

*Subject to approval at
the December 19, 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, December 5, 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
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Edward Vela, Ward 3

Absent: Elaine McIntyre, Ward 2
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Gary Cranson, UB Commissioner
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 21, 2022. After hearing none, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE NOVEMBER 21, 2022 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (McIntyre and Pantoya absent)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5-minute time limit per person): There was no citizen participation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor Licenses

- 1. Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage Off-Premise Liquor License by Mini Mart, Inc., d/b/a Loaf’N Jug #750013, 918 W. 3rd 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 BY MINI MART, INC., D/B/A LOAF’N JUG #750013, 918 W. 3RD STREET:
Vela

SECOND: Ochoa

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DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (McIntyre and Pantoya absent)

2. **Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage Off-Premise Liquor License by Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores Inc., d/b/a Loves 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. 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 BY LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORES INC., D/B/A LOVES COUNTRY STORE NO. 12, 308 E. 1ST STREET: Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (McIntyre and Pantoya absent)

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. LiveWell Park (Council Member Vela):
 - The sign looks very attractive.
2. Senior Citizens Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):
 - Thanked the board members: Dortha McLain, Bobby Rains, Karen Prather, Kathy Martinez and Sue Vance, for their dedication.
 - Membership is up to 543 members.
 - There are two dances scheduled for January.
 - Ceramics class has forty-seven people attending.
 - The quilt class has ten to twelve people attending.
 - The Mackinac Island trip is full.
 - There were 228 people who attended the last covered dish.

Council Member Vela: The price of the dance at the Senior Center in January went up to \$10.00.

3. Mayor Ayala: There are several vacancies in the following boards: Board of Adjustment, Library Board, Planning Commission, Recreation Advisory Board, Senior Citizens Board, Tourism Board and Urban Renewal. Submit letters of interest to the City Manager no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 9, 2022.

C. City Manager's Comments

- Christmas lighting contest will take place on December 12th through December 16th with judging being done on December 13th. Please have your lights on by 5:00 p.m.
- Winterizing system.
- Fire Stage 1 fire restrictions
- The San Juan project will be paved this week.
- The water main on the 2100 block of Belleview has started and we will pave the same day as 14th and San Juan Avenue.
- Working with the Supervisor's on reducing the general fund by 24% since the 1% went down.
- Continue to work on updating the building codes.
- The workforce housing project at 4th and Hayes has started.
- Am speaking at the Colorado Counties Inc. conference on our housing efforts.
- Writing an article for Colorado Municipal League on housing with Michael Yerman.
- We had an underground fault at the wellfields that caused an outage.
- WW Feed fire is still under investigation.
- The burnt house on Steen Avenue is being rebuilt.

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Mayor Ayala: Hats of to Rick, staff and department heads in working on reducing the budget.

D. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - The Parade of Lights was a real nice community event.
 - Complimented the Otero County Courthouse, commissioners and everybody responsible for the upgrade and lighting. It compliments the existing lights the City has up.
 - Thanked Pastor Jack Fuller with the Hands of God Ministry. They were able to distribute 180 turkeys prior to Thanksgiving.
 - Project Protect with the Promotora Network delivered 200 boxes of food on very short notice. They have an upcoming distribution in December. They are conducting a coat drive and have collected 425 jackets so far.
 - Congratulations to the Colorado State Patrol for their 10th Annual pack the cruiser toy drive at Wal-Mart on Black Friday. Thank the community for their generosity.
2. Council Member Vela:
 - The new Perkins building looks really good. Makes it better than it used to be. Good luck to them on their future vehicle sales.
3. Mayor Ayala:
 - (Joe read a text from Tracey Salzbrenner about the Picketwire Play): “The Picketwire players and their elves have been busy preparing for performances for Elf the Musical on December 15, 16 and 17 at 7:30 p.m. Elf is a hilarious tale of Buddy, a young orphan child, who mistakenly crawls into Santa’s bag of gifts and is transported to the North Pole. Join the Picketwire for this holiday classic. Wear your holiday attire and come meet Santa Claus from 7:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. before each performance. Tickets are available online at PicketwirePlayers.org or in person at the ticket box office.”
 - The Parade of Lights was amazing. It was a great event.
 - The lighting of the Christmas tree at the Santa Fe Plaza is the start of a new tradition. I lit the tree this year.
 - When we get into the budget work sessions, it’s important that people understand that we’re not doing this because a vote didn’t go a certain way. We’re doing this straight black and white. If we don’t have the money for it, we can’t do it. We can’t change what happened so we need to move forward and see where we end up and hope we get lucky with some grants and some other things. That’s why it’s so important to do the education before you vote.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS, UNDER C.R.S §24-6-402(4)(e): Vela

SECOND: Ochoa

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (McIntyre and Pantoya absent)

Council went into Executive Session from 6:36 until 7:08 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor