

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 Monday, June 5, 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
Frank McKenzie, Ward 2
Lynn Horner, Mayor
Jeffri Pruyne, Ward 2
Edward Vela, Ward 3
Scott Eckhart, Ward 3

Absent: Jim Goodwin, Ward 1

Also present: Rick Klein, City Manager
Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
Phil Malouff Jr, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Darren Adame, Director of Engineering
Todd Quick, Chief of Police
William Macdonald, 706 Raton Ave
Beverly Babb, 1120 W. 12th St
Lorenz Sutherland, Utilities Board Chairman
Angela Ayala, 1514 San Juan Ave
Joe Ayala, 1514 San Juan Ave
Cheryl Lindner, 16 E. 22nd St
Greg Kolomitz, P O Box 662
Eugene Mestas, 1203 Grace Ave
Susan Elliott, 1310 Lincoln Ave
Stephen Nielsen, Clean Valley Recycling
Sheila LeRoy, 522 Raton Ave
Josh Phifer, La Junta
Scott Monarco, Utilities Board Commissioner
Ken Ball, Fraser CO
Jeff Wood, Denver CO
Brittany Wheeler, Denver CO
Aalok Bhattara, Denver CO
Deb Gray, La Junta
Bette McFarren, La Junta Tribune Democrat

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Mayor Horner asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting of May 15, 2017. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as published.

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

1. Cheryl Lindner, 16 E. 22nd Street: Reminding everyone that the topic for the Community Conversations this week at the Barista is “All Things Tourism” presented by Pam Denahy.

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REPORTS

- A. La Junta Comprehensive Plan - Matrix.** Darren Adame said that the final meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 7th from 6:30-9:30 at the Senior Center. Then we'll be back for Council's approval and can hopefully have it adopted by the end of July.
- B. Certified Local Government Application.** Darren Adame said that we are 90% complete for the City of La Junta to become a Certified Local Government. It's been great working with the County and the State. There are a few adjustments to be made and then it will be presented to the State. This will primarily help us with Economic Development.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Clean Valley Recycling.** Stephen Nielsen with Clean Valley Recycling shared information about their curbside recycling program. This will help recycle rates. You will still have the options of the Southeast and East Center Recycling bins that are around town, Clean Valley's truck on 3rd and Adams and now you'll have curbside as well. We have been doing this for the last two years in Rocky Ford and Swink and now people in La Junta have shown interest. The fee for the service will be less than \$100 per year with pick-ups done twice a month. We currently have 51 residents and businesses who have already signed up. Please see our website for more information.
- B. Multi-Modal Station/Visitor Center.** Jeff Wood, Brittany Wheeler, Aalok Bhattara presented those in attendance three different renderings of the Multi-Modal Station having the Visitor Center included in it. They explained the changes, energy efficiencies and how the look of the town was incorporated into the renderings.
- C. Application for a Special Events Permit by La Junta Chamber of Commerce, Angela Ayala, Event Manager. The event is the Annual Party at the Plaza to be held June 9, July 14, and August 11, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to midnight at 1st and Santa Fe (Santa Fe Plaza).** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. The appropriate fee has been tendered and the premises have been posted. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT TO LA JUNTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE ANNUAL PARTY AT THE PLAZA TO BE HELD JUNE 9, JULY 14, AND AUGUST 11, 2017 FROM 4:00 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT AT 1ST AND SANTA FE AVENUE: Vela

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: None

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

- D. First Reading/AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF SEVENTH AVENUE AND "B" STREET IN LA JUNTA, OTERO COUNTY, COLORADO, AS SHOWN BY THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF.** The ordinance was read by title only, there being copies available to those in attendance.

MOTION TO PASS THE ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING: McKenzie

SECOND: Eckhart

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion.

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

- E. Participate on the County Historic Preservation Committee.** Mayor Horner shared that there's been some discussion among some of the members of the Urban Renewal Board wanting to know why La Junta is pursuing their own C.L.G. when we have an existing C.L.G. that most of the communities within our county are already a part of. We have three members of the City of La Junta

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that are members of that Historic Preservation Committee. It seems to be it's a little redundant of re-duplication.

Cheryl Lindner, 16 E. 22nd Street: I've talked with Darren and after seeing the piece in the paper about looking for representatives for the group to represent the City, that listing seemed to be looking for individuals with highly specialized skills. In my past dealings, collaboration and consolidation, utilization of resources to its fullest extent were big. If you joined efforts versus going it alone, you'd have a little more leverage.

Council Member Vela: I think it's a pass-thru for the City so we could get funds, for example, for the tennis court and that's an area that's still not totally worked out as far as preservation.

City Manager Klein: The City Park is already on the register.

Council Member Vela: Would this group do the funding mechanisms?

City Manager Klein: Yes

Mayor Horner: We don't have to make a decision tonight but I would like for you to consider which would be the better way to go. I'm also going to encourage us to look into a work session and this can be an item to discuss.

Council Member Vela: Lynn, for Urban Renewal you had some handouts concerning this and asked us to read them. I haven't read it yet but I've got the handout.

Mayor Horner: Darren, I appreciate your time and energy. Let's still pursue this and we'll see which direction Council wants to go.

Council Member Vela: Darren, could you look into any time constraints?

Darren Adame, Director of Engineering: We could be certified by September 1st if everything goes well.

Council Member Velasquez: I'd have to echo what Cheryl said that it would be best to consolidate our resources.

Council Member McKenzie: I would like to know how we got to this point because obviously somewhere along the line, Darren was directed to go do this and now all of a sudden . . .

City Manger Klein: When this first came up, it was years and years ago with Urban Renewal with a whole different crew. They were all about control your own destiny. Things change when different groups come in.

Mayor Horner: I agree with you Frank. It's sort of sad that we've gotten to this point and we didn't have this discussion before we proceeded forward but that's the way it happened.

City Attorney Malouff: Way back when this was being considered, their concern at that time was that things can become argumentative and so they were concerned about local control.

A. Committee/Board Reports

1. Council Member Vela (Senior Citizens Board) – The Senior Center is back to normal now after the flood they had.
2. Council Member Pruyn (Tree Board) – We will be having a meeting on Wednesday the 14th at 4:00 p.m. in the Power Board Room.
3. Council Member Velasquez (Hospital Board) – We approved the financials and the retention of R.N.'s was a hot topic.

B. City Manager's Comments

1. Weeds, weeds, weeds.
2. We've held off on some of the notices on the trees until after Memorial Weekend.
3. The pool opened on the 30th.
4. We had twenty teams for the Baseball Tournament for ages 8-11 years old.

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5. YBC started last week.
6. The cemetery looked great for the Memorial Weekend.
7. We'll be starting the budget and finishing up on the audit.
8. There were sixty-four players for the Memorial Golf Tournament.
9. We re-did the handicap ramp at Pappy's.
10. We're getting the streets ready to be stripped down from Carson and San Juan.
11. Patching is being done anytime we can.
12. Clete has retired, her party was last week.
13. The summer helps is here to help work on the weeds on our own properties.

Council Member Vela: The street between 5th and 6th on Belmont really needs those holes filled. Will that be done next?

City Manager Klein: As soon as we can get to it.

Council Member Velasquez: Do we know anything about the Economic Development Director position?

City Manager Klein: We've got approval from Urban Renewal to combine that position with the Urban Renewal Director position. Right now, we are combining the job descriptions, so it hasn't gone out yet.

Council Member Velasquez: What are we doing with the branches on 3rd and Adams?

City Manager Klein: We are having a chipper brought in. It will be here on the 12th.

Eugene Mestas, 1203 Grace Ave.: When will you be putting up street signs that are missing and paint striping the streets?

City Manager Klein: Once we're done with the chip seal.

C. City Attorney's Comments

1. Commended Rick on how he handles citizens discussions with him during his personal time.

D. Governing Body's Comments

1. Council Member Vela: Commended the Chamber on the flags. Went to an ARPA meeting and not one person applied for the scholarship. Also, I am seriously considering running to be La Junta' next mayor.
2. Mayor Horner: There will be four different positions come open this next November. The Mayor's position, Betty Velasquez – Ward 1, Frank McKenzie – Ward 2, and Scott Eckhart – Ward 3.

We will schedule a work session for July 17 at 5:30 p.m.

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR A CONFERENCE WITH THE CITY ATTORNEY FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING POSITIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS THAT MAY BE SUBJECT TO NEGOTIATIONS, DEVELOPING STRATEGY FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AND/OR INSTRUCTING NEGOTIATORS, UNDER C.R.S §24-6-402 (4) (e): Velasquez

SECOND: Pruyn

DISCUSSION: None

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

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Council went into Executive Session at 8:58 p.m. The session ended at 9:49 p.m., and the regular meeting was reconvened. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Lynn Horner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk