

*Subject to approval at the
January 16, 2018
City Council Meeting*

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 Jeffri Pruyn on Tuesday, January 2, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Mayor led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION: Council Member Goodwin gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL: The following Council Members were present:

- Eugene Mestas, Ward 1
- Jim Goodwin, Ward 1
- Elaine McIntyre, Ward 2
- Jeffri Pruyn, Mayor
- Edward Vela, Ward 3
- Scott Eckhart, Ward 3

Absent: none

- Also present:
- Rick Klein, City Manager
 - Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
 - Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
 - Darren Adame, Director of Engineering
 - Tom Seaba, Administrative Coordinator
 - Aimee Hill, Engineering Dept
 - Paula Mahoney, Administration
 - Pam Denahy, Director of Tourism & Events
 - Joe Ayala, 1514 San Juan Ave
 - Angela Ayala, 1514 San Juan Ave
 - Glenn Parker, 401 E. 5th St
 - Lorenz Sutherland, Utilities Board Chairman
 - H.R. McCune, 1021 San Juan Ave
 - Jeff Paolucci, 2407 Johnston Dr
 - Nick Paolucci, 2407 Johnston Dr
 - Susan Elliott, 1310 Lincoln Ave
 - Sonya Goodwin, 914 Colorado Ave
 - Shannon Lovato, 18 Chaparral Cr
 - Rick Lovato, 18 Chaparral Cr
 - Julie Worley, 2417 San Juan Ave
 - Cheryl Lindner, 16 E. 22nd St
 - Cynthia Nieb, Economic Development/Urban Renewal
 - Wanona Wiker, 614 Smithland Ave
 - Gary Cranson, ARPA Representative
 - Nancy Bennett, 422 San Juan Ave
 - Bob Schwinger, 422 San Juan Ave
 - Greg Kolomitz, 717 Belleview Ave
 - Bette McFarren, La Junta Tribune Democrat

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mayor Pruyn asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of December 18, 2017. Hearing none, she declared the minutes approved as published.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 2, 2018**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (5 minute time limit per person):**

1. Joe Ayala, 1514 San Juan Ave.: Just left my Otero Dems meeting and Sharon said that the water frozen over on 3rd and Colorado is the City's responsibility. It's getting worse and I don't want to see anybody fall. I just wanted to put that on your radar.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING AN ANNEXATION FOR PROPERTY.** The ordinance was read by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: Mestas

SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0 (Ward 2 vacancy)

- B. **Second Reading/AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 1242 (THE ZONING ORDINANCE) OF THE CITY OF LA JUNTA AS CONCERNS AN APPLICATION FOR ANNEXATION BY JEFF PAOLUCCI.** The ordinance was read by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON SECOND READING: McIntyre

SECOND: Eckhart

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0 (Ward 2 vacancy)

City Manager Rick Klein introduced our new Economic Development/Urban Renewal Director, Cynthia Nieb.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Appointment to fill Ward 2 Council Vacancy.** Mayor Pruyn thanked all those who put in a letter wanting to be on City Council. We really appreciate that so many people want to but unfortunately we only have one seat to fill. I really hope that even if you don't make it on the Board this time; that you stay involved with the community. These seats come up every two years so this won't be your last chance.

With that, here is how we will proceed with the vote. I will read each of the candidate names and after each name, those on council wanting that candidate to fill the ward two vacancy will vote yes, each council person shall only vote once. The candidate who receives the most votes will fill the vacancy. If there is a tie for most votes, the council will re-vote on just those candidates and the candidate with the most votes will fill the vacancy. If the candidates continue to tie in votes, we will have to move to a Special Election. Any candidate that receives four or more votes will automatically fill the vacancy.

I will begin reading the names beginning with ladies first. Everyone please make sure that your switches are on neutral. Our first candidate on our list is:

Shannon Lovato – Those voting YES are: Mestas, Goodwin, McIntyre, Pruyn

Shannon Lovato received the majority of the votes so she will fill the Ward 2 Council seat and there will be no need to continue on with the names.

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- B. Application for Renewal of a Tavern Liquor License by Ronald Hall, d/b/a The Railyard, 114 Colorado Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The premise is under an action plan through the Fire Department. Appropriate fees have been tendered and the City Clerk recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT RENEWAL OF A TAVERN LIQUOR LICENSE BY RONALD HALL, D/B/A THE RAILYARD, 114 COLORADO AVENUE: Vela

SECOND: Mestas

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 6-0 (Ward 2 vacancy)

C. Committee/Board Reports

There were no reports given.

D. City Manager's Comments

1. Spent two weeks in La Junta on a stay-cation. I love this community. Everybody is so kind. We had good conversations. It reminded me why I live in this community.
2. Thank you to all the candidates. It's tough to put yourself out there. Everybody wants to make a difference in the community. All the candidates had their hearts in the right place. This year, let's make a big difference, let's get this community going.
3. Looking forward to 2018.

Council Member Vela: That place over there at 10th and Barnes where the disc golf course is, what's the status on it now? Is it running, is it operable?

City Manager Klein: Yes and I would have never thought we had that many people that played disc golf. Even when it was real cold I saw a guy bundled up like a snowman out there playing. The course is open. Southeast Health Group put it in using a grant.

Mayor Pruyn: I have two requests. The first one is, next year at Christmas; let's do something with the train. The fencing around it or whatever, let's decorate it. There's somewhere southwest where they decorate their whole train. Second, refinishing the tennis courts at the park, is there any chance something like that is going to happen?

City Manager Klein: What I was going to do was get the bathrooms going first and then move over and work on the tennis courts.

Council Member McIntyre: What about the option of doing something different. People might want a different outdoor activity since we have the other tennis courts on San Juan.

City Manager Klein: Whenever we would change the use, because it is a historic park, we would have to get with the Historic Trust to see if that would be acceptable. But that's just a process and we should never be afraid of the process. We went through that same process with the trees.

Council Member Vela: She's in the back of the room, can't you ask her now?

City Manager Klein: She doesn't work there anymore. But, did I say anything out of sorts?

Economic Director Nieb: No you didn't and he's right, you shouldn't be afraid of the process. You ask the question, and they will do the best that they can to make it a yes.

Council Member McIntyre: Maybe we could do a splash pad and that might draw people into town more.

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E. City Attorney's Comments

City Attorney was not in attendance.

F. Governing Body's Comments

1. Council Member Goodwin: I'd like to give credit where credit is due with our city employees. Aimee Hill sent out a very professional letter a few days ago to all of us on the boards that she's involved in and got us up to date for 2018. It's very much appreciated. Thank you.

2. Council Member Vela: I read a letter in the paper about the hospital and how they're operating. I wondered if we should bring to light what council will do for the request for funding to remove the electric cost adjustment. Did we get a copy of Dean's letter or did he ever send one?

Mayor Pruyn: I think there's a copy out there so we can get a copy to you if you want it.

Council Member Vela: Should we tell people what's going on because this is the second article on the hospital board. People now have to go to St. Mary Corwin for cancer work and now it's even bothersome that Loma Vista closed. St. Mary Corwin is saying that there's more money in cancer than there is babies because they're not delivering babies anymore, Parkview is the only one. We should be a little concerned about that. Also, do we have any kind of action with regards to backing up Loma Vista? Is somebody trying to do something with them to try to help them out? I wish we had heard of that earlier because that's a sore spot in the community.

Mayor Pruyn: I know that Valley Wide has incorporated some of their doctors. They have actually been looking at the possibility of expanding. I'm hoping the medical community is going to do something.

3. Council Member Mestas: Rick, can you bring us up to par on the nursing home?

City Manager Klein: Actually, my parts done. Once they get into building it, I told them to reach out to me because I've done a lot of projects. I would help them through some of those processes.

Council Member Mestas: Where is it going to be built?

City Manager Klein: They have not made that decision. They do have options and there have been community people that have come forward and said that they would sell their property.

4. Cheryl Lindner, 16 E. 22nd St.: A follow up to Ed's comment about if you could bring light to what City Council has decided with regards to the hospital's request to waive the e-cost adjustment for their utilities.

Mayor Pruyn: Without going into a lot of detail, the letter that Mr. Malouff sent back to Mr. Nichols, basically said that that wasn't a decision to be made by City Council. It has to start at the Utility Board but we also said that we are not dealing with decisions that have to do with the new nursing home because that goes to the hospital district. So, basically we said that we're not going to be doing anything about that right now. We, as a Council, are not favorable in moving forward with that.

5. Mayor Pruyn: Our next meeting will be on a Tuesday again because Monday is Martin Luther King Day, so that'll be January 16th. At that meeting, we will be swearing in our new Ward 2 council person. Once she is sworn in, we will set dates. I would still like to get the work session in by the end of January or first part of February at the latest. We should also start planning on the Meet & Greet that we will have with it. I would encourage everyone on council, if they have a subject they're interested in having at that work session, make sure that Melanie knows or myself so we can make sure it gets on the agenda.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

CITY OF LA JUNTA

ATTEST:

Jeffri Pruyn, Madam Mayor

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk