

**SUBJECT TO APPROVAL AT THE OCTOBER 14, 2025 UTILITIES BOARD MEETING**

BOARD OF UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS - September 9, 2025

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 Patrick Berg on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 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, Chairman  
                      Mike Bourget, Commissioner - via telephone  
                      Keith Manweiler, Commissioner  
                      Paul Velasquez, Council Member/Vice-Chair

Absent:             none

Also present:     Michael Hart, City Manager  
                      Erin Harris, City Attorney  
                      Melanie Scofield, 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 Berg asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 12, 2025. Hearing none, the Chairman declared the minutes approved as published.

**CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

1. Aliza Libby, Director of Finance: Presented the budget for 2025. The budget work session will be held on Monday, September 22nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**REPORTS**

**A. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson submitted the following report):**

**1. Summary of July 2025 Financial and Operating Statements:**

- In July, revenue from power sales was \$123,136 (4.4%) better than budget.
- Cost of goods sold was \$4,683 (0.3%) under budget.
- Net operating revenue for July was \$1,050,469.

**2. Year to Date Income Statement:**

- Revenue from power sales was better than budget by \$252,929 (1.7%).
- Total revenues were better than budget \$376,964.

- Total cost of goods sold was under budget by \$42,498 (0.5%).
- Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$112,929 (3.0%).
- YTD Net Revenue is \$2,583,279 (25.9%) better than budget.
- Average of 117 days cash on hand.
- Debt service coverage year to date is 1.38X.

3. **July Operating Report:**

- Member Energy sales were 3.13% better than budget in July and 3.19% more than they were in July 2024.
- Member energy sales YTD are 1.6% better than budget and 0.65% less than YTD 2024 sales.
- Member demands of 71 mW were 4% higher than July 2024.
- All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09241 per kWh which is 7.5% lower than 2024 and 9.5% lower than 2020.
- The avoided cost rate for August is \$39.51 per mWh.
- The 2025 YTD blended rate for power is \$43.08 per mWh compared to \$51.77 per mWh in 2024, **about 16% cheaper**.

4. Next Regular Meeting: October 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Otero College in La Junta.

**B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba):**

1. R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: Cleaned chemical injectors, flushed chlorine lines and PSI transducers, greased well fan motors, plant safety checks, fixed leak on caustic line.
- Installed new stroke controller on caustic pump #4.
- Installed new gas relay on west booster generator, replaced coolant level transmitter and coolant heater on south booster generator.
- Replaced RO #A's mechanical seal and carbon bearing.
- Changed all cartridge filters.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance; meter reading.

2. Distribution

- Changed all services off of the old line on 14th Street from Raton to Park Avenues. Working on hydrant replacement and capping the old line.
- Planning additional hydrant replacements..
- Meter Reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.

3. Wastewater

- Treated 26.895 million gallons. Removed 40ft<sup>3</sup> of screenings and 25ft<sup>3</sup> of grit.
- RO concentrate discharge to the plant was 24.621 million gallons.
- Jetted 8,962 feet of line for 6 emergency calls and 32 manhole locate requests.
- Coupling cracked on the north Orbal basin. Replaced bearing, will research replacement coupling, bushing and mount.
- East digester cleaned and air diffusers maintained after sludge hauling.
- Continuing annual collection system jetting.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance.

4. Other Notables:

- Two employees passed their water treatment level D certification exams.
- Screw press assembly is complete and ready for delivery.
- Contract for new press building is signed. Delivery is up to eight weeks out. Foundation work will begin in the next few weeks. The electric service is already in place.
- Reminder for customers to stay out of meter pits to manipulate valves. If anything is damaged, the customer is responsible for the cost of repairs. Homeowners should have a

master water valve installed inside their home. Please call the utility office at 384-2546 during regular business hours for assistance, or 384-2611.

5. Additional:

- Will be replacing the fire hydrant at 8th and Colorado Avenue which will cause temporary service disruption for everyone from 6th and Colorado up to 8th Street.
- Went through every hydrant this last summer, the problematic hydrant was touched just two months ago and worked okay. When you're doing maintenance, you're slow and deliberate and everything is going to typically function as it's supposed to even if it might have some mechanical issues. This particular style requires some springs that are underneath the plate which keeps it from being compressed too much but it also engages the plug that's at the bottom into the dry fingers on top which is what lights the entire thing. When you come up and the springs turn out to basically have lost all of the spring and you're in a rush and the whole plate missed the fingers. Once that comes off, you're not going to get it back on there. It'll close it because it will compress down on top but they will not find it again. So it opened only allowing minimal flow.
- At the conduit meeting, the biggest topic might be funding and how far they believe they may be able to get with the funding they currently have and how they're trying to get around the loss of funding that any water or wastewater entity has lost over the last six to nine months to be able to keep the project rolling. Governance might be another topic.

**C. Electric Department (Chris Arguello):**

1. Line Crew

- Daily reads, disconnects and maintenance.
- Overloaded jumpers on a transformer bank at the Knights of Columbus were replaced.
- Troubleshooting was performed on the tornado sirens.
- A rotten pole was replaced at 4th Street and Colorado Avenue.
- The crew removed a large tree branch from a service at 1210 Park Avenue.
- Assisted the Street Department in removing a widow maker at 14th Street and Colorado Avenue.
- A new primary pole was added at Himebaught Road in North La Junta.
- Built a new service with a 75kVA/480V transformers for the Wastewater Plant.
- The banner for the Tarantula Fest was hung.
- Tree trimming is in progress on the west side of town.
- During the fire, we lost three structures and one transformer. We had minor burns on the primary line and severe burns on the secondary line.

2. SOLAR Accounts

- There are no changes to the solar counts, with two pending.

3. System Update

- SF6 Breaker Replacement - Eaton has sent over the new designs for the breakers that will now fit on the existing slabs.

**D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya):**

1. The month of October is our City-Wide cleanup starting on October 1st. It will be open everyday except for Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2. Moved the building down below. We'll get a stop sign put up so everybody has to stop and we'll be keeping track of everything.
3. Clean Valley met with the State, they're interested in what's going on. They're looking at funding some of the stuff that Clean Valley is wanting to do. We're waiting for the first meeting with SECRA to make sure they're still on board.

NEW BUSINESS

**A. City Manager Comments.**

1. Appreciate all the different utilities that showed up during the fire. It was a really good team effort by all the various departments.

**B. Governing Body's Comments.**

1. There were no governing body comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

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Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

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Patrick Berg, Chairman