

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

*Subject to approval at
the December 16, 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, December 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Council Member Stoker 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
Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Paul Velasquez, Ward 1

Also present: Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
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 November 18, 2024. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 18, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Stoker

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0 (Velasquez 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.** The background checks came back today and there is nothing deemed concerning. We did go from four to three applicants as one of them had taken another position. We are working on getting a time and place to have a few different meetings. One with the Selection Committee, one with the employees, and one with the general public. We will get that finalized shortly and get that information out to everybody. There are two from Kansas and one from Pennsylvania (who does have some Southeast Colorado connections.)

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – December 2, 2024**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage and Wine Liquor License by Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores Inc., d/b/a Love's Country Store No. 12, 308 E. 1st Street.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fees have been tendered and the City Clerk recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A FERMENTED MALT BEVERAGE AND WINE LIQUOR LICENSE BY LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORES INC., D/B/A LOVE'S COUNTRY STORE NO. 12, 308 E. 1ST STREET: Rikhof

SECOND: Stoker

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. Mayor Ayala:
 - Would like to do some different things next year. One, possibly adding on to the Tourism Board. The other, is having Parks & Recreation have their quarterly meetings here on the dais and maybe the Library Board too.

C. Interim City Manager's Comments

- The Utility Board Christmas lighting contest will begin December 16th and be judged on December 19th. Have your lights on at 5:00 p.m.
- Tom Seaba, with the Water Department, is putting together a flyer on ideas to help prevent frozen pipes. We will post this on our Facebook page and website.
- The Electric Department is still checking for lines and low-lying trees and branches along with meters that have pulled away from houses as a result of the storm.
- Sign-ups are going on for 3rd through 6th grade basketball. K-2 have started practicing and games will begin next week.
- All other departments are still drying out and recovering from the storm. Machinery is still getting fixed.
- Camping Ban Update from Police Department: From October 7th – November 27th, they had twenty-two calls. Thirteen of those were self-initiated by police officers and nine were from community members or concerned citizens. One summons was issued for trespassing on city property that there was an issue from before. They are still out working, checking the downtown and arroyos depending on the weather.
- The Fire Department assisted Rocky Ford last week with the mutual aid fire at the old school. We put in about 10-10 ½ hours total. The big ladder truck was used as the main source on the second day. It pumped for about seven hours straight.
- We're in the last month of the year. A couple departments are trying out the new hours that we're going to beginning in January. We will be putting out this information for the public.

D. Governing Body's Comments

1. There were no governing body comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor