

LA JUNTA CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CALL TO ORDER: The Certified Local Government Board held a regular meeting on Monday, April 14, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nancy Bennett.

Board Members Present

Absent

Nancy Bennett
Toni Madrid
Ben Mason
Erin Monroy



Also present: Cristian Estrada, Deputy City Clerk/CLG Secretary
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Erika Lively, La Junta
Nickolas Burdick, La Junta

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: There was no citizen participation.

MINUTES: January 13, 2025

Chairperson Bennett asked if there were any corrections or additions to be made to the January 13, 2025 minutes. Hearing no corrections or additions, a motion was made.

MOTION THAT THE JANUARY 13, 2025 CLG REGULAR MINUTES BE ACCEPTED AS PUBLISHED: MADRID

SECOND: BENNETT

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Cristian Estrada, CLG Secretary/Treasurer gave the financial statement.

The financial statement for CLG is as follows:

Balance Forward	+\$7,000.00
2025 New Balance	+\$7,000.00
Saving Places	-\$ 600.00
Survey Cash Match	-\$ 5019.00
<u>La Junta Rotary</u>	<u>-\$1,210.00</u>
Balance	\$ 7,171.00

MOTION THAT THE FIRST QUARTER CLG FINANCIAL STATEMENT BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED: MONROY

SECOND: BENNETT

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. East La Junta Survey Project (information):

1. Melanie Scofield, City Clerk has been in contact with Lindsey Flewelling. The grant still runs through June 1, 2026; the consultants are collecting survey forms and we should get them about mid-June. All we would have to do from there is send those on to Lindsey. There's really not much to do after having the public outreach meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Board Vacancy Interviews:

1. Nickolas Burdick

- a. Ben Mason: Tell us about yourself and why you think you would be a good fit for the Historical Preservation Board.
 - i. Nickolas Burdick: I just moved to the area last July. I do lack the local knowledge of our historical treasures; however, I have enjoyed many historical sites throughout the country such as Colonial Williamsburg, various battle sites, Fort Ticonderoga (I've even built a miniature version of it); I think there is important lessons in our past that should not be forgotten and it's a great tool to convince people to see real, physical artifacts. It has an emotional impact on people. I want to ensure that these links to our past are preserved for another generation.
- b. Toni Madrid: How do you like living in La Junta so far?
 - i. Nickolas Burdick: I like it. The area is drier than what I'm used to. The walkability of the city is fantastic; I walked here, to the grocery store, to the post office, the restaurants; the area has plenty of peppers available, that's for sure
- c. Toni Madrid: What brought you here and what do you do?
 - i. Nickolas Burdick: I was a programmer before I left Oregon. I was hoping for a new place in a smaller city. I used to work with Urban Wieners to help bring unused food to be distributed to people. I was able to also work with the local parks departments. I wanted to become a homeowner. My family is from a small farming community from Pennsylvania, so the agricultural orientation of the industry here really connected with me.
- d. Nancy Bennett: How did you choose La Junta?
 - i. I narrowed it down to Colorado due to the state's policies; I mostly looked for more affordable communities. I looked into Rocky Ford as well, as they had a few nice properties available. I chose La Junta due to the RO plant and drinkable tap water.
- e. Ben Mason: What do you bring to the table that would benefit this board?
 - i. Nickolas Burdick: I think I bring technical skills forward; I've worked on websites, video editing, ad presentations, or inform the public about local events. I used to work for a software company and did the advertising myself. I noticed that the minutes of the meeting used to be uploaded to the website, I don't know if that is something that was decided; I can absolutely do that; it wasn't exactly clear what you guys are "hands on" with maintaining the

buildings themselves. I am experienced with landscaping, hardscaping, and simple repairs that I am able and willing to do myself. One of my weaknesses would be my lack of experience with bureaucratic things – something that I can easily brush up on, if needed.

2. Erika Lively

a. Ben Mason: Tell us about yourself and tell us why you chose to apply.

i. I am a descendant of the community. My family arrived in the area in the 1900s; they have claims out in the prairie near Manzanola. I inherited the family home with my brother and I've been spending more time there sort of making the move. It has been a slower transition, but La Junta is a very welcoming community. I'm very interested that it has a very diverse community and history. I believe that aspect needs to be preserved. With Historic Preservation, I understand that there needs to be a balance of "new" and "old". I believe that can be accomplished with the efforts of the community and the people. I feel like I'd be a good individual to join, because I would be willing to be engaged and on the ground. I have real estate knowledge; I've also done landscaping; I've been involved with community boards when I had my businesses. I've worked with National Parks Service for four years in a row; I believe there is a need of having a mixture of old and new energies because histories are disappearing. People that know about the structures are things that could pertain to making La Junta more of a destination point. It is urgent to talk to elders, as well as young individuals who have been here their whole lives, such as myself whom has history here. I'd come in and be willing to help in whatever capacity that is – whether it be research, as I have a degree in Archival Research; I like getting lost in papers and extensive research to find out more.

b. Nancy Bennett: The only thing that worries me would be meeting attendance. Can you be in La Junta at least four times a year?

i. Erika Lively: My intention is to arrive there in June and be present in the area until December. Whatever falls between June through December, I'll be there. What we're doing now (phone call) is completely fine with me. I would make the effort and energy and create the space and time to attend any and all meetings necessary.

c. Ben Mason: When do you expect to be here full-time?

i. Erika Lively: In 2026. Where I live here in New York, they are selling the property. I'm not a property owner. I'm also having to continue working. I'll be looking for employment at the same time; In the meantime, I'm capable of living off of savings and working part-time. I am excited to be able to be in that position to be able to do the things I want or need to do while I get settled in.

The board moved to a vocal vote. There were zero "yeas" for Nickolas Burdick and four "yeas" for Erika Lively.

B. Revised Bylaws

- a. Ben Mason made a suggestion for amendment; on page three, section four of the revised bylaws, it defines that “members must attend 75% of meetings including work sessions, missing no more than three regular board meetings” but we don’t mention missing a number of work sessions. I would suggest making an amendment to the bylaws as far as requiring, to me, at least six work sessions to equate the 75% attendance.

MOTION THAT THE REVISED HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD BYLAWS BE ACCEPTED WITH THE PENDING AMENDMENT: MONROY

SECOND: BENNETT

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously

C. Director Comments – Melanie Scofield, City Clerk, gave the director comments.

1. Quadrennial Evaluation – set for July 14, 2025. I believe Lindsey will be the one coming out for that, I am not entirely sure. Speaking with Lindsey, she’s got me some evaluation step-by-step checklists. They come around to ensure we are following bylaws, check minutes and ensure that they are on the website. She is coming in person and will conduct an “audit” essentially. The board continued discussion regarding the Quadrennial Evaluation. Lindsey sent us a video webinar, about 40 minutes long, it is regarding CLG, Local Representation 101. I believe this will be a good topic for our next work session in May. Lindsey also said she can assist us with any training/orientation.
2. The month of May is Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month. I sent some examples of what Lindsey sent out. Next year, we can visit the idea of doing something grander, but the least we can do is have a Proclamation done by City Council. Ben Mason volunteered to be present in front of City Council for the Proclamation for May being Historical Preservation Month. In the future, we can revisit a bigger idea for celebrating the month. Maybe we can even pinpoint and bring to light the United Methodist Church, as it has been historically designated.
 - a. Erin Monroy – The idea of a calendar that Ben Mason proposed would be a good idea to keep track for the future.
 - b. Erika Lively – In addition, since you know one of the things that can be celebrated is the United Methodist Church, we could perhaps we could get a photo of the church to include on the Proclamation, as well. Even invite the church to that council meeting.
 - c. Melanie Scofield – They also have social media icons and other things and thinking of adding those, as well as the information about the United Methodist Church, to the website section for the Historical Preservation Board. Public outreach and education are a huge part of Historical Preservation.
 - d. Toni Madrid – This year, could we short order a sticker for the younger school-aged children, and have facts about historical designation or about what is being done in La Junta? Similar to what the Rotary Club does with giving out dictionaries to local third grade students. The board continued discussion of options for what major events could be planned in the future regarding Historic Preservation Month.
3. Google Groups or Dropbox?

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- a. Melanie Scofield – Aimee Hill was frontrunning the CLG Google Groups to share documents with the board. I am wondering if Google Groups is still the option we would like to continue working with, or would the board prefer to move our document sharing to Dropbox, as it is easier to manage and upload larger-sized files. It is being used as a repository for all of the important/larger CLG documents.
- 4. Working with Otero County CLG was brought up by Toni Madrid at the last meeting.
 - a. Toni Madrid – A member of County CLG did reach out stating that they wished they could work together with the city. I am under the impression they have funds to use. There are projects they would like to accomplish within city limits, but are unable to because La Junta has their own CLG. I do have a few contacts that are on the Otero County CLG.
 - b. Melanie Scofield – This could even be visited during one of our work sessions. I think we should still have our work session in May be the CLG webinar, then in the future we can visit working with the County CLG and gather more information on the extent of the projects. We should be working together. The board continued discussion with working in conjunction with Otero County CLG.

D. Governing Body Comments

- a. Toni Madrid – excited on the direction the HPAB is moving. We now have more structure and guidance on what we should be accomplishing, and I can see that.
- b. Erika Lively – thanked the board for the opportunity and is excited to be back in town as soon as possible to work together with the board in person.

E. Next Scheduled Meetings are May 12 (Work Session); June 9 (Work Session); July 14 (Regular Meeting).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Cristian Estrada, Deputy City Clerk

Ben Mason, Chairperson