

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

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Utilities Commissioners of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Chairman Gary Cranson on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Roll was called and the following Board Members were present:

Present: Joe Ayala, Mayor
 Patrick Berg, Commissioner
 Mike Bourget, Commissioner – via phone
 Gary Cranson, Vice-Chairman
 Paul Velasquez, Council Member

Absent: none

Also present: Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
 Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
 Erin Harris, City Attorney
 Lexi Bradshaw, Deputy City Clerk
 Tom Seaba, Director of Water/WW
 Chris Arguello, Electric Superintendent
 Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
 Aliza Libby, Director of Finance
 Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.
 Bette McFarren, RF Gazette

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Cranson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 14, 2024. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as published.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Aliza Libby, Director of Finance: The Utility Online System will be upgraded effective this Friday to allow for text messaging. You will also be able to link multiple accounts.

REPORTS

A. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson):

1. **Summary of April 2024** Financial and Operating Statements: In April, revenue from power sales was \$12,999 (0.7%) better than budget. Cost of goods sold was \$33,890 under budget. Net operating revenue for the month was \$394,412
2. **Year to Date Income Statement:** Revenue from power sales was under budget \$48,002 (0.6%). Total revenues were better than budget \$ 195,418. Total cost of goods sold was less than budget by \$77,428 (1.4%). Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$ 175,420 (7.5%). YTD Net Revenue is \$ 1,037,393. Average of 107 days cash on hand. Debt service coverage year to date is 1.24X
3. **Operating Report:** Member Energy sales were 1.2% better than budget and 4% better than they were in 2023. Member energy sales YTD are 0.69% better than budget and 0.74% better than sales in 2023. Member demands of 40.2 mW were 1.3% higher than April 2023. All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09887 per kWh, 2.2% lower than 2020 when ARPA last changed its rates. The avoided cost rate for April will be \$52.58 per mWh.

4. **ARPA Text Service:** ARPA signed a contract with a company called TextPower, which will provide mobile messaging services to member cities. The service may be used by the city to notify city customers of outages, work status or notice of service disruption events as the city may choose.
5. **Next Meeting:** August 29, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at Otero College in La Junta.

B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba):

1. R.O. Plant
 - Routine maintenance: flushed chemical lines, rebuilt chlorine supply line for pump #1, repaired RO leaks, replaced batteries in UPS's, tested well static levels, finished water hoist inspection.
 - Troubleshooting additional flow meters.
 - Installed new manway hatch and lock; people trying to climb 3MG tank.
 - Replaced sodium hydroxide pump with unused pump from Sulfuric acid room as temporary fix.
 - Replaced chlorine mixing developed leak on bottom seam. Replaced tank.
 - Meter Reading, additional facilities maintenance.
2. Distribution
 - Installing water line to Brick and Tile Park.
 - Irrigating farms and also planting some grass and cover crop. Additional grass/revegetation mix to be planted this fall. Continual weed control.
 - Departmental training for LCRR.
 - Meter Reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.
3. May 2024 Water Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$ 3,793,700 less \$ 1,286,348.82 in expenses and \$ 271,009.65 in encumbrances leaves a remaining budget of \$ 2,236,341.53. Expenses exceed revenue by \$ 141,428.25.
4. Wastewater
 - Treated 25.349 million gallons. Removed 18ft³ of screenings and 49ft³ of grit.
 - RO concentrate discharge to plant was 23.031 million gallons.
 - Jetted 6,428 feet of line for three emergency calls and twenty-three manhole locate requests.
 - New diffuser and mount put on primary pump at the McDonald's lift station.
 - Planning repair/maintenance project for orbal basin to begin week of 06/03/2024.
 - Oil changes to gravity thickener motor.
 - Additional plant, collection system, and grounds maintenance.
5. May 2024 Wastewater Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$3,503,900 less \$1,469,093.57 in expenses and \$308,154.29 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$1,726,652.14. Expenses exceed revenue by \$298,039.20.
6. Other Notables:
 - Continue lead & copper survey on city.
 - Gave tour of RO plant to officials from UCCS.
 - Working towards additional \$300,000 grant to assist with distribution system replacement planning/funding. PNA letter accepted by the CDPHE. Working on project budget.
 - Participating in Arkansas River Morphology study to show how changes to the Arkansas River impact water conveyance, measurement, delivery, and storage.
 - One WWTP employee earned Collections 1 certification.
 - Received requested project water allocation to bolster storage and reserves.

- Monitoring reservoir releases as Bureau of Reclamation makes/maintains room in Pueblo reservoir for projected increased inflows.
- On May 30th, an additional \$90-million in federal funding was allocated for the Arkansas Valley Conduit project. The AVC received the largest amount of BIL funding for any of the projects included in this year's funding.

C. Electric Department (Chris Arguello/Bill Jackson):

1. Line Crew

- Daily reads, disconnects and maintenance.
- Continuing line maintenance program.
- A broken transformer stinger was replaced behind the bowling alley, five customers lost power.
- A 25 kVA transformer was added to split the load in the 400 block of Belmont Avenue.
- The crew replaced a broken cross-arm at 1222 Lewis Avenue.
- A tree landed on the power lines during a wind storm that caused a pole to split in half at 416 Cimarron Avenue.
- An abandoned pole on 10th Street was removed and a street light was replaced at 10th and San Juan Avenue.
- Branches were removed from power lines throughout town due to ongoing high winds.
- A pad mount transformer was set in place for the new detention center on 2nd Street.
- Cut down a service for the Fire Department at 12th and Rice Avenue. Went back out a couple of days later to inspect the primary lines for heat damage, there was no damage to the line.

2. SOLAR Accounts

- The total kWh returned to the system was 27,080 from 35 customers. A total of \$1,435.00 was rebated at the avoided costs. There are currently 35 residential and 2 commercial solar customers.

3. System Update

- ARPA Operating Committee met ~ System evaluations are going by CLP Engineers.
- System Engineering and SCADA is ongoing.
- ARPA is finalizing the solar contract; 5 MW at La Junta and Lamar, and 2 MW at Trinidad.

4. May 2024 Electric Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$ 12,290,500 less \$ 4,275,492.30 in expenses and \$ 226,542.40 in encumbrances leaves a remaining budget of \$ 7,788,465.30. Revenue exceeds expenses by \$ 439,786.52

D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya):

1. Customer Information

CUSTOMERS	2024	2023	DIFF.	CHANGE
Residential	2,795	2,788	7	28.00%
Commercial	439	477	(38)	-8.66%
Industrial	10	2	8	80.00%
Municipal	29	17	12	41.38%
Total	3,273	3,284	(11)	112.97%

2. Landfill

TONS	2024	2023	DIFF.	CHANGE	TONNAGE	
Otero County Landfill	684.77	538.96	145.81	21.29%	Open Top	51.76
Southeast Recycling	20.87	22.8	(1.93)	-9.25%	Compactor	0
Clean Valley - Curbside	4.99	4.06	0.93	18.64%	Residential	266.08
Clean Valley - Trailer	3.11	7.43	(4.32)	-139.10%	Commercial	152.58
					Roll Offs	341.78
Total	713.74	573.25	140.49	-108.42%		463.02

3. Other Income

ITEM	May.2024	May.2023	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	DIFF.	CHANGE
Special Pick-Up	4	8	14	23	-9	-64.29%
40-YD Boxes	28	21	122	113	9	7.38%
20-YD Boxes	53	17	133	66	67	50.38%
Overages	38	14	73	71	2	2.74%
Compactor	4	23	24	22	2	8.33%
Trx Station (Open Box)	51.76	43.8	199.03	165.25	33.78	16.97%
Trx Station (Compactor)	0	18.08	22.73	59.53	-37	-161.90%
Tote Replacement	8	10	98	22	76	77.55%

4. The pumps on 1st Street themselves are in good shape but the mechanism for controlling them has been in poor shape. This has been an ongoing issue. SBT Electrical has gone out multiple times. Eventually, they'll be on floats so that they'll start at a certain water level.
5. Keeping the alleyways picked up should be the responsibility of the homeowner. They are responsible for their part of the alley even though it's part of the right-of-way. It's almost a code violation and they should be cited accordingly.
6. May 2024 Sanitation Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$1,513,500 less \$555,325.62 in expenses and \$3,917.50 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$954,256.88. Revenue exceeds expenses by \$15,684.22.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Governing Body's Comments.

1. There were no governing body comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Gary Cranson, Chairman