



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA BOARD OF
UTILITIES
LA JUNTA, CO
JULY 14, 2026
4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
601 COLORADO AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Utilities of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Chairman Patrick Berg on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

Present: Joe Ayala, Mayor
Patrick Berg, Chairman
CaSandra Thomas, Commissioner
Paul Velasquez, Mayor ProTem/Vice-Chair

Absent:

Also Present: Michael Hart, City Manager
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Aliza Libby, Director of Finance
Chris Arguello, Electrical Superintendent
Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Exec.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Chairperson)

A. Regular Meeting June 9, 2026

Chairman Berg asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 9, 2026. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 9, 2026 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Velasquez

SECOND: Thomas

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute time limit per person)

Carlos Angel, who owns 1015 E. 4th Street, complained about the sewer stench and that the City needs to do something about it.

REPORTS

A. 2025 Audit Update (Aliza Libby)

The 2025 audit is online under the Finance tab. She went over the Enterprise Fund financial ratios. She also suggested it would be a good idea to get with supervisors during the budget.

B. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson)

Summary of May 2026 Financial Statement

- In May, power sales revenue was less than budget by \$22,476 (1.1%)
- Cost of goods sold was under budget by \$12,801 (1.0%)
- Net operating revenue for May was \$149,868

Year to Date Income Statement

- Revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$466,983 (4.8%)
- Total revenues were less than budget by \$380,134
- The total cost of goods sold was under budget by \$116,938 (1.8%)
- Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$141,924 (5.4%)
- YTD Net Revenue is under budget by \$898,468 (12.0%)
- Average of 161 days cash on hand
- Debt service coverage year to date is 1.09X

May Operating Report

- Member Energy sales were 1.9% less than budget in May and .25% more than they were in May 2025
- Member energy sales YTD are 4.7% less than budget and 5% less than YTD 2025 sales
- Member demands of 46 mW were 0.7% less than in May 2025
- All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09218 per kWh
- The avoided cost rate for June will be \$43.91 per mWh
- The 2026 YTD blended rate for power is \$42.72 per mWh compared to \$44.89 per mWh in 2025, about 4.8% cheaper
- In May, ARPA purchased 20,845 kWh from individual La Junta renewable (solar) generators for \$894.67

Next Regular Meeting

- August 27, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at Otero College in La Junta.

C. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba)

R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: Changed oil in chemical pumps, PM on degasifiers, exhaust fans, backup generators; tank inspections, flushed fire line at plant.
- AGRA certified well meters
- Diagnosing communication failures from well fields.
- Fixed overflow screen on reserve tank.
- replaced packing glands on reserve pumps.
- Supplied DeBourgh with permeate water for their systems while they were undergoing upgrades.
- Repaired feed dump valve at R.O. Plant.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance; meter reading.

Distribution

- Replaced services from 1st to 3rd on Bellevue and Lincoln before street repaving project.
- Capped old, unused services on Bellevue Avenue.
- Installed new service for Light Plant and capped old services.
- Replaced sidewalk at 421 W. 3rd Street.
- Meter reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.

Wastewater

- Treated 23.777 million gallons. Removed 19 cubic feet of screenings and 34 cubic feet of grit.
- R.O. concentrate discharge to plant was 23.391 million gallons.
- Jetted 7,597 feet of line for seven emergency calls and 16 manhole locate requests.
- Replaced HVAC unit in UV building from PTAC unit to mini split. New unit works better and more efficiently.
- Replaced HVAC belts and reset VFD in headworks.
- Replaced broken bulb in UV system.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance.

Other Notables

- Stage 2 water restrictions continue.
- Continue work on currently funded grants and loans.
- Submitted Risk & Resilience Assessment and Emergency Response Plan to EPA on June 30th.

D. Electric Department (Chris Arguello)

Monthly Tasks

- Daily reads, disconnects and maintenance.
- Tree trimming.
- Replaced a power pole on 14th and Daniels Avenue that was struck by a vehicle.
- Had a pole catch fire on Hwy 109 due to a storm. The pole has been replaced.
- Replaced a streetlight pole on Hwy 50 and Santa Fe Avenue and on West Hwy 50 due to vehicle collisions.
- Performed maintenance at the Line Crew shop.
- The roof at the Light Plant has been completed.

System Update

- Breaker Replacement Project: Eaton Engineers conducted a walk-through and gathered necessary information.

Solar Accounts

- There were 17.650 Kwh put back onto the system in June.

E. Sanitation (Martin Montoya)

- Spoke about the JK Rate Study and believes that sanitation is due for another increase.
- SECRA offers a different service that's available to everybody in the area, but what's coming down with EPR is the state is going to be paying for curbside recycling, which will be free to all the residents in this community. Hopefully it can be rolled out by the end of the year. At that point, there will probably be fewer users of the station located at 3rd and Adams Avenue.
- The City of La Junta is currently enrolled with CAA (Circular Action Alliance), which is the organization that is in charge of taking all the funding from the commercial entities that are producing the recyclable materials and distributing that money to mostly municipalities. We are currently creating a form for people to sign up.

NEW BUSINESS

A. City Manager Comments

- The auditors are more than willing and able to answer any questions at any time, along with Aliza or me. You don't have to wait for another meeting to ask

questions.

- There's been lots of talk about the JK Study. It would be my recommendation to this board that you look into the Consumer Price Index, CPI. These numbers are calculated by the Bureau of Labor & Statistics. It can help the city essentially not have to pay big money for these studies every few years.

B. Governing Body's Comments

There were no governing body comments.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Patrick Berg, Chairman