

Council Goals

Envision a safe, flourishing downtown that provides a strong commercial tax base

Strive to be active stewards of existing aging infrastructure

Recognize importance of experience, well trained, and community minded staff

Ensure its electorate is well informed of on-going successes and future plans

Envision a safe, secure community for its families and youth

Promote redevelopment of existing businesses and neighborhoods and increase quality of life for all its residents



AGENDA REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA CITY COUNCIL

La Junta, Colorado
April 3, 2023
6:00 PM
Council Chambers
Municipal Building
601 Colorado Avenue

CALL TO ORDER (Mayor Ayala)

INVOCATION (Mayor Ayala)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Mayor Ayala)

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

Council Members

Supervisors

Others

Ramirez

Velasquez

McIntyre

Ayala

Ochoa

Vela

Pantoya

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Mayor) (Action)

Regular Meeting March 20, 2023

INFORMATION

A. LJHS Science Fair (Everett Ediger) (Zoey Montoya)

B. Eagle Scout Project (Jackson Smith)

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 Event Permit by Otero Museum Association, Event Manager, Dave Hill. The event is their Annual Museum Benefit to be held April 21, 2023 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at 218 Anderson Avenue

2. Application for a Special Event Permit by La Junta Rotary, Event Manager, Aimee Hill. The event is their Annual Fundraiser to be held April 29, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 315 Santa Fe Avenue

B. Tourism Board Recommendation for Funding (Mayor) (Action)

1. \$500.00 to Studebaker Drivers Club North Central Zone Meet – June 22-24, 2023, advertising and marketing

C. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE (City Attorney) (Action)

D. Committee/Board Reports

E. City Manager's Comments

F. Governing Body Comments

G. ADJOURN

*Subject to approval at
the April 3, 2023
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, March 20, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Pastor Brandon Mills, First Southern Baptist Church, 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
- Edward Vela, Ward 3
- Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2

- Also present:
- Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
 - Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
 - Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
 - Todd Quick, Police Chief
 - Julie Worley, Chamber of Commerce
 - Mike Bourget, La Junta
 - Chad Penner, La Junta
 - Bethany Bender, 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 March 6, 2023. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 6, 2023 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: McIntyre

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

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

1. Mike Bourget, 2411 Santa Fe Avenue: Made a public disclosure. Mr. Bourget is an elected official for the City of La Junta Utility Board. In his private life he is a contractor and is proposing to have a contract with the City of La Junta for the La Junta Police Memorial Training Facility, installing some handicap bathrooms at the firing range.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor Licenses

1. **Application for Renewal of a Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License by Mexico City Café Inc., d/b/a Mexico City Café, 1617 Raton Avenue.** 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 Asst. City Manager recommends approval.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – March 20, 2023

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A HOTEL & RESTAURANT LIQUOR LICENSE BY MEXICO CITY CAFÉ INC., D/B/A MEXICO CITY CAFÉ, 1617 RATON AVENUE: McIntyre

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

2. **Application for Renewal of a Tavern Liquor License by Red Dog Revisited LLC, d/b/a Red Dog Revisited, 709 E. 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 Asst. City Manager recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A RENEWAL OF A TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE BY RED DOG REVISITED LLC, D/B/A RED DOG REVISITED, 709 E. 3RD STREET: Pantoya

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. AVRMC Board (Council Member McIntyre):
- Shared a copy of the AVRMC Executive Summary.
 - Joint dinner meeting is next Tuesday, March 28th at 6:00 p.m.

D. City Manager's Comments (Given by Asst. City Manager Jackson)

- Looking at chip sealing about twenty-nine blocks this year.
- The Brick and Tile playground is being constructed. Weather has slowed down the progress.
- Poured the floor for the bathroom for the Brick and Tile Park. Will start building walls in twenty-eight days.
- Should receive the Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit, in order to start the bidding process for the trail, in the next couple of weeks.
- The EPA is going to start testing for PFAS. We are working with our engineers on this.
- We have 200 kids signed up for soccer. There were only thirteen kids in the 7th-8th grade, so we don't have enough kids for that age group.
- Have ordered the scoreboard for Veteran's Field. It won't be delivered until the end of July.
- The Senior Center is having an open house on April 21st from 1:00-3:00 p.m., showcasing their services.

Asst. City Manager Jackson: The budget was approved as presented. Now staff is operating on a 24% reduction in the general fund. We need to solidify that and explore other options for individual departments.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET WITH REDUCTIONS MINUS THE PERSONNEL CUTS; IF THERE ARE GOING TO BE PERSONNEL CUTS, THAT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO CITY COUNCIL AT A LATER TIME: Pantoya

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: The Ark Valley Conduit and pending utility rate increases have no impact on the General Fund, these are Enterprise Funds. The original budget was already approved. The internal changes for the 24% cuts need to be approved as an amendment to the budget. It is up to the Council to approve what each department in the general fund was able to cut.

VOTE: Those voting YES: Ramirez, Velasquez, Ayala, Vela, Pantoya
Those voting NO: McIntyre
The motion carried 5-1 (Ochoa absent)

E. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Reminder about the Mass Tragedy Event Preparedness overview that's going to take place on the 22nd at the Otero College Student Center.
 - Our tumbleweed pile by the bowling alley is back.
2. Council Member McIntyre:
 - Last Friday, attended the Library's Friday Fillers movie with my grandkids. Fox Theatre sponsors that with a \$5 snack box kit for the kids and the Library pays for the movie. Thank you.
3. Mayor Ayala:
 - The Picketwire had Theatre 101. It was a two-day event. My kids attended and really enjoyed it.
 - Gearing up for the Summer Reading Program at the Library. Any volunteers that are interested in helping out with that would be welcome.
 - AmeriTowne was amazing. I got to meet the mayor. It was a really great event and I hope it continues to build.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joe Ayala, Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 1644

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA
AMENDING TITLE 17 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE**

WHEREAS, the City has adopted various provisions with Title 17 for use within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to update its code;

WHEREAS, the City received from the Department of Local Affairs ("DOLA") a Rural Economic Development Incentive (REDI) Grant to assist with economic development and the creation of affordable workforce housing for the community; and

WHEREAS, the update of the City's zoning code includes DOLA's qualified strategies for the creation of affordable housing including the expedited review of housing projects throughout the City, allowing for mixed use in the downtown commercial core, and allowing for additional housing types including multifamily, ADUs, and townhomes to create housing mobility for the City's workforce and aging population;

WHEREAS, the update of the City's zoning code allows for compliance with the State wide ballot initiative Prop 123 by expediting the City's ability to create additional affordable housing units over the next 3 years;

WHEREAS, the City desires to support the business community by allowing flexibility and adding new commercial uses that diversify and increase employment opportunities for its residents in its commercial and industrial zones;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council as follows:

SECTION 1. Title 17 of the Municipal Code is repealed in its entirety.

SECTION 2. A new Title 17, attached hereto as "Exhibit A" is enacted in its entirety.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date of this Ordinance shall be effective May 1, 2023

SECTION 4. Consistent with provisions of the City Home Rule Charter, this ordinance and the provisions thereof shall be published by title only.

SECTION 5. A copy of the ordinance shall be available at the City Engineer's office for citizen review upon request.

INTRODUCED, READ IN FULL, PASSED AND ORDERED PUBLISHED on the first reading the 3rd day of April, 2023.

PASSED AND APPROVED ON SECOND READING as amended this _____ day of April, 2023.

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk



City Manager Comments

- The Brick and Tile playground should be completed, except shelters, within the next couple of weeks. Weather has slowed it down.
- We poured the floor for the bathroom for the Brick and Tile Park. We will start building walls this next week.
- We received the Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit. Now we are waiting on CDOT to issue notice to proceed, then we'll start the bidding process for the trail.
- We are working with Utility board on the Rate Study.
- The Senior Center is having an open house on April 21st from 1:00-3:00 p.m. showcasing their services.
- We have two of our Wastewater operators leaving, one to Las Animas and one to retirement. We are working on replacements.
- Auditors are here, so we will be busy with them for a while.
- EPA came through to evaluate our demolition buildings. They will schedule us for the next month or so. They are getting a review on whether they can help with nursing home west.
- Otero College held a regional tournament at our golf course with 8 teams.
- Wildland fire season is here, be careful.
- Friends of the Library are having a book sale on the 29th of April on the library patio.