



AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA CITY COUNCIL

La Junta, Colorado

April 18, 2022

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

PROCLAMATION: National Crime Victims' Rights Week (April 24 – 30)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Mayor) (Action)

Regular Meeting April 4, 2022

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee/Board Reports

B. City Manager's Comments

C. Governing Body Comments

D. ADJOURN



National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 24-30, 2022

- Whereas being a victim of crime and navigating the criminal justice system can be a frightening and confusing experience;
- Whereas progress in improving the treatment of crime victims has been made through the efforts of thousands of victims and survivors who have turned their own experiences into a force for positive change, ensuring that others can receive justice, meaningful assistance, and compassionate treatment before the law;
- Whereas since the passage of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984, and through the dedicated work of advocates, lawmakers and victim service providers, there is a growing array of services and resources available to victims and their loved ones;
- Whereas honoring the rights of victims--including the rights to be heard and to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect--and working to meet their needs rebuilds their trust in the criminal justice and social service systems;
- Whereas individuals' trust in the compassion, understanding and support of their communities is achieved through sustained, deep-rooted and coordinated outreach;
- Whereas identifying, reaching and serving all victims of crime--especially those from groups that often have less access to healing services and avenues to justice--is essential;
- Whereas our community's continued engagement with the challenges faced by victims of crime will ensure that the progress made to date is not lost and that new ground is broken to gain greater justice and healing for all victims;
- Whereas National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity to recommit to ensuring that accessible, appropriate and trauma-informed services are offered to all victims of crime; and
- Whereas Arkansas Valley Resource Center is hereby dedicated to supporting victims and survivors in the aftermath of crime, building trust among our clients; collaborating with other service providers and engaging our community in response efforts;

Now, therefore, I, Joseph Ayala, as Mayor of La Junta, Colorado,
do hereby proclaim the week of April 24-30, 2022 as

Crime Victims' Rights Week

reaffirming this city's commitment to creating a victim service and criminal justice response that assists all victims of crime during Crime Victims' Rights Week and throughout the year; and expressing our sincere gratitude and appreciation for those community members, victim service providers, and criminal justice professionals who are committed to improving our response to all victims of crime so that they may find relevant assistance, support, justice and peace.

Signature

Date



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, April 4, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Council Member McIntyre 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
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Edward Vela, Ward 3

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
Angela Ayala, 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 21, 2022. After hearing none, the Mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MARCH 21, 2022 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: McIntyre

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

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

1. There was no citizen participation.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Application for a Special Events Permit by La Junta Rotary, Aimee Hill, Event Manager. The event is an Annual Manicures and Mimosas Party to be held May 14, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 315 Santa Fe Avenue. The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fee has been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO LA JUNTA ROTARY FOR AN ANNUAL MANICURES AND MIMOSAS PARTY TO BE HELD May 14, 2022 FROM 9:00 a.m. TO 5:00 p.m. AT 315 SANTA FE AVENUE: McIntyre

SECOND: Ramirez

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 4, 2022

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

- A. A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property.** Resolution No. R-10-2022 was presented for council's consideration as follows:

WHEREAS, the City is a Home Rule City organized under the laws of the State of Colorado; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to purchase certain real property described as follows:

A tract of land lying in Lot 9, Industrial Addition to the City of La Junta, as shown by the recorded plat thereof, being more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Northwest corner of the NE/4 of Section 10, Township 24 South, Range 55 West of the 6th P.M.; thence N.88°19'31"E., along the North line of said NE/4, a distance of 690.75 feet; thence S.0°47'11"E., along the East Right-of-Way line of Lawrence Avenue a distance of 405.56 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence N.45°26'52"E., 285.79 feet; thence N.20°28'14"E., 44.92 feet; thence S.0°47'11"E., 56.84 feet; thence S.12°48'29"W., 72.29 feet; thence S.25°47'22"W., 223.36 feet; thence S.70°49'43"W., 111.45 feet to a point on the East line of Lawrence Avenue; thence N.0°47'11"W., along said right-of-way line, a distance of 122.44 feet to the True Point of Beginning. County of Otero, State of Colorado. The Tract contains 0.72 acre.

WHEREAS, the City desires to purchase the real property from VERNER L. GILTNER for the sum of \$160,000.00.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO as follows:

1. This resolution authorizes the City to purchase the above property.
2. The resolution is enacted by the City Council of the City of La Junta.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-10-2022: Velasquez

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. There were no committee/board reports.

C. City Manager's Comments

- New turf is being installed at the 22nd Street Ball field by Otero College.
- We have 20 new picnic tables being delivered.
- Weed season is upon us. All crews are starting spring clean up.
- Moltz Construction is coming to inspect the water tank pump replacement project.
- Two fires at opposite sides of town at the same time. We had the Rocky Ford Fire Department to help cover.
- Soccer has started practices.
- The sales tax position has been cut. We will be going to State tax collected.
- Two of the workforce houses have been sold. Otero County is buying one.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – April 4, 2022**ADDITIONAL TOPICS DISCUSSED:**

- Asphalt should be coming in May.
- Still working on alley clean up.
- Downtown cameras have been ordered.
- Will look into the status of the street signs.
- Recycle bins at the park.
- The demo of the house on 2nd/3rd and Carson.

D. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Velasquez:

- Shared the following information regarding feral cats from the Manheim Township Police Department out of Lancaster Pennsylvania:

FERAL CATS CANNOT BE CARED FOR AND HERE'S WHY! – Dated April 22, 2021

The Manheim Township Police Department has seen a recent increase in complaints and questions from residents regarding domesticated cats being outdoors, also known as feral cats. We have drafted this news piece to help answer some of those questions.

LOCAL LAW

In 2000, Manheim Township enacted an ordinance which addressed cats and other animals running at large or causing a nuisance. An animal is defined as all mammals, birds, fowl and reptiles normally or ordinarily domesticated (including household pets such as dogs and cats) or raised in this area or climate as livestock or for work or for breeding purposes. It is illegal for any person to harbor, care for, shelter or maintain any animal in such a manner as to disturb or unduly annoy the public through the animal's noise, barking, smell, mischief or other harmful propensities. This includes feeding/caring for feral cats and/or feral cat colonies. Similarly, it is illegal for the owner of any animal to allow the animal to go beyond the boundaries of their premises or to run at large over the streets or public grounds or upon the property of another.

PET CONCERNS

There are many potential dangers faced by outdoor cats, some of which can be mitigated. Outdoor cats can be exposed to a litany of diseases to include rabies, feline leukemia, and the feline immunodeficiency virus. Similarly, by being outdoors, cats can also be exposed to fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes, all of which can transmit diseases such as feline infectious anemia and heartworms. Another preventable problem associated with outdoor cats is unwanted pregnancies.

To avoid these concerns, pet owners should ensure their cat(s) are up to date on all vaccinations, as well as maintaining a proper flea/tick and heartworm preventative regimen. Also, due to the persistent and staggering overpopulation issue, it is imperative to have your cat(s) spayed or neutered before they are permitted outside. Also having a collar with proper identification information upon it can aid others in returning a lost cat.

Unfortunately, unsupervised outdoor cats are also at risk for several serious problems that cannot be easily avoided. These include incidents with motor vehicles, encounters with other animals, and exposure to toxins, both man-made and natural. All of these factors need to be heavily considered before permitting a cat to have access to the outdoor world.

HUMAN AND WILDLIFE CONCERNS

The presence of feral domestic cats can create negative consequences for humans and wildlife. Communities can become healthier and safer when feral cats are removed in lieu of maintaining them in feral cat colonies.

Public health scientists, public health agencies, and professional organizations such as the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians recognize that maintaining cat(s) outdoors is bad for human health. Domestic cats are consistently the #1 carrier of rabies among domestic animals and are disproportionately more likely to expose people to rabies than wildlife. Thanks to modern medicine, once exposed, most people do not acquire rabies. However, the exposure is dangerous and costly. Similarly, cats are the only definitive hosts for the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which causes toxoplasmosis. Up to 74% of all cats will host this parasite during their lifetime and excrete hundreds of millions of infectious eggs into the environment through their feces. When a person accidentally ingests this parasite, they may experience blindness, miscarriage, a child born with developmental problems, memory loss, or death.

Cats have contributed to the extinction of numerous species and are a non-native, invasive species in North America that can cause severe ecological disruption and degradation. Cats often kill birds and other mammals or spread disease to other wildlife which greatly impacts the environment. In addition to destroying wildlife, they can disturb flowerbeds and landscaping as well.

It should be noted that trap, neuter, release programs are considered bad policy. Over time, TNR programs have consistently failed to reduce feral cat populations. These programs facilitate the spread of diseases and maintain cats in unsafe conditions. Feeding feral cats, often associated with TNR programs, does not reduce predation on wildlife.

There was lengthy discussion that this has become a dangerous situation in La Junta and needs to be addressed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

City Manager Comments

- **New turf being installed at 22nd Street Ball field by Otero College is almost done**
- **We have 4 new picnic tables at Livewell Park and lights are ordered lights and shades**
- **Weed season all crews starting spring**
- **Moltz Construction inspected project at water tank pump replacement project and are scheduling materials and installation**
- **Fires at Bent's Fort and Fort Lyon at same time. We had fire departments from around the state helping. 85% Of Bent's Fort 800 acres were burnt.**
- **Soccer has started games on week nights.**
- **We have been putting out the bikes from our Bike Share grant. Roads signs are going up.**
- **T-Ball, Softball/Baseball registrations open until May 6th**
- **Brick and Tile Park equipment arrived. We will finish prepping ground and placing concrete as soon as we get area prepped.**
- **We helped Otero County tear down a structure at 1300 block of Kenilworth.**
- **We are told that asphalt won't be available until May. We are looking at different sources now.**