

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
November 4, 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

PROCLAMATION – NOVEMBER 2024 as Hospice and Palliative Care Month

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Mayor) (Action)
Regular Meeting October 21, 2024

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

REPORTS

A. Blue Stem Nursing Home (Johnnie DeLeon) (Update)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. City Manager Search (Mayor) (Information)

B. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MILL LEVY FOR ASSESSMENT OF VALUATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2024 (FISCAL YEAR, 2025) (City Attorney) (Action)

C. Second Reading/THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEYS TO DEFRAY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO FOR THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2025 (City Attorney) (Action)

NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor Licenses (City Attorney) (Action)

1. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is Lewis Bolt and Nut Christmas Party to be held December 7, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue

2. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is SECOM Christmas Party to be held December 13, 2024 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue

3. Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage and Wine Liquor License by Tran & Yen LLC, d/b/a Asian Café, 414 W. 1st Street

4. Application for Renewal of a Retail Liquor Store License by Punjabi 4 Corp., d/b/a Big D's Liquor Mart, 26730 W. US Highway 50
5. Application for Renewal of an Alcohol Beverage Tastings Permit for Big D's Liquor Mart LLC, d/b/a Big D's Liquor Mart, 26730 W. US Highway 50
6. Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage and Wine Liquor License by Safeway Store 46 Inc., d/b/a Safeway Store #3723, 315 W. 2nd Street
7. Application for Change of Manager from Chris Winter to Heather Henderson by Safeway Store 46 Inc., d/b/a Safeway Store #3723, 315 W. 2nd Street
8. Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage and Wine Liquor License by Family Dollar Stores of Colorado LLC, d/b/a Family Dollar #25100, 614 E. 1st Street
9. Application for Renewal of a Club Liquor License by BPOE Lodge 701, d/b/a BPOE Lodge 701, 119 Colorado Avenue

- B. Committee/Board Reports
- C. Interim City Manager Comments
- D. Governing Body Comments
- E. ADJOURN

Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.

Hospice Proclamation

WHEREAS, it is the *Mission of Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.* to provide quality mind, body and spirit patient centered care while supporting, serving, and educating our community about end-of-life tribulations;

WHEREAS, the provision of quality hospice and palliative care upholds the dignity of every individual, regardless of age, health, social status, citizenship, race, or religion, ensuring that all stages of life are treated with respect and care;

WHEREAS, *Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.* provides high-quality hospice and palliative care services to patients with terminal and chronic illnesses. Their compassionate team, including physicians, nurses, social workers, health aides, and clergy, focuses on the needs and wishes of patients and their families;

WHEREAS, *Arkansas Valley Hospice Inc.* addresses emotional, spiritual, and family needs beyond physical treatment, offering services like respite care and bereavement counseling;

WHEREAS, *Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.* prioritizes patients in all programs, including hospice care. They ensure a coordinated, patient-led approach that respects individual choices and needs, aiming to enhance the quality of life for both patients and family caregivers;

WHEREAS, each year, individuals living with terminal and chronic illnesses, receive compassionate care through the programs offered by *Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.* This support extends to the communities of La Junta, Rocky Ford, Fowler, Manzanola, Swink, Ordway, Olney Springs, Crowley, Sugar City, Las Animas, Arlington, Haswell, Cheraw, Hasty, Avondale, Boone, and Kim;

WHEREAS, *Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.* relies on community donations to support patient care, allowing services to be provided at no charge. It is the only local hospice where donations stay within the community;

WHEREAS, *Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.* volunteers, assist with the needs of those living with terminal and chronic illnesses and that of their family and loved ones;

WHEREAS, Hospice and palliative care providers at *Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.* encourage everyone to educate themselves about available care options and to communicate their preferences with family members, loved ones, and healthcare professionals.

I, _____, proclaim **November 2024** as **Hospice and Palliative Care Month**. I call upon the citizens of La Junta, CO to join *Arkansas Valley Hospice, Inc.* to increase their understanding and awareness of hospice and palliative care, and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.





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 Ayala on Monday, October 21, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Council Member Pantoya 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
- Jeremiah Stoker, Ward 2
- Joe Ayala, Mayor
- Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
- Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2

- Also present:
- Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
 - Erin Harris, City Attorney
 - Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
 - Connie Shane, La Junta
 - Cathy Hurd, La Junta
 - Nancy Harrington, La Junta
 - Julie Worley, La Junta
 - Dottie Burnett, La Junta
 - Robert Fowler, La Junta
 - Nancy Bennett, La Junta
 - Adrian Hart, SECO News
 - 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 October 7, 2024. Hearing none, the mayor asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE OCTOBER 7, 2024 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Stoker

SECOND: Pantoya

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. There was no citizen participation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **City Manager Search.** Went through the first round of ten applicants. We are now down to nine. Zoom interviews will be conducted late this week or early next week. Brett McIntosh has been replaced by Christina Tozzie on the Search Committee.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – October 21, 2024

- B. Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA ESTABLISHING A BOARD OF APPEALS.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Stoker

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS**A. Approval of the 2025 Proposed Budget**

1. **A Resolution Approving the 2025 Proposed Budget.** Resolution No. R-14-2024 was presented for the council's consideration.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-14-2024: Ramirez

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: This is the balanced budget after receiving the final numbers on the property taxes.

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

2. **First Reading/AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MILL LEVY FOR ASSESSMENT OF VALUATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2024 (FISCAL YEAR, 2025).** City Attorney Harris gave a brief explanation of the mill levy. The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Rikhof

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

3. **First Reading/THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: APPROPRIATING SUMS OF MONEYS TO DEFRAY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO FOR THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2025.** The ordinance was introduced by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: Stoker

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

B. Board Appointments**1. Board of Appeals**

- a. **Bob Fowler**
- b. **Raymond Martenson**
- c. **Bob May**
- d. **Trevor Herasingh**
- e. **Ed Harris**

MOTION TO APPOINT BOB FOWLER, RAYMOND MARTENSON, BOB MAY, TREVOR HERASINGH AND ED HARRIS TO THE BOARD OF APPEALS: Stoker

SECOND: Pantoya

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – October 21, 2024

DISCUSSION: There's a possibility of an appeal coming up soon on a decision made on a particular property. Interim City Manager Davidson gave the building department/engineering the authority to proceed in creating this board. Each individual has been contacted and agree to serve on the board.

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

C. Committee/Board Reports

1. Utility Board (Council Member Velasquez):

- Routine maintenance at the R.O. Plant.
- The Distribution Crew installed a two-inch service line to the Brick & Tile Park along with two frost-proof hydrants.
- The Water Department hired three new employees, one to the Distribution Crew and two for the R.O. Plant.
- Lead line replacement is a 10-year project. Mr. Seaba has applied for many grants but these may be reallocated due to the recent hurricanes.
- The Line Crew has been tree trimming around the power lines.
- There was a city-wide outage on the 26th of last month. The power was out for about an hour and forty-five minutes.
- The tree dump is open. There is not fee to City of La Junta residents. No construction materials are allowed.
- Still doing October Clean Up at 5th and Gardner. No more than nine tires (Colorado law), no constructions materials and commercial entities cannot participate.
- Effective January 1, 2025, there will be a 2% increase on water and wastewater rates. No increases were approved for sanitation or electric.

D. Interim City Manager's Comments

- Reported on the tree dump numbers through September. There's been a huge increase on the residential side.
- The new NAVAID system has been commissioned through the FAA.
- Over the weekend, the Skate Park got nailed with graffiti. Brock is working with the Police Department.
- Also, some girls got locked in the bathroom at the park. They were "saved" and the lock has been fixed.
- Annual inspections are being performed on all of the equipment at the Electric Department.
- The Brick & Tile bridge is complete. City crews are still finishing up a few things.
- Martin is working with CDOT regarding the bridge over the arroyo on west 3rd Street. There's a very strong possibility we can get some money to pay for the design.
- The Fire Department's "C Shift" and staff were recognized by SECRETAC for their life-saving actions during a cardiac event at Coffee Holding. Also, thanks to the employees who started CPR.

E. Governing Body's Comments

1. Council Member Rikhof:

- The Citizen's Police Academy ended September 21st. It was a very fantastic experience and a good use of your time. Appreciate Chief Quick and his team for putting the program together.
- Shout out to the A.R.T. Project (it overlapped the Tarantula Fest). It's a great thing for our community.
- Ward 3 Listening Tour has been meeting on the 2nd Monday of every month. The next one will be November 11th. Currently looking for an indoor place.
- Would like for the council agenda to be posted on the new website before the meetings.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – October 21, 2024

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ORDINANCE NO. 1672

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE MILL LEVY FOR ASSESSMENT OF VALUATIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2024. (FISCAL YEAR, 2025)

WHEREAS, the County Assessor of Otero County, Colorado has certified to this City Council the 2024 assessed valuation of \$32,762,065.00 as the valuation subject to the City taxes for the calendar year ending on December 31, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Ordained By The City Council of the City of La Junta that there be and hereby is levied 3.104 mills on each dollar of said assessed valuation as the levy for the City of La Junta, Colorado for the calendar year ending on December 31, 2024 to cover the corporate expenses of the City of La Junta as set forth for the City of La Junta Budget for the calendar year 2025.

PASSED on First Reading this 21st day of October, 2024.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this 4th day of November, 2024.

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

ORDINANCE NO. 1673

**THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE: APPROPRIATING
SUMS OF MONEY TO DEFRAY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE
CITY OF LA JUNTA, COLORADO FOR THE CITY'S FISCAL YEAR
BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2025 AND ENDING ON DECEMBER 31, 2025.**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of La Junta has adopted a budget for the City for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the City Council shall make the proper tax levy in mills upon each dollar of the total assessed valuation of all taxable property within the City, such levy representing the amount of taxes for the City purposes necessary to enable payment during the City's said fiscal year of all properly authorized demands upon the treasury; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is now desirous of making appropriations for the ensuing fiscal year (2025);

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It Ordained by the City Council of the City of La Junta, Colorado:

SECTION 1. That the sum of \$11,241,200.00 is hereby appropriated for the City of La Junta, Colorado for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025 and ending on December 31, 2025 from the General Fund for the payment of operating expenses and capital outlay of the general government.

PASSED On First Reading this 21st day of October, 2024.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED as amended this 4th day of November, 2024.

CITY OF LA JUNTA

ATTEST:

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk