala and fellow Council Members for the chance to work along side of them and wishes future success and nothing but the best moving forward.

City Attorney Malouff: I find that Ms. McIntyre's resignation was certainly both a surprise and an unpleasant surprise. Elaine has been a terrific council person for years and years. She always attended, not only the minimum number of meetings that she needed to attend, but also meetings that she's not required to attend. She hit the Utility Board, Planning Commission, she attended just every meeting she could. She's been a superb council person and as important as all of her attendance and meetings has been, she's been the City of La Junta's representative to the Hospital Board. That is a critical relationship that is vital to the survival of this community and Elaine has actively participated in that and done a yeoman's job. We're not going to be the better for her having left but on a personal level and a professional level, Thank you Elaine.

City Manager Klein: Same for me Elaine. I've watched you go through all the CML classes. You're always supported. I've watched your kids grow up. We'll never forget what you've done for the systems here in your due diligence. Thank you.

Mayor Ayala: I just want to say, to be up here, to volunteer your time for even two years is a lot. For everything Elaine's done for all the years she's put into it. We thank her and this was a shock. I just found out when I got here tonight. It wasn't something we had planned for anyone.

POLICE AT THE PARK, Police Chief Todd Quick: Police at the Park will be this Friday starting at 6:00 p.m. Would like to invite everybody in the public to come out. We'll have drawings for bicycles for the kids, prizes from local businesses for the adults, hamburgers, hot dogs, different games, entertainment, and the cheerleaders of mountain dance. We really appreciate anybody that wants to come out.

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

1. CaSandra Thomas, 324 Bradish Avenue: I know that the City is exploring necessary budget cuts. I am confident you will do what you need to do in order to keep our town solvent. I hope the voters pass the 1% sales tax increase as the cost of everything goes up for individuals, so does the cost for all equipment and supplies for the City. It's one penny for every dollar to the average household. That's about \$100.00 a year which is actually a small price to pay to keep our town able to provide all the services necessary. I know every town to be attractive to its residents must have certain things. Parks and ball fields, they don't make any money but we need them for enjoyment and exercise for our citizens. Libraries, they don't make any money but we need them for enjoyment and education. Senior Centers, they don't make any money, but they are a source of enjoyment and a sense of community to the older residents. The shooting range, I don't know how it's finances but it's necessary for the law enforcement training. The swimming pool, it doesn't make much money but it's a source of enjoyment for the community. Bus transportation services, it doesn't make any money but it's important to quite a few of our residents. The golf course is not completely self sufficient but I believe it comes closer than any of the aforementioned attractions. I'll tell you that we have had more golfers from other towns become members over the last couple of years because we take care of our course and we have a great weekly senior golf league that has attracted new members. I can tell you that every year, there are tournaments that bring out of towners that stay in the local hotels and eat the local restaurants and shop at the local stores and fuel up at the local stations. There's also the matter of high school and college golf games. Many students gain golf scholarships because of this golf course. Not to mention the visiting high schools and colleges that bring out of town golfers, coaches and family members. Eat, sleep, shop and fuel in our town because of their visit. Before any consideration is given for cuts to the golf course budget, I hope you will all consider that it can take a split second to lose a green or damage a fairway due to lack of water or lack of maintenance and it can take millions of dollars to get it back in good shape. With our presence here today, I hope that you can see how important the golf course is. For my own situation, my husband would not have accepted a position in La Junta so many years ago. If you didn't have a great golf course. If the golf course loses its appeal to us, just speaking for my family,

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my husbands retired and I can do my job from anywhere. We would probably move to Lamar. They have a great golf course and a similar economic situation to La Junta but we want to stay in La Junta. We like it here. We just need the amenities of this town to remain. Thank you, council, for your service to the community and for allowing me to speak.

2. Aaron Pearson, 1105 W. 12th Street: I've been coaching in the community for the last nine years. I coached seven years at La Junta and the last two currently at Swink. I've had boys go on with golf scholarships. We've got the college here. We have a great communication amongst each other. It's educational. It's important to have a golf course. There are things kids can do besides go to Sonic and go to Wal-Mart. I got a lot of kids. Last Friday, I had sixteen high school teams and sixty-five kids participate. Just in my one day. That doesn't include the multiple days technically that they go out and practice. It's important. I got my teaching card here. It's not the greatest but it is a very solid 9-hole golf course. I don't see closing the golf course and the other many things is going to help the economic area right here. Please consider not doing it. I agree the 1% is important. I hope that it does get passed. Many times, people were out there playing. They had that golf course gets used. Bill does a great job of promoting youth. Sunday evening at 7:00, I had a family of four trying to teach and they're asking me how do we get out there? What does it cost? What do we need to do? We need to promote this place. People don't understand what the game of golf is and what they need to do to get out there. There are people who are interested more than we realize. My family, myself, my son plays, his friends play. If we don't have that, I'd be like CaSandra, I'm going to be looking for somewhere else to go and I don't want to. I want to raise my family here. I was raised here. Please consider. I know there's things you have to do but just consider how important that place is. It can make you money. It can make the city money if you provide an area for people to play and promote it.
3. Coleen Oquist, 1716 Carson Avenue: I would like to thank the council. You guys get a lot of flak and it's a thankless job at sometimes but I'm thanking you right now from the bottom of my heart because it is a tough job and there's a lot of us citizens that truly appreciate everything you do for this town. Go golf course. All three of our sons and starting at age three to golf. I don't golf but on my 10th wedding anniversary, I got a golf cart lol. The reason I'm here tonight representing the tarantula committee and we're going to have our second tarantula fest September 29th and 30th this year. I would like to ask for some street closures for the event on Saturday the 30th. We would like to request that 3rd Street be closes from San Juan Avenue to Colorado Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue from 4th Street to 2nd Street. I had the honor last night to meet with the director of the tarantula lab from Iowa State University and she has students on the ground again this year doing some really fantastic things and she told us they finally got some little 3D cameras that they can put down in the burrows and they're looking at the babies on the walls and the female tarantulas. That's pretty exciting. Dallas is supposed to get to come back for the fest this year. So, we're looking forward to that. Friday we are going to have the presentation by Dr. Paula Cushing. She's going to give a learn presentation at the college from 1:00 to 3:00. I believe the Arachnid Society will be there with specimens again. Then down at the Fox Theatre at 3:30 they're going to show Tarantula. On Saturday there will be booths set up with vendors. We had a real good turnout. We'll have a parade at 10:00 that the La Junta Chamber of Commerce is helping us put on. We'll have cars there again. The Butterfly Pavilion is coming this year. The education pavilion is going to be in Thyme Square this year right downtown. People shouldn't have any problem finding it. Then we will be doing tours again in the evening. Hopefully, we'll have four buses full this year. We look forward to it and we invite everybody to come and we appreciate everything again that the city does to help us make this a cool event and we just hope It's bigger and better than even last year and we'll just keep growing.
4. Gary Addington, 24 Chaparral Circle: I'm going to get back to the golf course a little bit. From the college view, the Cit of La Junta golf course plays a critical role in Otero's Athletic department. It's golf program and our student athletes. It provides them with a valuable opportunity to compete at the collegiate level playing in golf matches and tournaments against students from literally around the world. We have seventy international students this year on campus and I think my coach is here and he's got at least five internationals. So, there's significance. Our golf program provides sixteen scholarships per year to talented student athletes from different parts of the world. These scholarships not only attract promising athletes to our college but also contribute to the diversity and cultural enrichment of our campus or student body and our community. By offering such

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opportunities, the college program helps in recruiting top-tier athletes enhancing the reputation and competitiveness of our institution. The college's involvement in hosting two 2-day tournaments per year has a positive impact on our small rural community. These tournaments bring in participants and coaches and families and spectators from various locations as CaSandra said. Boosting tourism, generating revenue for our local businesses. The influx of visitors over these few days stimulates economic activity, creating possible job opportunities, and further developing the city's infrastructure. Additionally, hosting these tournaments help raise the community and college profile as a La Junta sports destination. Potentially attracting future tournaments and fostering positive publicity. We are resilient as an institution and we will find a way to keep our program growing even if the course has to close. But it would be extremely unfortunate as it could create unnecessary obstacles for an institution moving forward as it provides the space for college events, competitions, and gatherings, strengthening the bond between the college, the city, and its residents. Losing the golf course would result in the loss of the important communal space and the opportunities it brings for both the college and the surrounding community. As I look out, I see former athletes, coaches, I see some history. Whatever we can do to help, I know the college is there to help in any way that we can to help this be sustainable.

5. Douglas Golding, 1316 Lincoln Avenue: It's been adequately shown that the golf course is necessary to the future of this city. I've been here before and I want to reiterate that we need to concentrate more and put our efforts more on making the course more viable than it is. I gave ideas to people on council, ways to generate income. I volunteered my services. I don't know what's happening. It's been a number of months. Some months back, there was a representative with economic development down here. It was discovered that the city is not collecting lodging tax on Air BnB's, which there are a number of them in this town. I don't know if anything was followed through but the city has to go through Air BnB's to make that happen. The people running the Air BnB's can't do it. I don't know if that was followed through. I'm willing to serve on a committee. People need to get involved. There's lots of ideas, ways to generate income. I presented a number of them.
6. DC DiPrince, 1314 Cimarron Avenue: I'm the girls high school coach. To piggy back off of what Gary talked about, the history of golf that's in this room. I'm on the other end of it. I get to bring people into it and because of the course and because of the situation, Aaron an d* nine years ago jumped through all the hoops that we could and couldn't ever think of to bring golf back to La Junta and the golf course can't step up here tonight and teach it and speak about all the lessons, lifelong lessons that are going on out there when our young students decide that they want to give this sport a try. We all learned our life lessons growing up. Our role models were across the table from us. They were watching us all the time. Today, things are so much different. It's all on your phone now. Every answer you need for school. Everything. It's a 15-second TikTok, this or that. When you go out on the golf course, why can't it happen like on the videos. There comes the life lesson. You hit it out in the weeds, you happen to get one straight, good for you. But its those lessons every day, the determination, the goal setting. There's a cost with the golf course. There's always going to be a cost with the golf course but its actually bringing about the introduction to then people that are going to pick up this sport and have picked up this sport and are going to take it on with them for life. So, this course is an absolutely great place for learner golfers that want to get started and the way we have these programs set up and the agreements that we have had with Bill and working together and getting kids on the golf course and putting a golf club in their hands has led to so very much. I want to bend your ear here for just a second and let you know that that is what's going on with that cost that's out there. Thank you for having that. Thank you for putting up with that for this long and I'd hate to see anything change with that. I know some change might need to happen and in La Junta we would do whatever we need to. What is going on out there is great and thank you for that.
7. Kimberly Gallegos, 1421 Bradish Avenue: I am speaking as a concerned citizen in regards to the 1% sales tax. Just to give everyone listening a little bit of information. I've lived in the Arkansas Valley all 44 years of my life. The first 10 years I lived in Rocky Ford. The next 16 years I lived in Las Animas and the last 18 years I've been here in La Junta. I love La Junta. I love our city. My parents laid down the importance of literacy for me and my brothers throughout our childhood. My mom had the privilege to stay at home with us while my dad worked as a US Postal mail carrier and he traveled back and forth from Rocky Ford to Las Animas. We visited our library on a regular basis

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and the staff there becomes like your family. I have wonderful memories of visiting public and school libraries in Rocky Ford, Las Animas and La Junta. I always wanted my family to have the same experience. So, we lay down those same foundations for our kids. Beyond that, they would have a desire to make a difference in their community. Really be a part of the village. I've worked in libraries for 18 years. Five of them were at the Las Animas Bent County Library and 13 now at Woodruff Memorial Library. During that time, I've seen libraries evolve from a place where you just go to get books to something that looks more like the central hub of your community. As a citizen of La Junta, I would like to express my concerns for our community regarding the 1% sales tax increase. One of the things that I've heard as a citizen and employee of the library is that people don't know where that sales tax money goes or what departments of the City of La Junta are even involved in that. I've made a mission as a citizen and as an employee to get that education out to our community. We don't really need to think hard about what it would be like for the library doors to not open because, in case everybody forgot, it just happened a few years ago when the pandemic hit. We went through that pandemic together. The library doors closed for thirty days straight and then we went to limited access. During that time, I was amongst the rest of our community cut off from the Woodruff Memorial Library resources and services like having access to reading materials, copying, faxing, scan to email, being with co-workers, our patrons, and especially the children. This might not seem like anything to anybody else but I didn't hold a baby for a year. I do story time and that was hard. The mental part of it. A library is often the first place a person will visit when coming to La Junta because of its many resources and friendly faces. Maybe if you haven't got your internet hook up, you're looking for a place that has Wi-Fi or you need to print out papers of some sort, we're the place to go because of its many resources. A good majority of the city departments operate from local sales tax. Because I'm an employee of the City of La Junta, I am very aware of the current financial crises that every single person in this city needs to know about because we keep hearing that people don't know. I didn't know that this was connected. This is the time for our community to come together and make a difference for the future of the City of La Junta. Help make our community a place where people want to come. If we don't have a library, we don't have a golf course, we don't have a senior center and we don't have a pool. Who will come work in our hospitals? Who will come and teach our children? All the other professions that are out there. Who will want to come to this place? I am pleading with the citizens of La Junta to not shut the doors on La Junta. We need our library, senior center, pool and golf course. Vote 2A4LJ. Thank you.

8. Matthew McIntyre, Swink resident: I've been a member of the community for a long time. I serve on the Inspiration Field Golf Board. I think many of you know the building that Inspiration Field has brought to this community and everyone knows that we just had our 38th Annual Tournament there. A few years back, La Junta Trading took that over to keep that tournament going but I think without the golf course, we don't have an outlet for a non-profit to be able to raise money in this town for their events or even to have a dream of a building like that. As well as just this weekend with Cheraw, had a golf tournament. It's not just about La Junta. It's about the whole entire Valley. From Swink School fundraising to raising some money in Cheraw. We have to have an outlet for people to come and raise money. I've been playing golf tournaments since, I can't even remember. But most of the golf tournaments I played, it was my way of being able to give back to this community and I don't want to see that lost. I think we need to really work hard to utilize the things we have in this community and we're going to have to really work hard.
9. Lawrence Ramirez, 3 Van Buren Circle: I work at Wallace Oil as a mechanic. I've been there for 37 years and all my spare time, I work for the City at our golf course. I am passionate about our golf course and our community. I met Rick, Bill, I know Paul. I've coached kids with Paul and I've done golf with you Joe. I got to golf with the Mayor. I wasn't a golfer. I used to play softball, baseball and basketball. At the time our kids were young. That's where my time was spent. But all of a sudden, I decided, wow, this looks like fun. There was no fun in it. Out in the hot sun, hitting balls out in the rough. Why doesn't someone mow this? Trying to hit a golf ball. But guess what? For that moment, I forgot all my problems except for hitting that ball and getting it into that hole. That's what golf does for you. It relaxes you. It gives you an out. You thought there was all these problems you had but you've got to forget them for a minute and get your mind back. You feel like your ready to do something again. I'm ready to tackle that care I can't get fixed. As the superintendent of the golf course, I feel passionate about that place. To see it go, to have to say, Bill, I guess I'm leaving town. Just because I have to find a place to get my mind straight. That's what golf has done. When COVID hit here, I don't know how many of you know this, but when COVID came, other places had

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to close entities. We were a rural area. We had people from Pueblo, Trinidad, anywhere from the surroundings, calling La Junta Colorado to come and golf on our course. They have to walk, wear a mask, whatever you have to do to keep safe. That was their outlet. That was their way of dealing with what was up. It was an ugly time. But we got to take some of that put it in the City of la Junta and say come back when things are good. When I'm working on a vehicle at the station, they could be from Mississippi, they could be from Arkansas, they could be wherever. They ask, do you have a gold course? I tell them yeah, it's right over, matter-a-fact, you'll see the sign that says Bents Old Fort. Now they've got an outlet to go to Bents Old Fort, they go to the golf course. A lot of people that come from out-of-town, they just compliment what a nice 9-hole course, we'll be back. Some of the older folks even say, maybe we'll come live here. We have places for them to stay. I asked a guy in Fowler one time, why do you have a tournament and you don't have it for more than one day? He said, because we don't have nowhere to put the people. We've got motels. We got places to stay. We can offer more to people. But to say, let's close any of these places, I'd rather see us figure ways to enrich and find ways to make them work better. Sunday, yesterday, I always thought, this is my golf course. You walk out there and there's nobody else early in the morning. I'm playing, Aaron's playing. It's quite a country club. Half hour later, here comes a bunch of other people. Pretty soon, in the afternoon, I happen to play, there was probably 25-30 younger people. I'm out there mowing or doing other things. The golfing community is looking for a place to do something besides going to Sonic. The swimming pool can only be open for so much. I would like to see us try and keep everything. I think everyone here supports the 1%. That's why we're here.

10. Kimmy Kelley, 1301 Himebaugh: The library, I hope it can be opened again on Saturdays because when my grandkids come up here, we used to go to the library on Saturdays. We can't do that anymore and that's frustrating. I'm a teacher and that's important to me. I'd like to ask you, what can we do to help this community pass that 1% sales tax because things like the library closing on Saturday and all the programs that they had to offer. It's kind of insane to me that those things aren't offered anymore. So, whatever we can do, please let me know. I'll have my students write a speech or something to support that and the other thing is I'm a golfer too. I just had surgery last Thursday and I waited until last Thursday, so I could golf all summer. This course has always had a membership fee all the years that we've been here. My husband works at the hospital and whenever we've got traveling doctors or other people in town who are staying at the hospital, so many of them are golfers. We'll take them out there. That golf course supports so many people and they get lodging in the town. They go to the golf course. I love our course. I believe there are some people who would come to La Junta just because we have a golf course. They would retire here. I met a guy at the golf course last week and he was recently retired and what's the first thing he does? He wanted to golf at our golf course and he joined the seniors. Please keep it open. Let us know what we can do to pass that.
11. Pat Engebrecht, 701 Bellevue Avenue: A lot of good has been said and I appreciate everything. I heard about this last week, well somethings got to be done. And I know we will. It'll be my 50th year as a member out there. I spent my life here and it's about golf. It's a life lesson like Mr. DiPrince said. All I wanted to do was sum up just real quick. Whatever it is to take to get this to keep going as we are, the brain power we have here and all the history and brain power have there, we can figure it out. Due diligence. Give it your best thoughts and reach out for help. I'm available. We'll find a way to pay for it but like I said, this is my life. This is what I do and many other out here.
12. Angela Ayala, 1514 San Juan Avenue: I'm here to invite the city council to 92.1 pounds of cash promotion that's happening with ReMax Advantage of the Murphy Group on Friday from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. When you're out at 3:00, just stay out and go from one event to the other. The radio will be doing a live remote. You can show up and take your guesses at how much money is in the jar. They will be drawing the name of whoever is closest and if you're close, you get to take home all the money. Live drawings, food, prizes, come out and see your local real estate agents.
13. Gil Esquibel, 306 Maple Avenue: I got one concern that's going to change the whole subject. Safety. I talked with the police chief here a few months back. Third Street coming off Highway 50. It's like a racetrack. People coming off the highway at a high rate of speed. The speed limit signs are there until you get to 3rd and Carson. If we get some sort of speed limit down there, a sign or something. Slow that down. This has been going on a couple of years now. I live right there and I hear every night, cars coming up that road at a high rate of speed.

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14. City Attorney Malouff: Mr. Mayor, a couple of really important things. Maybe Mr. Klein could speak to the mathematics of what percentage of a 1% sales tax from out of city citizens.
15. City Manager Klein: 67% comes from outside of our community. Every argument you guys are making is true. The tournaments. They fill our hotels. They do bring in revenue for the restaurants. The lodging tax, like an AirBnB, that would go to the tourism fund. That's not general fund. General fund is everything that's tax supported. Nothing in the general fund supports itself. There's departments that get no revenue. Administrative, Accounting. But you need them. We have a city rural fire department. In 2015, we went out and said we need a 1% but it didn't pass. At that time, I said I can keep this town going for five more years with the fund balance we have. But we didn't get it in 2015 or last year. In 2015 we ran it as a public safety tax. Thank God that everybody voted at the same time to raise the rural tax. All the equipment that you see out there, except for the ladder truck, is Rural Fire. That is not the City of la Junta. We don't do that. We have an agreement and they pay 40% of all salaries. They came to the table to save that system. We gotta get this 1%. That'll bring \$1.4 and that'll just keep us to where we were. That doesn't bring in anything else but hopefully, with Sutherlands coming in, we capture that sales tax leakage because what we did, we showed that during the pandemic, we came up 10% in sales tax. If we shop the Valley, shop la Junta, we can make it work.

REPORTS

- A. **Andy Flemer – Hospital Update.** Enjoyed hearing all the comments about the community and the 1% sales tax. Those are all things that are important when recruiting for the hospital. AVRMC serves four counties. Has a maximum 25 bed in-patient. The ER has 15 bays. OB handles 4-5 mothers. The staff is 300 strong. We have an amazing team. I ask that people give the hospital a chance. Have experience and new working on bringing other surgeons. Have had staff leadership change and believe in hiring from within.
- B. **Sutherlands – Business Update.** Matt Lowe and Ben Mason are new residents of La Junta. They have been working on lots of clean up getting ready for racks and products. There will be five new hires starting on Monday. Sutherlands is a private family-owned company whose biggest focus is on capturing lost revenue and bringing those tax dollar back here. They will be in the Tarantula Parage and have a booth at Early Settlers Day. Operating hours of the store will be Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Sunday from either 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 or 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. They will let the community dictate that. They plan on opening mid to late December.
- C. **Cynthia Nieb – Economic Development Update.** La Junta RISE is a combination of the Colorado Main Street Program as well as the Colorado Creative Industries programs. Creativity has the potential to heal the cultural creative as well as the person who views or experiences the artistic product. We have a lot of cultural creatives; I'm estimating about 500 people so far. Attended the National Main Street Conference, which is a required meeting for all Colorado Main Streets. They provided a scholarship to cover all costs. We must keep pushing to continue activating our downtown in whatever way we can. La Junta RISE held a public meeting for over 40 cultural creatives in May at Klein Makerspace to determine how best to help locals. That was followed up by a meeting led by Libby Barbie who came to town to discuss funding. Almost 25 cultural creatives joined together to hear about the Art & Society Grant. La Junta RISE updated their strategic plan. The main push for 2024 will be to find ways to amp up creativity and innovation and to activate more space in the downtown. The La Junta Urban Renewal Authority distributed three partial grants for blight and safety. The URA is currently working with a consultant to develop a strategic plan to pinpoint what exactly the Board is because there's a lot of opportunities and range in the State Statute. The Certified Local Government preserves and documents historic resources and educates the public about its findings. We won the People's Choice Award for creating a downtown historic survey which led to being invited to host a Colorado Preservation Inc., on the Road Conference that will be held on August 25th and 26th.

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NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Street Closure Request, Zeke Ayala, The ART Project.** Zeke Ayala asked for permission to close 3rd Street between Colorado Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue on September 9, 2023 during the ART Project.

MOTION TO GRANT REQUEST OF STREET CLOSURE ON 3RD STREET BETWEEN COLORADO AVENUE AND SANTA FE AVENUE ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 DURING THE ART PROJECT: Pantoya

SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ramirez and Ochoa absent)

- B. **Set for Hearing/Application for a Transfer of Ownership of a Retail Liquor Store License by Daljit Nagra, d/b/a Big D's Liquor Mart, 26730 W US Hwy 50.** This matter has been set for a Public Hearing on September 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

MOTION TO SET FOR HEARING THE APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF A RETAIL LIQUOR STORE LICENSE BY DALJIT NAGRA, D/B/A BIG D'S LIQUOR MART, 26730 W US HWY 50 ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 AT 6:00 P.M.: Pantoya

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ramirez and Ochoa absent)

- C. **Application for a Special Event Permit by Colorado Preservation, Inc., Nicole Bopp, Event Manager. The event is a Historic Preservation Conference Dinner to be held August 25, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 422 Colorado 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 COLORADO PRESERVATION, INC. FOR A HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE DINNER TO BE HELD AUGUST 25, 2023 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AT 422 COLORADO AVENUE: Vela

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ramirez and Ochoa absent)

- D. **A Resolution Concerning the Petition for Annexation Filed by Peggy Valerio, Patricia Membreno, Diana Alcaraz, Irene Leyba and Ross Leyba – Tract 1.** Resolution No. R-8-2023 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

WHEREAS, a Petition for Annexation has been filed requesting an annexation of portions of the following described land:

A tract of land for annexation purposes lying in the NE/4SE/4 of Section 4, Township 24 South, Range 55 West of the 6th P.M., being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the N/2SE/4 of said Section 4 as monumented by a 3/4" rebar and 3-1/4" aluminum cap marked PLS 12103 and considering the North line of said N/2SE/4, (as monumented by a 2" brass cap in concrete marked LS 12103 at its West end bearing S.88°16'08"W., with all other bearings contained herein being relative thereto; thence S.88°16'08"W., along the North line of said N/2SE/4, a distance of 602.00 feet; thence S.1°45'36"E., 74.85 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence continuing S.1°45'36"E., 153.65 feet; thence N.89°40'48"W., 188.00 feet; thence N.6°10'30"W., 78.00 feet;

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thence S.89°11'13"E., 24.17 feet; thence N.2°29'20"E., 70.42 feet; thence N.88°16'08"E., 164.52 feet to the True Point of Beginning. County of Otero, State of Colorado. The Tract contains 27,018 Square Feet.

said Petition having been filed by PEGGY VALERIO, PATRICIA MEMBRENO, DIANA ALCARAZ, IRENE LEYBA and ROSS LEYBA; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Petition for Annexation of land, filed by PEGGY VALERIO, PATRICIA MEMBRENO, DIANA ALCARAZ, IRENE LEYBA and ROSS LEYBA, is hereby received and that annexation proceedings are hereby authorized to be undertaken.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-8-2023: Vela

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ramirez and Ochoa absent)

- E. **A Resolution Concerning the Petition for Annexation Filed by Peggy Valerio, Patricia Membreno, Diana Alcaraz, Irene Leyba and Ross Leyba – Tract 2.** Resolution No. R-9-2023 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

WHEREAS, a Petition for Annexation has been filed requesting an annexation of portions of the following described land:

A tract of land for annexation purposes lying in the NE/4SE/4 of Section 4, Township 24 South, Range 55 West of the 6th P.M., being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the N/2SE/4 of said Section 4 as monumented by a 3/4" rebar and 3-1/4" aluminum cap marked PLS 12103 and considering the North line of said N/2SE/4, (as monumented by a 2" brass cap in concrete marked LS 12103 at its West end bearing S.88°16'08"W., with all other bearings contained herein being relative thereto; thence S.88°16'08"W., along the North line of said N/2SE/4, a distance of 602.00 feet; thence S.1°45'36"E., 228.50 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence S.88°16'08"W., 188.00 feet; thence S.1°45'36"E., 118.00 feet; thence S.88°16'08"W., 40.00 feet; thence S.1°16'08"E., 70.00 feet; thence N.88°16'08"E., 70.00 feet; thence S.1°31'52"E., 12.62 feet; thence S.89°14'20"W., 277.39 feet; thence N.1°45'36"W., 232.21 feet; thence N.88°16'18"E., 240.34 feet; thence N.0°21'14"E., 48.23 feet; thence S.6°10'30"E., 78.00 feet; thence S.89°40'48"E., 188.00 feet to the True Point of Beginning. County of Otero, State of Colorado. The Tract contains 56,387 Square Feet.

said Petition having been filed by PEGGY VALERIO, PATRICIA MEMBRENO, DIANA ALCARAZ, IRENE LEYBA and ROSS LEYBA; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Petition for Annexation of land, filed by PEGGY VALERIO, PATRICIA MEMBRENO, DIANA ALCARAZ, IRENE LEYBA and ROSS LEYBA, is hereby received and that annexation proceedings are hereby authorized to be undertaken.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-9-2023: Pantoya

SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ramirez and Ochoa absent)

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- F. **A Resolution Concerning the Petition for Annexation Filed by Bob Vigil.** Resolution No. R-10-2023 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

WHEREAS, a Petition for Annexation has been filed requesting an annexation of portions of the following described land:

Lot 4, Block 2; Orchard Place except the East 338.7 Ft. thereof. County of Otero, State of Colorado.

said Petition having been filed by BOB VIGIL; and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Petition for Annexation of land, filed by BOB VIGIL, is hereby received and that annexation proceedings are hereby authorized to be undertaken.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-10-2023: Vela

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ramirez and Ochoa absent)

- G. **Appoint Erin Monroy to the Urban Renewal Authority Board – term to expire 12/31/2027.** The Urban Renewal Authority Board voted to have Erin Monroy fill this vacancy at their last meeting.

MOTION TO APPOINT ERIN MONROY TO THE URBAN RENEWAL AUTHORITY BOARD – TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2027: Vela

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ramirez and Ochoa absent)

- H. **Recognition of La Junta High School Football Team.** Mr. Malouff explained that the City had a project that needed volunteers willing to roll up their sleeves and do some very dirty work. It was all for the betterment of the community but it also helped a husband and wife who are both disabled and infirm in resolving a problem that the City has been trying to find solutions to. The La Junta High School football team, consisting of thirty-one young men, offered their services on a Friday morning starting at 6:00. They rolled up their sleeves and did things that were tough. They and their coaches were organized, there was no complaining, and no faces of jokes. They were just there to do work and they worked until the City was not able to keep them busy any longer. This community is very lucky to have these thirty-one young men who are willing to do something that they didn't have to do that required their commitment and their energy.

I. **Committee/Board Reports**

1. Senior Center Advisory Board (Paul Velasquez):
 - There are 494 members.
 - There will be no dances until maybe October.
 - Forty people attended the movie night at the Fox Theatre. The next movie will be September 19th.
 - The Board unanimously supports the 1% sales tax increase and are working on a resolution to present to the Council.

J. **City Manager's Comments**

- The Brick and Tile trail has been awarded to TLM Constructors.
- We have sent the bid out for the trail and had our pre-bid meeting with five contractors.
- We are interviewing the top three finalists for the brownfield grant.
- Level 1 water restrictions.

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- Weeds!
- Working with consultants on federal funding to help with water mains, meters and valves.
- No senior dances until September.
- August are free rides on the La Junta Transit.
- We are patching on Thursdays.
- 360 kids finished the Summer Reading Program and 1,821 attended programs.
- The pool closed the 6th of August. Dog Days is August 12th from 11-1.
- Football registration ends August 11th. Volley ball ends August 18th.
- The ART Project/City of La Junta are having a 3-on-3 basketball tournament (5 players per team.)
- We will have a Town Hall meeting here in the Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m. on this Wednesday the 9th.

K. Governing Body Comments**1. Council Member Velasquez:**

- I've been contacted by residents and business owners regarding when we experience flooding and high-water situations, particularly in the 2nd and Bradish area. These businesses have been there for a long time and they can mitigate that flooding, whether it's tarps and sandbags that's provided to them. What's been happening is several high-rise vehicles are going around the barricade and driving through this high-standing water. This creates a wake that is going over those tarps and sandbags and washing them away from the walls and subsequently getting inside the building causing damage. If they don't cause damage, it takes time for these business owners to clean them up the silt when it's still muddy. If it dries, it becomes a very fine dust that they have to content with. To drive around the barricade, in itself, is a traffic offense. You don't even know if there is a road there when the water is that high. You can drive through there and end up with your truck pointing straight down in a hole in the ground. Then everybody in the City has to stop what they're doing and go bail you out. Let's be a little bit more neighborly to the people that live there.

2. Council Member Vela:

- I had a gentleman stop me at Wal-Mart and said concerning the sales tax, how could three council people vote out of seven to get that on the ballot? I said, I don't know.
- Tomorrow, if you want to run for City Council, we have openings in Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, perhaps two in Ward 2, the mayor and utility board. If you're really interested and want to kick in, go see Melanie tomorrow. You have twenty days to get twenty-five signatures. Give it serious consideration. I'm retiring from City Council. Somebody can have my seat.

3. Council Member Velasquez:

- Today is Purple Heart Recognition Day. If you have a family member, a relative, or somebody that served and were awarded a Purple Heart, Thank you.
- Yesterday was National Farmer and Farm Worker Appreciation Day. Thank you to the farmers and the migrant seasonal farm workers.

4. Mayor Ayala:

- Congratulations to Lisa Pantoya for completing her Action 22 Leadership Academy. She did a great job.

5. City Manager Klein:

- Congratulations to you too Joe for completing it. We have twenty-six new leaders out there and the Leadership and Governance Academy was a great success and we'll be holding it again at CSU Pueblo. We'll teach you the difference between local, state and federal government, how to run meetings, how to lobby for or against a bill, how to write a bill, how to testify for those who are against them.

6. Council Member Vela:

- Congratulations to Daniel Horton also.

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7. Mayor Ayala:

- We also had the Attorney General here. We had a nice, big crowd for him here in this building. He did one on Mental Health and then he did another on Ag. It was a pleasure to have him here. We had a nice dinner afterwards and got to discuss a lot of things.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor