

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, September 10, 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
 Gary Cranson, Chairman
 Paul Velasquez, Council Member/Vice-Chair

Absent: Mike Bourget, Commissioner

Also present: Brad Davidson, Interim City Manager
 Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager
 Erin Harris, City Attorney
 Cristian Estrada, 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 August 13, 2024. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as published.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

There was no citizen participation.

REPORTS

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

- 1. Summary of July 2024 Financial and Operating Statements:** In July, revenue from power sales was \$39,114 (1.3%) less than budget. Cost of goods sold was \$84,950 under budget. Net operating revenue for July was \$877,586.
- 2. Year to Date Income Statement:** Revenue from power sales was better than budget by \$234,287 (1.4%). Total revenues were better than budget by \$499,018. Total cost of goods sold was less than budget by \$103,116 (1%). Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$239,989 (5.9%). YTD Net Revenue is \$2,621,457. Average of 106 days cash on hand. Debt service coverage year to date is 1.40 X.
- 3. July Operating Report:** Member Energy sales were 2% less than budget in July and 4.9% more than they were in 2023. Member energy sales YTD are about 1.6 % better than budget and about 5.8 % better than sales in 2023. Member demands of 67.9 mWh were 2% higher than July 2023. All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09987 per kWh which is 2.2% lower than 2020 when ARPA last changed its rates. The avoided cost rate for July will be \$ 49.58 per mWh.

4. **General Update:** Year End Financial Projections, Preliminary Budget Presented for review, Future Rate changes discussed with JK Energy Consulting,
5. **Next Regular Meeting:** October 31, 2024 10:00 AM at Otero College in La Junta.

B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba):

1. R.O. Plant
 - Routine maintenance: inspected chemical injectors, flushed chlorine injection system, and comprehensive maintenance on AUMA actuators including control systems.
 - Replaced chemical pump #4 and stroke controller.
 - Replaced raw water pH probe.
 - Mapped out radio locations for off-site SCADA systems.
 - Meter Reading, additional facilities maintenance
2. Distribution
 - Repair service leak in 700 block of Cimarron.
 - Tied in all new installed to The Brick & Tile Park. Next step is design and installation of irrigation system.
 - New service installed in 400 block of east 2nd street.
 - Repair and match new grade on service to new sheriff's office.
 - Meter Reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.
3. August 2024 Water Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$4,129,100 less \$2,260,938.69 in expenses and \$207,637.02 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$1,660,524.29. Revenues exceed expenses by \$966.36.
4. Wastewater
 - Treated 30.087 million gallons. Removed 41ft³ of screenings and 37ft³ of grit.
 - RO concentrate discharge to plant was 24.459 million gallons.
 - Jetted 8,962' of line for 3 emergency calls and 31 manhole locate requests.
 - Replaced split unit in UV building.
 - Cleaned and did PM on south clarifier.
 - Oil change in blower pump #1.
 - Assisted Rocky Ford with two collection system blockages.
 - Permit renewal finalization prior to September 30th.
 - Additional plant, collection system, and grounds maintenance.
5. August 2024 Wastewater Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$3,810,300 less \$2,564,864.86 in expenses and \$142,816.97 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$1,102,618.17. Expenses exceed revenue by \$667,776.78.
6. Other Notables:
 - Continue lead & copper survey on city. Survey will be submitted to the CDPHE by September 30th.
 - Reviewing industrial pretreatment permits and conducting site surveys.
 - Working with the Arkansas Basin Round Table Ag/Muni subcommittee on future storage needs of the Pueblo Reservoir, research and planning for an Arkansas River hydrology and morphology panel discussion at Otero College on November 8th; and beginning studies on the Economic Impacts from Following Alternatives as Part of Water Transfers and Interruptible Water Supply Agreements.
 - Conduct interviews in September to fill open positions on the distribution crew and at the treatment plant. 1 individual started with the distribution crew; Another individual will start at the RO plant on September 23rd.

- Tom Seaba provided a letter from The United States Congress on continuation and introduction of a bipartisan bill to complete the Arkansas Valley Conduit.

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

1. Line Crew
 - Daily reads, disconnects and maintenance.
 - The tap changer was fixed at the Light Plant Substation.
 - We took the Light Plant Substation out of service for about 6 hours when we moved the loads to the G-sub.
 - The crew cut in a double dead end on Safeway's West and East sides.
 - 600-amp blade switches were installed on the 2-circuit and the 10-circuit.
 - Old cut-outs and arrestors were replaced at East School.
 - The crew completed a transformer change-out at 22nd and College Drive.
 - A transformer was installed at 1801 Colorado Avenue.
 - We added a new underground service at 1st & Bellview Avenue, tying the Safeway a Santa Fe yards to the #2 Breaker.
 - Drew Yochum is now certified to teach CPR to City of La Junta Employees.
2. SOLAR Accounts
 - The total kWh returned to the system was 15,098 from 40 customers. A total of \$785 was rebated at the avoided cost. Chris Arguello also stated that there are currently 38 residential and 2 commercial solar customers.
3. System Update
 - The heat continues to show us where the weaker areas are in the system, mainly secondary transformers. The crews are learning the system as they make improvements; CLP Engineers will complete our system report and submit it to the Electric Department in September. Chris Arguello mentioned that we had 3 days of 20 MW in August.
4. August 2024 Electric Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$12,352,800 less \$7,598,372.30 in expenses and \$184,045.96 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$4,570,381.74. Revenue exceeds expenses by \$627,243.33.

D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya):

1. Customer Information (August)

CUSTOMERS	2024	2023	DIFF.	CHANGE
Residential	2,790	2,827	(37)	-1.33%
Commercial	434	461	(27)	-6.22%
Industrial	10	0	10	100.00%
Municipal	29	10	19	65.52%
Total	3,263	3,298	(35)	157.97%

2. Landfill

	2024	2024	2023	2023				
TONS	August	YTD	August	YTD	DIFF.	CHANGE	TONNAGE	
Otero County Landfill	575.75	4323.48	679.28	4401.4	(103.53)	-17.98%	Open Top	36.99
Southeast Recycling	16.07	136.92	14.94	139.86	1.13	7.03%	Compactor	15.29
Clean Valley - Curbside	3.63	27.62	3.55	30.84	0.08	2.20%	Residential	246.87
Clean Valley - Trailer	2.95	22.48	1.5	21.57	1.45	49.15%	Commercial	151.23
							Roll Offs	109.73
Total	598.4	4510.5	699.27	4593.67	(100.87)	40.40%		560.11

3. Other Income

ITEM	Aug.2024	Aug.2023	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	DIFF.	CHANGE
Special Pick-Up	1	12	24	50	-26	-108.33%
40-YD Boxes	24	29	203	208	-5	-2.46%
20-YD Boxes	23	22	201	143	58	28.86%
Overages	8	10	103	117	-14	-13.59%
Compactor	4	5	37	36	1	2.70%
Trx Station (Open Box)	36.99	43.91	309.36	278.27	31.09	10.05%
Trx Station (Compactor)	15.29	10.04	86.93	156.32	-69	-79.82%
Tote Replacement	7	6	131	39	92	70.23%

4. Trash trucks: The Director of Engineering Martin Montoya stated that the reason for the increases in spending is due to the purchasing of the trash trucks.
5. August 2024 Sanitation Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$1,683,800 less \$1,227,162.44 in expenses and \$1,996.43 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$454,640.13. Expenses exceed revenues by \$310,766.45.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Interim City Manager Comments.

- Work is underway at the Brick & Tile Park for reconstruction. The Sanitation Department has been laying new concrete, specifically focusing on the walking paths by replacing the asphalt with concrete, as well. Plans to finish the projects are projected toward the end of the month. Interim City Manager Davidson also congratulated all those whom assisted with the Early Settler's Day event. Many public compliments for their hard work and how nice everything looked in the City Park.

B. Governing Body's Comments.

- Chairman Cranson mentioned how he also heard positive public comments, specifically regarding how nice the restrooms at the City Park look.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Gary Cranson, Chairman