

**Subject to approval at
the February 6, 2017
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 Lynn Horner on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, 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 Vela gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL: The following Council Members were present:

- Betty Velasquez, Ward 1
- Jim Goodwin, Ward 1
- Frank McKenzie, Ward 2
- Lynn Horner, Mayor
- Jeffri Pruyn, Ward 2
- Edward Vela, Ward 3
- Scott Eckhart, Ward 3

Absent: None

- Also present:
- Rick Klein, City Manager
 - Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
 - Phil Malouff Jr, City Attorney
 - Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
 - Aliza Libby-Tucker, Director of Finance
 - Aaron Eveatt, Fire Chief
 - Ryan Stevens, Economic Development
 - Donna Starck, OCHD
 - Mike Mustain, OCHD
 - Gary Cranson, 705 Edison Ave
 - Beverly Babb, 1120 W. 12th St
 - Cheryl Lindner, 16 E. 22nd St
 - David Balicki, 1605 Cimarron Ave
 - Paul Velasquez, 1313 Bradish Ave
 - Bette McFarren, Tribune-Democrat

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mayor Horner asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of January 17, 2017. Council Member Vela: Under the Tourism Board Report, the minutes do not reflect the recommendation of the Board to put in escrow, so to speak, the \$115,000.00. We need to show that it was not ignored. Also, under City Manager’s Comments, I asked for a progress report on the new code enforcement. I just want this in the record. Hearing no further additions, the Mayor declared the minutes approved as amended and published.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS (10 minute time limit per person):

David Balicki – I’m glad the Tourism website has been put off for a bit, I will be making a website for the City regardless whether they want it or not, for free. I have far better ideas as what you as a City can do. When the proposals come in, I would like to make a presentation during that meeting. I have a lot of different ideas that go beyond just a website. Stemming from that, Dreyton and I have created “The Commission for Advancing Fun and Excitement in La Junta” (CAFÉ LJ). There’s no night life here in La Junta. There are a lot of activities that could be developed with the properties that we have. We are looking for individuals who are high school age and those up into their forties. We can hire someone who can build an awesome website for the City of La Junta but can they do the work to attract the people to that website? You can have the best website in the world but if you don’t have traffic, you don’t have

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interest. It's worthless. ([Council Member Goodwin](#) suggested getting together with Council Member Scott Eckhart for additional information.) ([Council Member Velasquez](#) thanked David for his dedication and commitment to the City of La Junta.)

REPORTS

A. **City of La Junta Monthly Financials.** In front of you is the year end summarized financials. You'll notice these look a little bit different than we've seen in the past. This is all due to our new computer software, it's a better system. My hats off to Aliza – this isn't easy, this isn't done, but we're making great progress. Looking at our financials, it looks like we may have missed the mark a little bit in utilities. You're guessing on the weather when you're making a budget for utilities. However, every project we had coming through benefitted this community.

GENERAL FUND – One that puts a smile on my face every time I'm on Highway 50 how there was water getting into our storm sewer system and that needed to be corrected. It's corrected with that head gate. ([Council Member Vela](#) asked if Rick had actually looked at the head gate. Mr. Klein said yes and it looks and works good.)

INTERNAL SERVICES – We had new vehicles coming on as we had others depreciating. You take the depreciated money to buy the new items.

ELECTRIC FUND – looking good.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT – We had some big projects. Over \$600,00 with Lewis Bolt & Nut.

WATER FUND – We actually for the first time put money back in at 162,000.

WASTEWATER FUND – This year we will be building our new Wastewater Treatment Plant and these numbers are going to go crazy on us.

SANITATION FUND – This is still after the transfer station.

[Council Member McKenzie](#) asked if "cash" is okay, Mr. Klein said yes. So we should expect to see the fund balance go down by the \$2,146 with the auditors – Yes, but this is a lot less than we anticipated when we put the budget together.

[Council Member Vela](#) asked about the \$811,000 in the Water Fund that was mentioned. Is this what we went over budget on? Mr. Klein said that the Water Fund was at (\$347,000) with depreciation of \$509,000 which netted at \$162,000. Mayor Horner said that we initially projecting to spend over \$800,000 on the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

[Council Member Vela](#) asked with all the heavy rain that we had do you think that back fill is going to hold? Did the first one hold? That was pretty wet too. Rick said that he hadn't gone back down there to check yet.

[Council Member Pruy](#) asked regarding the Property Management Fund, you said that part of that was due to Lewis Bolt, have they started paying that back? Yes they have, it's for four years. That was the \$1.5 million loan from the Electric Department. The payments go directly back to the Electric Department. The City paid for the Hangar, we won't be getting any of that back? It was for \$320,000. Do we have anybody asking for big amounts like that for this next year? No.

[Council Member Vela](#) asked when those auditors come in about two or three months, could you ask them to give us our reserve balance at the end of the year? Yes we can do that. Do you know how much specifically in our budget is made up of grants? Aliza will get those numbers, but it is a very low number for 2016. One more thing, a couple of years ago, we got back a little over \$600,000 from a law suit with ARPA, do we still have that in a trust? Rick said that we are not going to do anything with that money until everything is settled. Just in case something comes up. If the litigation ensues forward, will it take money from there? Rick said you never know. So we just have to wait for the appeals process and we might get more money to add to the \$600,000? Rick said it might go towards debt reduction.

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2016 Year End Financials

(\$000)	Revenue	Expense	Difference	Depreciation	Ending
General Fund	\$ 6,881	\$ 7,334	\$ (453)	-	\$ (453)
Internal Service	\$ 1,021	\$ 1,177	\$ (156)	\$ 214	\$ 58
Electric Fund	\$ 11,324	\$ 11,332	\$ (8)	\$ 428	\$ 420
Property Management	\$ 875	\$ 1,976	\$ (1,101)	\$ 662	\$ (439)
Water Fund	\$ 2,953	\$ 3,300	\$ (347)	\$ 509	\$ 162
Wastewater Fund	\$ 3,236	\$ 3,280	\$ (44)	\$ 274	\$ 230
Sanitation Fund	\$ 886	\$ 923	\$ (37)	\$ 79	\$ 42
TOTAL	\$ 27,176	\$ 29,322	\$ (2,146)	\$ 2,166	\$ 20

NEW BUSINESS

A. Tourism Board Recommendations for Funding.**1. Santa Fe Trail Historic Byway - \$1,000.00 for Visitors Guide advertisement.**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF TOURISM TAX REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000.00 TO SANTA FE TRAIL HISTORIC BYWAY FOR ADVERTISING: Pruyn

SECOND: Eckhart

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

2. La Junta Tribune Democrat - \$410.00 for advertisement in LJTD Progress publication.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF TOURISM TAX REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$410.00 TO LA JUNTA TRIBUNE DEMOCRAT FOR ADVERTISING: Vela

SECOND: Eckhart

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

B. Liquor Licenses

1. Application for Renewal of a 3.2% Beer Off Premises Liquor License by Love's Travel Stops & Country Stores Inc., d/b/a Love's Country Store No. 12, 308 E. 1st Street. 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 Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT RENEWAL OF A 3.2% BEER OFF PREMISES LIQUOR LICENSE BY LOVE'S TRAVEL STOPS & COUNTRY STORES INC., D/B/A LOVE'S COUNTRY STORE NO. 12, 308 E. 1ST STREET: Eckhart

SECOND: Pruyn

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

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2. **Application for Renewal of a Tavern Liquor License by Ronald E. 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. Appropriate fees have been tendered and the City Attorney recommends approval.

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

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

C. Board Appointments

1. **Reappoint Karen Kelley to the La Junta Urban Renewal Authority Board (term to expire 12/2021).**

MOTION TO TABLE REAPPOINTMENT TO ALLOW FOR ADVERTISING OF VACANCY: Vela

SECOND: McKenzie

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Those voting YES (Velasquez, Goodwin, McKenzie, Horner, Vela, Eckhart)

Those voting NO (Pruyn)

The motion carried 6-1

2. **Reappoint Rebecca Goodwin to the La Junta Urban Renewal Authority Board (term to expire 12/2021).**

MOTION TO TABLE REAPPOINTMENT TO ALLOW FOR ADVERTISING OF VACANCY: Vela

SECOND: McKenzie

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Those voting YES (Velasquez, Goodwin, McKenzie, Horner, Vela, Eckhart)

Those voting NO (Pruyn)

The motion carried 6-1

- D. A Resolution Accepting an Aeronautic Grant (2017). Resolution No. R-6-2017 was presented for Council's consideration as follows:

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the State of Colorado declared in Title 43 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, Article 10, 1991 in C.R.S. §43-10-101 ("the Act") "...that there exists a need to promote the safe operations and accessibility of general aviation in this state; that improvements to general aviation transportation facilities will promote diversified economic development across the state; and that accessibility to airport facilities for residents of this state is crucial in the event of a medical or other type of emergency ..."; and

WHEREAS, the Act created the Colorado Aeronautical Board ("the Board") to establish policy and procedures for distribution of monies in the Aviation Fund and created the Division of Aeronautics ("the Division") to carry out the directives of the

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Board, including technical and planning assistance to airports and the administration of the state aviation system grant program. SEE C.R.S. §43-10-103 and C.R.S. §43-10-105 and C.R.S. §43-10-108.5 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, any entity operating a public-accessible airport in the state may file an application for and be recipient of a grant to be used solely for aviation purposes. The Division is authorized to assist such airports as request assistance by means of a Resolution passed by the applicant's duly-authorized governing body, which understands that all funds shall be used exclusively for aviation purposes and that it will comply with all grant procedures and requirements as defined in the Division's Aviation Grant Management Manual, revised 2009, ("the Manual");

WHEREAS, the City and State have agreed upon a grant to finish phase 3 of the crack seal, seal coat and remark Runway 8/26 and the adjoining apron generally located at the City of La Junta Municipal Airport; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of La Junta as a duly authorized governing body of the grant applicant, hereby formally requests assistance from the Colorado Aeronautical Board and the Division of Aeronautics in the form of a state aviation system grant. The City of La Junta states that such grant shall be used solely for aviation purposes, as determined by the State and as generally described in the Application.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City as an airport-operating entity (that applies for and accepts a grant) thereby makes a following COMMITMENT:

- a) to keep the airport facility accessible to, and open to, the public during the entire useful life of the grant funded improvements/equipment; or
- b) to reimburse the Division for any unexpired useful life of the improvements/equipment, or a pro-rata basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager is authorized to execute the Grant Agreement on behalf of the City of La Junta.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that by signing this grant agreement, the applicant commits to keep open and accessible for public use all grant funded facilities, improvements and services for their useful life, as determined by the Division and stated in the Grant Agreement.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Junta hereby designates Bill Jackson as the Project Director, as described in the Manual and authorizes the Project Director to act in all matters relating to the work project proposed in the Application in its behalf, including executions of the grant contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Junta has appropriated or will appropriate or otherwise make available in a timely manner all funds (\$125,000.00) that are required to be provided by the Applicant under the terms and conditions of the grant contract.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of La Junta hereby accepts all guidelines, procedures, standards and requirements described in the Manual as applicable to the performance of the grant work and hereby approves the grant contract submitted by the State, including all terms and conditions contained therein.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. R-6-2017: Goodwin

SECOND: Vela

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0

E. Committee/Board Reports

1. Council Member Pruy (Design Committee) – we will have a meeting next Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. in the Power Board Room to finalize the renderings for our trash receptacles.
2. Council Member Vela (Sr. Center Board) – I had the opportunity to go to my first Senior Citizens Board Meeting and they've got a few repairs to do down there to the roof. Luckily they saved the pool table area because it's a popular area. The San Diego trip is filled up and is working on making a second one. Also, the next trip will be in October to Branson Missouri, call the Senior Center to sign up.
3. Council Member Velasquez (Hospital Board) – the Board did not meet in December but will be meeting next week.

F. City Manager's Comments

1. 1st and 2nd grade basketball ends Wednesday. We had 200 kids making 19 teams for the 3rd through 8th graders. They'll play from the 18th until the end of February.
2. It's less than a month till soccer, so springtime is almost here.
3. OJC and the High School are paying for all the materials to redo the bullpens at the 22nd Street Ball field and we're doing the work in-kind.
4. As of the 10th, we were 20 calls over in the Fire Department compared to last year.
5. The WARP (Winter Adult Reading Program) at the Library will run from February 1st through March 18th. The theme will be "Build a Better World."
6. One of the offices was redone for Doss Aviation out at the airport.
7. A lot of people are coming in for the Residential Sidewalk Program.
8. Lots of people are also signing up for pool reservations.

Council Member Vela: what is the basic criteria for the sidewalk program? Its normally first come, first serve. We do try to make sure that we fill in any gaps between properties already taken care of or if it's a corner lot so that we put a handicap ramp in. There's a place where the tree is growing so big and wide. Is the tree gone now? I don't think so. It's really made the sidewalk pop up. Give me the address so I can get with the land owner.

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9. We have combined the street and sanitation crews. Sanitation will be handled in the morning and streets in the afternoon.
10. Hats off to all of the City departments in the snow removal this year.

Council Member Pruyn: is there a certain amount of time you put the magnesium chloride on the road before it snows? It depends. You don't want to apply it when its slush. If you can hit it when its dry pavement, it'll stick on it. It seemed like it made a pretty big difference. When I saw it on Friday, I just didn't know if it was too early. Does it stay on there? Is there any residual left on it? No, once you put a blade to it, it'll wear right off. Have there been studies as to what happens when it goes down your drains? They have really improved their product.

11. TLM can't get down into the Arroyo because of the storms. They have finished the last section of fence at the Streets/Sanitation/Parks Shop.
12. Lost a couple of poles down on San Juan Avenue and Highway 50.
13. We didn't have an outage last year due to trees because of our Tree Program. You get the trees and limbs away from the power lines, you don't have these problems.

Council Member Pruyn: regarding the snow, the crews have done an awesome job, but my question is, on 3rd and 4th Street between Santa Fe and Colorado, I've noticed on the south side of the street that the ice sticks around for a long time. Is that a liability to the City? No, it's considered a road hazard and we're not liable for that. Also, I love the lights downtown, but I've noticed that there's a cool white and a warm white going on. Is there a reason for that? Why are the lights not consistently one color? Reuben is aware of the problem and has the guys marking the lights.

Council Member McKenzie: what is the status of the Police Department being down in man power? We are still down a couple. We have a new Sergeant that's coming on out of Walsenburg. One of the Code officers has gone through the Academy and we will be brining her up. I heard we were more understaffed due to another resignation. No resignations. Also, have we heard anything from Rod Staubaugh with Tiny Homes officially wanting us to help him enlarge? (Bill Jackson: he and Ryan Stevens were approached concerning a new building expansion. We made an offer and asked for a standard contract and he has never gotten back with us.) (Vela: do you know if he's working around the clock? No.) We've talked some about the Tourism Board, do you think they could resurrect Music at the Junction? Maybe get the topic going again through them? Maybe they could fund it so that it doesn't have to come out of the General Fund. (Malouff: they can't do the underwriting. Without looking at the language of the ordinance, I don't believe they can sponsor anything either.)

Council Member Pruyn: I heard that the Boys Ranch got sold. Yes. Do we know to whom? No we don't. (Ryan Stevens: everyone at the sale signed a Disclosure Agreement. Closing was the last week of December.)

G. City Attorney's Comments

1. **AVRMC Meeting Schedule.** The Hospital Board would like to meet the last Tuesday in February or March. It was agreed to schedule for March 28th at 6:00 p.m. at their place.

H. Governing Body's Comments

Council Member Goodwin: I would like to commend the La Junta Fire Department for the Holidays, Aaron's wife Stephanie had the halls decorated nicely and it was appreciated by quite a few people. I've had a few complaints about concrete piling up down by the River. It almost toppled over last year. The concrete will be buried with dirt to build it up.

Council Member Vela: thanked Aaron for the article in the paper about keeping off the pond. Even though its cold doesn't mean it's frozen. That was a good article.

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Mayor Horner: I would like for you to be aware that Jim has lost a grandson. The funeral is this Friday, my condolences. We do have Veritas coming to give a presentation about the nursing home this Friday at noon in the Council Chambers. Also, on the 24th at 6:30, we have a Work Session scheduled and the primary things we will be going over are: Visitors Center, Smokeless Tobacco Ordinance, Nursing Home and the Vacant/Dilapidated Building Ordinance.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Lynn Horner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk