

*Subject to approval at
the November 21, 2022
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, November 7, 2022, 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
Elaine McIntyre, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Edward Vela, Ward 3
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2

Also present: Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Gary Cranson, UB Commissioner
Kathy Benz, La Junta
Tara Castaneda, Ark Valley Hospice
Dustin Gabehart, La Junta
Stuart West, Clean Valley Recycling
Anita Potter, Ark Valley Hospice
Bethany Bender, La Junta
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Deanne Hostetler, Clean Valley Recycling
Annastasia Fritz, Ark Valley Hospice
William Macdonald, La Junta
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette

PROCLAMATION – NOVEMBER 2022 AS HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE MONTH. Mayor Ayala proclaimed November 2022 as Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

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 17, 2022. After hearing none, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 17, 2022 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: McIntyre

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ochoa absent, Vela abstained)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – November 7, 2022**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5-minute time limit per person):**

1. William Macdonald, 706 Raton Avenue: Thanked the City for the cat feeding ordinance.
2. Dee Hostetler/Stuart West, Clean Valley Recycling: Spoke about a state law that passed regarding fees on plastic disposable bags and ideas on how that revenue can be spent to help the community.
3. Kathy Benz, 403 W. 22nd Street: Thanked Code Enforcement for the work they are doing but encourages them to do more. Shared a packet of photos showing areas of concern.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MILL LEVY FOR ASSESSMENT OF VALUATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2022 (FISCAL YEAR, 2023).** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: Velasquez

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: The mill levy is set at 3.014.

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

- B. Second Reading/THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO FOR THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2023 AND ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2023.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: Vela

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: Some line items have changed but the bottom line remains the same.

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

NEW BUSINESS**A. Liquor Licenses**

1. **Application for a Special Event Permit by American Legion Auxiliary, Angela Davis, Event Manager. The event is the 4th Annual Veteran's Day Gala to be held November 12, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 118 Steen 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 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOR THE 4TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S DAY GALA TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 12, 2022 FROM 6:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AT 118 STEEN AVENUE: McIntyre

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

2. **Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage Off Premise Liquor License by Safeway Stores 46, Inc., d/b/a Safeway Store #3723, 315 W. 2nd Street.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. Appropriate fees have been tendered and the City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE OFF PREMISE LIQUOR LICENSE TO SAFEWAY STORES 46, INC., D/B/A SAFEWAY STORE #3723, 315 W. 2ND STREET: Pantoya

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SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: If the ballot issue regarding wine in grocery stores passes, they will have to get approved to add that to their liquor license.

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

3. **Application for Renewal of a Tavern Liquor License by Ross Leyba, d/b/a B.J.'s Sports Bar, 10 E. 2nd Street.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. Appropriate fees have been tendered and the City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE BY ROSS LEYBA, D/B/A B.J.'S SPORTS BAR, 10 E. 2ND STREET: Vela

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

4. **Application for Renewal for a Club Liquor License by BPOE Lodge 701, d/b/a BPOE Lodge 701, 119 Colorado Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. Appropriate fees have been tendered and the City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A CLUB LIQUOR LICENSE BY BPOE LODGE 701, D/B/A BPOE LODGE 701, 119 COLORADO AVENUE: Velasquez

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0 (Ochoa absent, Ramirez and McIntyre abstained)

- B. **Authorization to Commence Condemnation – 1010 Raton Avenue.** The City's Charter requires that prior to the initiation of a condemnation proceeding, the Council has to authorize City Management to commence that process. This is one of three burnt out buildings on Raton Avenue. The other two will be brought to the Council in the near future.

MOTION AUTHORIZING TO COMMENCE CONDEMNATION OF 1010 RATON AVENUE: Pantoya

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: The property owner of record is deceased. The personal representative has been reached out to in hopes of a resolution because condemnation and foreclosure will take eighteen months.

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

C. Committee/Board Reports

1. Senior Citizens Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):
 - Celeste and Charles have been awarded the C-Tran employees of the quarter.
 - The trip to Mackinac Island has been moved to May 26 through June 5th. There are forty-six people who have signed up and they need fifty-four.
2. AVRMC Board (Council Member McIntyre):
 - Went over the Executive Summary. All targets are being met.
 - New administrator, Andy Flemmer, is very diligent in making sure that services, staff, etc. is being covered.

F. City Manager's Comments

- The purchase of 207 Colorado is now complete with Sangre de Cristo Community Care.
- The Electric Department started putting up Christmas lights.

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- There will be a Turkey Dinner at the Senior Center on November 17th. Mr. Tim is entertaining and the high school culinary classes are helping.
- Crews are getting ready for winter by preparing equipment and putting facilities to bed.
- Third through sixth grade basketball registration started today.
- On Tuesday, November 8th, there will be a Neighborhood Watch meeting in the City Council Chambers at 6:00 p.m.
- The Police Department and all regional law enforcement agencies participated in a two day joint training session hosted by La Junta and Bent County.
- The City-Wide Cleanup was successful and went very well.
- The Fire Department interviewed for two open positions and two successful candidates were chosen.

G. Governing Body Comments**1. Council Member Vela:**

- This is Veteran's Week in La Junta. The Veteran's are being sponsored by the people in Sangre de Cristo. They're having a wall full of Veteran's. They're showing from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Monday through Thursday. Anybody can go down there and take a look at it.
- Sangre de Cristo is promising a program on Friday, Veteran's Day, and the place will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a ceremony at 11:00 a.m.
- A couple of weeks ago there was an issue at the Meadows Mobile Home Park. The La Junta Police Department sent out a call to the neighborhood saying to stay safe and to stay locked up. When it was safe, the Police Department sent out another call saying that it was clear. That was commendable of the Police to do that.
- The Chamber of Commerce will also be putting on a Veteran's Day ceremony on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the Intermediate School.

2. Mayor Ayala:

- Governor Polis was in La Junta last Sunday. He went to mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Saint Patrick's Parish. Then he went to the Barista where he gave a talk with some locals. After that, he toured our downtown area. He walked from the Barista to the Fox theater where he met with the business owner there. Also trying to find ways to use state resources to come south of Pueblo. Thanked Governor Polis for coming down and taking the time to be with us.
- Attended a Mayors Summit in Denver where all the mayors from Colorado got together. One of the main topics was crime and drugs and fentanyl and what it's doing to our communities all across the state. Also talked about how it's not working in the little communities and the rural counties. How could it be working in the metro area? Mayor Michael Hancock suggested that we all get together and sign some type of form to send to state legislature to let them know that these crime bills that the legislators are putting past are really hurting these communities. Looking at drafting something up through CML. There's a lot of good conversations about a lot of the problems that a lot of our communities are facing. Also had information sent out about evaluations.
- Action 22 is twenty-two small rural counties in southeastern Colorado where we all gather. Try to stay together and keep our voice just as powerful as the metro areas. The next time we have Action 22 I'd like to see more of us represented there.
- The Utilities Board made a recommendation regarding the Arkansas Valley Conduit. Council will not be looking at that recommendation as we still continue discussion with Southeast Water Conservancy District as well as looking at legal issues about project water and how that looks. When we get a little bit farther down the road that will come up. I encourage you all to do as much research as you can on this. This is a big issue that we'll be making a decision sooner rather than later.
- For Veteran's Day, I tell my daughters, someone gave up there today for your tomorrow and we thank them all. So, all the Veteran's here, that are watching, we thank you for everything you've done and sacrificed for us and we look forward to seeing you all at the middle school.

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MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR A CONFERENCE WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING LEGAL ADVICE ON SPECIFIC LEGAL QUESTIONS UNDER C.R.S §24-6-402(4)(b): McIntyre

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

Council went into Executive Session from 6:52 until 7:07 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor