



# AGENDA

## REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA CITY COUNCIL

La Junta, Colorado  
September 20, 2021  
7:00 PM  
Council Chambers  
Municipal Building  
601 Colorado Avenue

CALL TO ORDER (Mayor Pruyn)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Mayor Pruyn)

INVOCATION (Council Member McIntyre)

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

Council Members

Supervisors

Others

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Mestas  
Velasquez  
McIntyre  
Pruyn  
Ochoa  
Vela  
Eckhart

PRESENTATION: Black Hills Energy Rate Increase (Carly West) (Information)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Mayor) (Action)  
Regular Meeting September 7, 2021

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY *(5 minute time limit per person)*

### NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor Licenses (City Attorney) (Action)

1. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Caitlin Coffield, Event Manager. The event is the LJHS Hall of Fame Banquet to be held October 9, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue.
2. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Caitlin Coffield, Event Manager. The event is the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Monster Bash Costume Party and Dance to be held October 30, 2021 from 6:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue.

B. A Resolution Supporting the Grant Application for a Grant from the Bureau of Reclamation (City Attorney) (Action)

C. Committee/Board Reports

D. City Manager's Comments

E. Governing Body Comments

F. ADJOURN

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING – September 7, 2021**

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Mayor Jeffri Pruyn on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Vela: A moment of silence to remember and pray for the thirteen U.S. servicemen who gave their lives in Afghanistan in service to our country.

**INVOCATION:** Council Member Vela gave the invocation.

**ROLL CALL:** The following Council Members were present:

Eugene Mestas, Ward 1  
Paul Velasquez, Ward 1  
Elaine McIntyre, Ward 2  
Jeffri Pruyn, Mayor  
Edward Vela, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2  
Scott Eckhart, 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.  
Aliza Libby, Director of Finance  
Betty Velasquez, La Junta  
Eugene Marez, La Junta  
Jim Goodwin, La Junta  
Lisa Pantoya, La Junta  
Cayle Hines, La Junta  
Oz Hoeme, Chamber of Commerce  
Greg Kolomitz, Chamber of Commerce  
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Mayor Pruyn asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of August 16, 2021. Hearing none, the Mayor declared the minutes approved as published.

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

1. Eugene Marez, La Junta:

- Talked about the loud music and the police not doing anything about it. We're supposed to have a noise ordinance.
- People are walking on the street instead of the sidewalk making us have to move over for them. The police aren't stopping this either.
- When are the speed bumps on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street going to be fixed?

City Manager Klein: We've started that project last year, then we had to use our resources for the Mountview project. Also, we do realize the loud music in your neighborhood and Public Safety is looking into how to catch some of that.

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- Still waiting for a stop sign at the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> and Grace where the playground is.
- There's also lots of speeding and racing happening on 109.
- Also found a full bottle of alcohol in the park. People are drinking in Red Crane Park.

City Manager Klein: Eugene Marez makes sure Red Crane Park is clean, he makes sure those kids are safe. I want to publically Thank You.

### 2. Oz Hoeme:

- Would like for you all to volunteer this Saturday to help with the Senior Dinner.
- Early Settlers Day starts at 10:00 a.m. downtown with the parade.
- There will be a fly over across town at noon. Then they'll start the 911 ceremony.
- Food trucks will be on Colorado. Not inside the park this year.
- There will be a scavenger hunt, fishing derby, softball tourney, street dance, skateboard competition, bounce house and cornhole.

### 3. Council Member Vela:

- We are honored to have three candidates for the City Council here tonight. Welcome to Lisa Pantoya and Cayle Hines for Ward 3 and Jim Goodwin for Mayor.

### 4. Council Member McIntyre:

- A constituent asked me about the tennis courts and their concern about trying to get tennis courts back up and going. One person had suggested that pickle ball might be a nice option.

### 5. Mayor Pruyn:

- I've had somebody talk to me about the turning lanes in the downtown not having come back.

City Manger Klein: That's correct. Those roads are actually not wide enough to support having turning lanes. So we didn't put anything back that didn't meet standards.

- I was invited over by someone to talk about trees. They have a wash for their trees that they do on their property. These are the most gorgeous trees. They gave me the information and I will be turning that over to the Tree Board.
- I've had a couple of conversations about our nursing home and the delay in that being built and what City Council's role is. In 2015, City Council and the City of La Junta put a 1% tax on the ballot in order to build the nursing home. We were thrilled to see that over 80% of our citizens said yes we need a nursing home and yes we will approve a 1% tax. That gave us the payment to make on a loan that would begin to build the nursing home. After that, it was moved on to an elected board, the Health Service District. Maybe we could invite someone from the Health Service District to come in and give us an update.

MOTION TO INVITE A SPEAKER FROM THE NURSING HOME BOARD TO MAKE A PRESENTATION TO THE CITY COUNCIL: Vela

SECOND: Mestas

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0 (Ochoa and Eckhart absent)

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Present the 2022 Budget.** Finance Director Aliza Libby delivered the 2022 Budget and spoke about the time, energy and thought that goes into the budget cover each year. Thank you to Samantha Weiss for doing a great job on the cover for 2021. A budget session is scheduled for Tuesday September 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

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**B. Committee/Board Reports**

1. Senior Citizens Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):
  - Secured Mister Tim and the Denver Dolls for the November covered dish.
  - The dance committee will meet on September 8<sup>th</sup> and the first dance will hopefully be scheduled on October 5<sup>th</sup>
2. AVRMC (Council Member McIntyre):
  - Everything looks favorable on the financial statement and audit for AVRMC.
3. Tourism Board (Mayor Pruyn):
  - We had a training session for CRAFT 201.
  - We're still working on branding.
  - Moving into tarantula season.
4. Utility Board (Council Member Vela):
  - We will meet on Tuesday at 4:00 p.m.
5. ARPA (Council Member Vela):
  - A decision was made on a carrier for after 2025.

**C. City Manager's Comments**

1. On September 16<sup>th</sup>, the Senior Center is having enchilada casserole.
2. At City Park at dusk, the Secret Life of Pets will be showing at City Park on the 25<sup>th</sup>.
3. Otero College had ten teams play at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street and Potter Park.
4. Bathrooms are done.
5. The football program had 115 kids participate.
6. Volleyball had 90 kids which is up from 70.
7. Darren has 23 blighted structures he's working with the EPA on. These structures are not just in La Junta.
8. The downtown and the park is ready for Early Settlers Day.
9. We had a water break at 12<sup>th</sup> Street and Russell Avenue. It was a cast iron main.
10. One of the pumps at the south booster is not working. Have parts coming in.
11. Feel good about what we've got done so far. Wish we could have done more but we'll continue.
12. City Clean-Up starts next Monday.
13. There were 62 people who got vaccinated and received a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card.
14. Looking into a pickle ball court at the City Park tennis courts. This is in the Parks Master Plan.

**D. Governing Body Comments**

1. Council Member Velasquez:
  - Had our first amphitheater meeting on August 25<sup>th</sup>. It was well attended.
    - Planning the Process (Dream, Design, Build)
    - Opportunities (Multi-Purpose Venue, Mental Health Benefits, Tourism)
      - Multi-Purpose Venue (Concerts, Outdoor Theater Events, Political Rallies, Open Air Theater, Celebrations of Life, Open Space, Ceremonies, Graduation Ceremonies)
      - Mental Health Benefits (Pro Social Activities, Minimize Isolation due to social restrictions, Outdoor Performances, Yoga at the amphitheater, Plays, Outdoor Movie, Children's Performances)
      - Tourism (Increase awareness of La Junta as a tourist destination, Increase tourism through Southeastern Colorado, Economic advantages for La Junta)

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2. Mayor Pruyn:

- Last Thursday we had a District 6 meeting which is when people come down from the Colorado Municipal League from Denver down to our area. They invite everyone in our district. We had several Mayors, Council people, City Managers that all came down to talk about their towns. Find out what the legislators are working on. I want to thank Paula Mahoney who put that together for us. She did a really great job.
- Mayor Gradisar from Pueblo invited all the Mayors in Colorado to a Mayors Day at the Fair. It was really nice.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**CITY OF LA JUNTA**

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Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

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Jeffri Pruyn, Mayor

**RESOLUTION NO. R-10-2021**

**SUPPORTING THE GRANT APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of La Junta operates water and sanitation enterprises within the City for the use and employment of its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has applied for a fund opportunity grant from the Bureau of Reclamation concerning the WaterSMART program; and

**WHEREAS**, Bureau of Reclamation (WaterSMART program) requires attestation from the governing body of its commitment to the conditions of award of the grant.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** as follows:

- SECTION 1: The City Council of the City of La Junta (as the governing body) has authorized the application of the City to the Bureau of Reclamation for its (WaterSMART program) grant.
- SECTION 2: The City Council of the City of La Junta has reviewed and supports the completion of the project.
- SECTION 3: The City of La Junta the capability to provide the amount of funding and/or in-kind contributions specified in the funding plan.
- SECTION 4: The City of La Junta will work with Reclamation to meet established deadlines for entering into a grant or cooperative agreement.
- SECTION 5: The City Council of La Junta hereby authorizes the City Manager to sign the grant application and all other documents necessary to be executed in conjunction with the application of grant or its implementation thereof.

SECTION 6: This resolution to be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

**ADOPTED** this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021.

**CITY OF LA JUNTA**

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Jeffri Pruyn, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk