

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
June 17, 2024
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

Stoker

Ayala

Ochoa

Pantoya

Rikhof

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Mayor) (Action)
Regular Meeting June 3, 2024

CHILDREN'S THEATRE OF LA JUNTA

Children's Theatre of La Junta Presents "The Lightning Thief" The Percy Jackson Musical June 18-22 Curtain at 7:00 pm.

TOBY TYLER

Handheld Radio information.

Chamber of Commerce

Update on information.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. City Manager Search (Mayor) (Information)

NEW BUSINESS

A. Committee/Board Reports

B. Interim City Manager Comments

C. Governing Body Comments

D. ADJOURN

*Subject to approval at
the June 17, 2024
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 Pro Tem Pantoya on Monday, June 3, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Mayor Pro Tem Pantoya gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Pro Tem Pantoya led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The following Council Members were present:

- Damon Ramirez, Ward 1
- Paul Velasquez, Ward 1
- Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2
- Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
- Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
- Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Joe Ayala, Mayor

- Also present:
- Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
 - Erin Harris, City Attorney
 - Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
 - Aliza Libby, Director of Finance
 - Chris Archuleta, Electric Superintendent
 - Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
 - Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
 - Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
 - Brock Hinkhouse, Director of Parks/Rec
 - Jennifer Hinkhouse, Purchasing Director
 - Tom Seaba, Director of Water/WW
 - Lexi Bradshaw, Deputy City Clerk
 - Katie/Grant Pickering, La Junta
 - Betty Velasquez, La Junta
 - Nancy Harrington, La Junta
 - Dottie Burnett, La Junta
 - Gary Reed, La Junta
 - Everett Ediger, La Junta
 - Bethany Bender, la Junta
 - Gary Cranson, UB Chairman
 - Adrian Hart, SECO News
 - Bette McFarren, RF Gazette

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mayor Pro Tem Pantoya asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 20, 2024. The mayor pro tem asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MAY 20, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Stoker

SECOND: Ramirez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – June 6, 2024**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5-minute time limit per person):**

1. Bethany Bender, 802 Carson Avenue: Reminded everyone of SECCP's Brew Fest this Friday from 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **City Manager Search.** Interim City Manager Davidson shared information from SGR received from the Mayor. The search is closed. Seven applicants were received. Two from Colorado, one from Florida, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Washington D.C. consisting of six males and one female. SGR can leave the position open longer or review the applicants received. The Mayor will stay in touch.

- B. **Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 1627 "AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING APPLIANCE DISPOSAL OF GOODS AND OTHER FURNITURE ITEMS".** Ordinance No. 1664 was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS ORDINANCE NO. 1664 ON SECOND READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Stoker

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Presentation of the 2023 Audit Report.** Patrick Hancock and Andrew Froese with Hancock, Froese & Company went over the independent auditor's report and the government-wide financial statements. The ratio analysis worksheet shows the key financial ratios for the General Fund, Electric Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund and Sanitation Fund. (Analysis worksheet attached).

B. Committee/Board Reports

1. Senior Citizens Center (Council Member Velasquez):
 - Board meeting will be this Thursday the 6th at 10:00 a.m.

E. Interim City Manager Comments

- SBT Electric is about half way done with the navigation aid project at the airport.
- The waterline installation at the Brick & Tile Park is moving along. They're about ready to install the fire hydrant at 9th and Nevada.
- The 3rd Street bridge by Adams was finished a week earlier than expected on the top layer.
- The library is very busy kicking off their summer activities.
- The health insurance committee decided to change from being self-funded and went with a new benefit package that will benefit both the employee and employer. Open enrollment begins next week.
- Opening day for the pool was last Friday with around 470 people attending.
- Police Department has been very busy.
- The Fire Department responded to a devastating fire last week. It was a double fatal.

F. Governing Body Comments

1. Council Member Stoker:
 - Shoutout to Adrian with SECO News, Zeke and Stacey Ayala for the A.R.T. Project along with Brock and his team. The Summer Splash Pool Party last Friday was packed and it was a good event. Check out the new paintings.
2. Council Member Velasquez:
 - Attended a Neighborhood Watch presentation at the Senior Center on the 30th. Thanked Shirley Benz for her presentation and a very successful neighborhood watch program in her neighborhood. Also thanked Mitch and Todd from the La Junta Police Department. A special shoutout to Mr. David Polley. He's a concerned citizen who has ideas on different presentations to be done.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – June 6, 2024

3. Council Member Rikhof:
 - Have the City Manager Survey results in.
 - Lisa, Chandra and Maureen attended the CML District 6 meeting in Rocky Ford last week.
 - Lisa and Chandra will be meeting next Monday at the Brick & Tile park for their Ward 3 listening tour at 6:00 p.m.
 - Asked what is next with the audit and how the budget process works (Aliza Libby explained).

There being no further business, the regular meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor