

STATE OF COLORADO)
COUNTY OF OTERO) SS
CITY OF LA JUNTA)

*Subject to approval at
the November 4, 2024
City Council Meeting*

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, October 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Council Member Pantoya 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
Connie Shane, La Junta
Cathy Hurd, La Junta
Nancy Harrington, La Junta
Julie Worley, La Junta
Dottie Burnett, La Junta
Robert Fowler, La Junta
Nancy Bennett, La Junta
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 October 7, 2024. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 7, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Stoker

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **City Manager Search.** Went through the first round of ten applicants. We are now down to nine. Zoom interviews will be conducted late this week or early next week. Brett McIntosh has been replaced by Christina Tozzie on the Search Committee.

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- B. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF APPEALS.** 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: Stoker

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS**A. Approval of the 2025 Proposed Budget**

1. **A Resolution Approving the 2025 Proposed Budget.** Resolution No. R-14-2024 was presented for the council's consideration.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-14-2024: Ramirez

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: This is the balanced budget after receiving the final numbers on the property taxes.

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

2. **First Reading/AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MILL LEVY FOR ASSESSMENT OF VALUATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2024 (FISCAL YEAR, 2025).** City Attorney Harris gave a brief explanation of the mill levy. The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

3. **First Reading/THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEYS TO DEFRAY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO FOR THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2025.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Stoker

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

B. Board Appointments**1. Board of Appeals**

- a. **Bob Fowler**
- b. **Raymond Martenson**
- c. **Bob May**
- d. **Trevor Herasingh**
- e. **Ed Harris**

MOTION TO APPOINT BOB FOWLER, RAYMOND MARTENSON, BOB MAY, TREVOR HERASINGH AND ED HARRIS TO THE BOARD OF APPEALS: Stoker

SECOND: Pantoya

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DISCUSSION: There's a possibility of an appeal coming up soon on a decision made on a particular property. Interim City Manager Davidson gave the building department/engineering the authority to proceed in creating this board. Each individual has been contacted and agree to serve on the board.

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

C. Committee/Board Reports

1. Utility Board (Council Member Velasquez):

- Routine maintenance at the R.O. Plant.
- The Distribution Crew installed a two-inch service line to the Brick & Tile Park along with two frost-proof hydrants.
- The Water Department hired three new employees, one to the Distribution Crew and two for the R.O. Plant.
- Lead line replacement is a 10-year project. Mr. Seaba has applied for many grants but these may be reallocated due to the recent hurricanes.
- The Line Crew has been tree trimming around the power lines.
- There was a city-wide outage on the 26th of last month. The power was out for about an hour and forty-five minutes.
- The tree dump is open. There is not fee to City of La Junta residents. No construction materials are allowed.
- Still doing October Clean Up at 5th and Gardner. No more than nine tires (Colorado law), no constructions materials and commercial entities cannot participate.
- Effective January 1, 2025, there will be a 2% increase on water and wastewater rates. No increases were approved for sanitation or electric.

D. Interim City Manager's Comments

- Reported on the tree dump numbers through September. There's been a huge increase on the residential side.
- The new NAVAID system has been commissioned through the FAA.
- Over the weekend, the Skate Park got nailed with graffiti. Brock is working with the Police Department.
- Also, some girls got locked in the bathroom at the park. They were "saved" and the lock has been fixed.
- Annual inspections are being performed on all of the equipment at the Electric Department.
- The Brick & Tile bridge is complete. City crews are still finishing up a few things.
- Martin is working with CDOT regarding the bridge over the arroyo on west 3rd Street. There's a very strong possibility we can get some money to pay for the design.
- The Fire Department's "C Shift" and staff were recognized by SECRETAC for their life-saving actions during a cardiac event at Coffee Holding. Also, thanks to the employees who started CPR.

E. Governing Body's Comments

1. Council Member Rikhof:

- The Citizen's Police Academy ended September 21st. It was a very fantastic experience and a good use of your time. Appreciate Chief Quick and his team for putting the program together.
- Shout out to the A.R.T. Project (it overlapped the Tarantula Fest). It's a great thing for our community.
- Ward 3 Listening Tour has been meeting on the 2nd Monday of every month. The next one will be November 11th. Currently looking for an indoor place.
- Would like for the council agenda to be posted on the new website before the meetings.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor