

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 19, 2010

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

Subject to approval at the February 1,
2010 Regular City Council Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Mayor Don Rizzuto on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

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

INVOCATION: Father Bernie Ebert of St. Andrews Episcopal and Holy Cross Lutheran Churches offered the invocation.

ROLL CALL: The following Council Members were present:

- Jackie Abrams, Ward 1
- Eugene Mestas, Ward 1
- Billie Johnson, Ward 2
- Don Rizzuto, Mayor
- Bill Schmidt, Ward 2
- Bob Freidenberger, Ward 3
- Michael Moreno, Ward 3

Absent: None

- Also present:
- Rick Klein, City Manager
 - Bill Jackson, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Safety
 - Phillip F. Malouff, Jr., City Attorney
 - Jan Schooley, City Clerk
 - Lloyd Smith, Electric Utility Director
 - Dan Eveatt, Director of Engineering
 - Mike Steeves, IT Manager
 - Deb Gray, Engineering Office
 - Bev Babb, La Junta
 - Tim Klob, La Junta
 - Frank McKenzie, Jodi's Grill L.L.C.
 - Pam Denahy, Events Coordinator
 - Lynn Horner, Urban Renewal Authority
 - Basiel Layton, La Junta
 - Gary Wyant, La Junta
 - John Yergert, La Junta
 - Kelly Block, La Junta
 - Lance Benninghoff, Otero County
 - Cheryl Lindner, La Junta
 - Bette McFarren, The Local Buzz
 - Lisa Steeves, Tribune-Democrat

PROCLAMATION DECLARING 2010 TO BE CENSUS AWARENESS YEAR: Mayor Rizzuto read the proclamation aloud and signed it.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Mayor Rizzuto asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the January 4, 2010, Regular City Council Meeting. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as published.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - None

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NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor Licenses

1. **Renewal/Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License for Mexico City Café, Pam Sisson, Owner, 1617 Raton Avenue.** The application is in order and has been reviewed by City Supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. Requisite fees are attached. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT THE RENEWAL: Moreno

SECOND: Schmidt

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0.

2. **Renewal/Hotel & Restaurant Liquor License for a Taste of Tuscany Ristorante, Jose Quintana, Owner, 208 Santa Fe.** The application is in order, and has been reviewed by City Supervisors for compliance with City and State codes. Requisite fees are attached. The City Attorney recommends approval.

MOTION TO GRANT THE RENEWAL: Moreno

SECOND: Johnson

DISCUSSION: The City Clerk explained that even though this business has closed down, it is necessary for the license to remain active while the business is undergoing a change of ownership. Jodi's Grill L.L.C. has applied for a new Hotel and Restaurant liquor license at this location, and as long as this license remains active, the City Clerk may grant a temporary permit to Jodi's until they have been approved for their own license.

VOTE: The motion carried 7-0.

3. **Application for Transfer of Ownership of a Hotel and Restaurant Liquor License by Jodi's Grill L.L.C., Jody Hughes, Owner, 208 Santa Fe Avenue.** The application is in order and all requisite fees and documents have been submitted. A temporary liquor permit has been issued by the City Clerk. Council set this matter for a public hearing on March 1, 2010.

- B. **Sign Code.** Mayor Rizzuto asked that Planning Commission take a look at our Sign Code and make recommendations to Council for some changes, especially for signs that are perpendicular to buildings. He would like to allow signs to hang perpendicular to buildings so that businesses downtown are more easily recognized. He would like things to be fair and consistent. Freidenberger mentioned he would like to see some type of regulations for signage for the downtown yard sales and Early Settlers Day that would be temporary in nature and only used when needed. Mayor Rizzuto asked that City Council Members be notified when this matter is placed on the Planning Commission agenda, so that they may submit any suggestions to the Planning Commission for their consideration.

- C. **Appointments to Tourism Board.** Eleven letters of application were received and the City Clerk has prepared a ballot with all eleven applicants named. The ballots were handed out to Council and Mayor Rizzuto asked the Council Members to vote for five. The following were elected: Beverly Babb, Ron Davis, Pat Jernberg, Tim Klob and John Yergert. Mayor Rizzuto thanked everyone that applied for this board, and reiterated that La Junta is a City of volunteers. Without volunteers our City simply could not function.

D. Committee/Board Reports

1. Moreno reported on today's Library Board meeting.
2. Freidenberger Reported on the recent ARPA meeting which was held by conference call. They ratified the Raton arbitration at that time.

E. City Manager's Comments

1. The new water tanks are going up and all is progressing well.
2. Railroad Specialties has started work on the railroad spur for Lewis Railways.
3. TLM has started construction on the Belmont Avenue from 6th Street to 8th Street.

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4. The Parks Department is rebuilding the pitcher's mound at Potter Park.
5. We have 32 teams in our Youth Basketball program this year.
6. OJC is moving a storage shed from the 22nd Street ball field to the Rodeo Grounds. They will convert it to a concession stand for the rodeo program.
7. One thousand feet of fencing is going up at the Airport, paid for by FAA funds. This is for wildlife control.
8. Urban Renewal is advertising their curb and gutter program for the tax increment district.

F. City Attorney's Comments – None

G. Governing Body's Comments

1. Mayor Rizzuto mentioned that School Superintendent Jim Sullivan is retiring this year. He said he would like to thank him for the cooperation we have received from the School District on various projects and facilities.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Janice L. Schooley, City Clerk

Don Rizzuto, Mayor