

*Subject to approval at
the December 5, 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 21, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Council Member Vela 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
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Edward Vela, Ward 3
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: none

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Gary Cranson, UB Commissioner
Stuart West, Clean Valley Recycling
Bethany Bender, La Junta
Deanne Hostetler, Clean Valley Recycling
Bill Schroer, La Junta
Brittany Baylor, Inspiration Field
William Macdonald, 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 November 7, 2022. After hearing none, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 7, 2022 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Vela

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

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

1. Bill Schroer, 506 E. 5th Street: Just moved here. La Junta is a great city that has a lot going for itself. Sorry to see the tax vote didn't pass. Is an economist focusing on sustainability. If the city were going to put a group together to figure out ways to save money or develop new revenue sources around the sustainability area, he'd be willing to contribute.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – November 21, 2022

CLEAN VALLEY RECYCLING: Mayor Ayala spoke about the charge for plastic bags and that we'll receive money from that which can only be used for certain things. Clean Valley Recycling has three options they are looking at and are also open to other options as well. They want to have a bigger role in the City's recycling. Right now, we work with SECRA. After speaking with our City Engineer, it was found out that the utility report showing SECRA's monthly totals are incorrect. That needs to be looked at before a decision can be made on this.

Dee Hostetler: Thought it would be nice to have a representative from the City. Also spoke about HB22-1355. By the year 2026, recycling is going to be free for everybody in the State of Colorado. It's going to be paid for by the producers.

Stuart West: Spoke about the three different requests being asked for. There should be enough big stores to generate enough income for all three requests. If not, we'd need to work with the City's representative to see what would be the best avenue to take. The purpose of getting ride of one-time use bags is to give the people of La Junta an option of a bag you can use over and over. This bag would highlight all of the cool things that the Arkansas Valley has to offer. Having the council's support would be a terrific first step.

NEW BUSINESS**A. Liquor Licenses**

1. **Application for a Special Event Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is the SECOM Christmas Party to be held December 9, 2022 from 5:00 p.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 SECOM CHRISTMAS PARTY TO BE HELD DECEMBER 9, 2022 FROM 5:00 P.M. TO 11:00 P.M. AT 612 ADAMS AVENUE: Ochoa

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0 (McIntyre abstain)

2. **Application for a Special Event Permit by Otero College Foundation, Brooke Matthew, Event Manager. The event is their annual fund raiser to be held December 31, 2022 from 6:30 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. at 2001 San Juan 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 OTERO COLLEGE FOUNDATION FOR THEIR ANNUAL FUND RAISER TO BE HELD DECEMBER 31, 2022 FROM 6:30 P.M. TO 11:59 P.M. AT 2001 SAN JUAN AVENUE: Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. Utilities Board (Mayor Ayala):
 - Steve Roberts is retiring after 44 years with the city. I wish him the best in his retirement and congratulations on a job well done.
 - Discussions are still on-going regarding the Arkansas Valley Conduit. We're trying to get better numbers on pricing. They need a decision from us by May.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – November 21, 2022**C. City Manager's Comments**

- Started building the bathroom at the parking lot
- Stage 1 water restrictions
- Winterizing system
- Fire Stage 1 fire restrictions
- Have 89 kids signed up for K-2 basketball
- Registration has started for 3rd-6th basketball
- The San Juan project has started
- The water main on 2100 block of Belview has started and we will pave on the 29th
- We are waiting on the State to inspect the new Rural Fire training building
- Working with Supervisors on reducing the general fund by 24%, since the 1% went down
- Received award for successful completion of MSOB grant
- We had 215 people attend Thanksgiving Dinner at the Senior Center

D. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Thanked the Chamber for putting on a fantastic Vet's Day recognition at the Intermediate School and also to Otero College for their International Food Night and the students.
2. Council Member Vela:
 - The Veteran's observance at the Sangre de Cristo was also a great event. The turnout was more than anticipated.
 - People have commented about how fantastic the City's Christmas lights are.
3. Mayor Ayala:
 - Have a happy Thanksgiving.
 - The Parade of Lights will be Saturday.
 - There will be a lighting of the Christmas tree at the Santa Fe Plaza. Santa will be there afterwards.
 - International Food Night was a great night. Learning about all of their cultures and meeting some of the students that come from all over. The men's soccer team went to the Regionals in Florida.
 - Thanked Jace Honey who was the auctioneer. He informed people about what all goes on out at the sale barn. We thank our agricultural community too.
 - Was appointed by the Governor's office to the Workforce Advisory Council for a four-year term.
 - Went over how the review of the City Manager will take place.
4. Council Member Vela:
 - Promoted Yak & Yeti. They now have a buffet. Their staff is knowledgeable and helpful.
5. Council Member Ramirez:
 - Monarch Full Service Salon is hosting a holiday event on Saturday, December 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. located at 208 Santa Fe Avenue. Santa will be there for story time reading and pictures.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor