

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
January 20, 2026
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
Ramirez (Ward 1)
Velasquez (Ward 1)
Johnson (Ward 2)
Ayala (Mayor)
Ochoa (Ward 2)
Pantoya (Ward 3)
Rikhof (Ward 3)

EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARD

- A. January 2026
 - 1. Michael Engebrecht – 5 years

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

- A. Anthony Aguilar
- B. Drew Yochum

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION *(5-minute time limit per person)*

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes January 5, 2026
- B. Special Meeting Minutes January 13, 2026
- C. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is their 5th Annual Mardi Gras Grand Masquerade Steak Night to be held February 20, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue
- D. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is their 60th Annual Inspiration Field Block Party Celebration to be held April 25, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue
- E. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is their 41st La Junta Trading Company Golf Classic to be held May 8, 2026 from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue
- F. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is their 11th Annual Poker Run/6th Annual Smoke Out to be held June 20, 2026 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue
- G. Application for a Special Events Permit by Inspiration Field, Brittany Baylor, Event Manager. The event is their Annual SECOM/SECOPA Golf Classic to be held July 9, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at 612 Adams Avenue

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Committee/Board Report
- B. City Manager Report
- C. Community Events/Council Report
- D. Governing Body Report
- E. ADJOURN

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 5, 2026

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, January 5, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

INVOCATION: Mayor Ayala 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
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Carly Johnson, Ward 2

Also present: Michael Hart, City Manager
Erin Harris, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Pam Denahy, Director of Tourism/Econ. Dev.
Gary Reed, Rocky Ford
Betty Velasquez, La Junta
David Polley, La Junta
Norma Haugen, La Junta
Alison Penner, La Junta,
Everett Ediger, La Junta
Adrian Hart, SECO News
Nancy Harrington, SECO News
Bette McFarren, RF Gazette


Subject to approval at the
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City Council Meeting


PROCLAMATION: America 250 – Colorado 150. Mayor Ayala proclaimed that the City of La Junta will fully engage in commemorative activities leading up to and during the Commission’s stated length of observance of July 4, 2025 through December 31, 2026. The City of La Junta pledges to uplift, support, and generate commemorative opportunities.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute time limit per person):

1. David Polley, 622 Colorado Avenue: Wondered if he was the only one who sees the difference in fire fighting between 618 Colorado Avenue and a structure fire in the 400 block of East 7th Street yesterday. In December 2025, filed three FOIA requests with the City of La Junta and haven’t received anything. Would like to speak with any and all volunteer fireman that were dismissed on December 31st. Phone number is 719-492-0913. The FBI would also like to speak with them as well. 303-629-7171.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Regular Meeting Minutes December 15, 2025

B. Application for a Special Events Permit by La Junta Chamber of Commerce, Christina Tozzie, Event Manager. The event is their Annual Banquet to be held January 26, 2026 from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at 1802 Colorado Avenue

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C. Application for Renewal of a Fermented Malt Beverage and Wine Liquor License by Mini Mart Inc., d/b/a Loaf'n Jug No. 13, 918 W. 3rd Street

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 5, 2026 CONSENT AGENDA: Ramirez

SECOND: Rikhof

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Appointments

1. Reappoint Zach Miner to the Urban Renewal Board – term to expire 12/31/2030

MOTION TO REAPPOINT ZACH MINER TO THE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD: Ochoa

SECOND: Pantoya

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

2. Reappoint Angel Saucedo to the Urban Renewal Board – term to expire 12/31/2030

MOTION TO REAPPOINT ANGEL SAUCEDO TO THE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD: Rikhof

SECOND: Ochoa

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

3. Appoint Marty Fleischacker to the Urban Renewal Board – term to expire 12/31/2028

MOTION TO APPOINT MARTY FLEISCHACKER TO THE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD:
Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

4. Appoint Cheryl Lindner to the Urban Renewal Board – term to expire 12/31/2027

MOTION TO APPOINT CHERYL LINDNER TO THE URBAN RENEWAL BOARD: Velasquez

SECOND: Rikhof

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

B. Annual Resolutions

1. Posting of Open Meetings

2. Designating Official Depositories for City Funds

3. Offenses Against City Property

4. Publication of Legal Notices

5. Designating Enterprise Funds

MOTION TO ADOPT THE 2026 ANNUAL RESOLUTIONS: Ochoa

SECOND: Velasquez

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DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

- C. A Resolution Reappointing Gary Cranson as the City of La Junta’s Representative to the Arkansas River Power Authority Board of Directors for a Four-Year Term.** Resolution No. R-6-2026 was presented for the board’s consideration.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-6-2026: Rikhof

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

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

- D. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of La Junta, Colorado, Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Rocky Ford for Emergency Dispatch Services.** Resolution No. R-7-2026 was presented for the board’s consideration.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PANTOYA TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-7-2026. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED. WITH THE CONSENT OF THE BOARD, THE MOTION WAS WITHDRAWN BY PANTOYA.

E. Committee/Board Reports

1. Senior Citizens Advisory Board (Council Member Velasquez):
 - Meeting is this Thursday here at 10:00 a.m.

C. City Manager’s Comments

- Several job openings at the Senior Center: transportation dispatcher, part-time bus driver, activities coordinator.
- There is also a Property Management position open.
- Getting started on the restrooms at the golf course.
- Relocated the frisbee golf baskets off of 10th Street to the City Park.
- RFQ going out for the design and engineering services for the MMOF.
- The Electric Department has started removing all of the Christmas decorations.
- Fire and Police are still putting together numbers for total calls.
- Last night there was a structure fire in the 400 block of East 7th Street.
- The Police Department has three certified officers starting today.
- The teen activity group at the Library has moved to the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays.
- The Library will be starting ESL classes at the end of the month on the 26th.
- Free moving at the Fox is going to be on January 16th.
- There were fourteen babies born in 2025 to city employees.
- The Street Department finished cleaning up the demo at 1220 Rice Avenue.
- Street signs have been ordered and will be going up in the next couple of months.
- Finishing the curb and gutter work on 10th and Barnes Avenue.

D. Community Events/Council Reports

- The 124th Annual Chamber Banquet will be January 26th at the Rizzuto Banquet Room at Otero College. It starts at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, 6:00 p.m. is welcome and 6:15 p.m. is the dinner, awards to follow. Tickets are available for \$45.00 per person or \$375.00 for a table of 8 which includes two bottles of wine.
- In December, TRY did the luminaries around the City Park. It was a lot of work but it looked really nice. Shout out to our linemen who helped dim the lights around the park.
- Jay’s Christmas Dinner was well attended. Thank you to all the volunteers that made that possible.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 5, 2026

E. Governing Body Reports

1. Council Member Velasquez: Shout out to Michael and Brock on the resurfacing of the tennis courts. It looks amazing.
2. Council Member Rikhof: Reminder that curbside recycling is available through Clean Valley Recycling for \$15.00 per month and you can have as many bags as you want.
3. Council Member Ramirez: Read an article that it's been approved at the state level for the producers to be charged for recycling. By mid-2026, free recycling will start in the state of Colorado for citizens.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 13, 2026

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

CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of the City Council of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Mayor Ayala on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

The following Council Members were present:

- Damon Ramirez, Ward 1
- Paul Velasquez, Ward 1
- Joe Ayala, Mayor
- Chandra Ochoa, Ward 2
- Lisa Pantoya, Ward 3
- Maureen Rikhof, Ward 3

Absent: Carly Johnson, Ward 2

Also present: Michael Hart, City Manager
 Erin Harris, City Attorney
 Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
 Brad Davidson, Fire Chief
 Todd Quick, Police Chief

Subject to approval at the
 January 20, 2026
 City Council Meeting



NEW BUSINESS

A. A Resolution of the City Council of the City of La Junta, Colorado, Approving and Authorizing the Execution of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Rocky Ford for Emergency Dispatch Services.

City Manager Hart: At the last meeting, we had briefly discussed the IGA for dispatch services over to Rocky Ford. There were questions, concerns by a couple of the council members regarding finances and personnel. The following morning, I sent an email with specific numbers and personnel regarding the questions asked. I had also said that this was to be done in July when I meant to say January.

Chief Quick: The 911 Board Committee has been looking at this for several years. Consolidation can make it more efficient and safer for all the residents. So, this year, we got a grant for a feasibility study to see if it would work for our area. We're still in the process of that study. We've got some initial numbers but the process is still going. It's the Otero County 911 Board. Brad and I both sit on that board.

Council Member Ramirez: This special meeting was specifically tied to the fact that we don't have the ability to dispatch for La Junta anymore because of the shortness.

Chief Davidson: Yes, and just to kind of give a little overview of when somebody applies and gets a dispatching job, it's not like a normal job where you can train one or two hours and turn them loose. It's 3-4 months of training with another person. They have different phases they have to go through. From the time that we got the last notification that one of the last persons were leaving in December prior to this decision that kind of keyed up the start of, hey, we're going to have to hire this many people to train with this many. One, they're not going to have any days off and two, it's not going to be feasible for timeline.

Council Member Ramirez: Regarding my question as far as where the money was coming from, the new positions, that was clarified to me but I just want to make that known. So we're paying the \$350,000 to Rocky Ford. We've got two employees that are current employees that are staying here. Just moving into a new position. That money will be paid out of the communications budget this year.

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Then that will probably be dissolved and be fed into police departments budget next year. Then on the total salary and benefits was \$476,545. We're sending \$350,000 minus OT, which these positions won't have. It says salaries will be \$126,545 is what that will be because, so the actual savings that we have left over is \$16,852. So, it was stated we would save like \$109,000 but it's actually \$16,000.

Chief Davidson: That was the first number when everybody was going over there, then when it was figured out what was needed, those changes were made for the two positions.

Council Member Rikhof: Question about the feasibility study. What is the timeline on that? Do we anticipate anything that might come out of that? Is there any chance that the direction we're moving is going to be counter to what the feasibility study is going to suggest?

Chief Quick: From the initial numbers, they showed us about a month ago, it looks like it'll be very workable. There're some things the board can do as far as asking for more of the 911 funds to help pay for salaries and stuff like that. In the long run, it'll be better just because you'll have more people in the central area and not have us all scattered out everywhere.

Council Member Rikhof: Would you mind explaining where some of the funding comes from for paying for the Call Center, for 911?

Chief Quick: If you look at your cellphone bill, there's an Otero 911 Fund on there. You pay so much per phone line per month and then that goes to the 911 Board who uses it for communications, dispatches, 911 calls, and equipment for all that. So, that's what we're talking about with the funding there.

Council Member Rikhof: So, the Call Center is funded by municipalities, by the county and the 911 surcharge, anywhere else that funds come from?

Chief Davidson: Can't think of any. That is pretty much the majority.

Council Member Rikhof: When that study is done, I think it would be helpful to see that as an education piece.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-7-2026: Ramirez

SECOND: Rikhof

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

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

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor