

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, October 8, 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, Chairman
 Paul Velasquez, Council Member/Vice-Chair

Absent: none

Also present: Bill Jackson, Asst. 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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Cranson asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 10, 2024. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as published.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

1. Aliza Libby: Reminded everybody about the new online payment system for utilities.

REPORTS

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

- 1. Summary of August 2024 Financial and Operating Statements:** In August, revenue from power sales was \$115,503 (3.9%) better than budget. Cost of goods sold was \$31,388 over budget. Net operating revenue for August was \$822,808.
- 2. Year to Date Income Statement:** Revenue from power sales was better than budget by \$349,790 (1.8%). Total revenues were better than budget by \$630,107. Total cost of goods sold was less than budget by \$71,729 (0.6%). Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$240,652 (5.3%). YTD Net Revenue is \$3,272,289. Average of 108 days cash on hand. Debt service coverage year to date is 1.45 X.
- 3. August Operating Report:** Member Energy sales were 3.2% better than budget in August and 2.9% more than they were in 2023. Member energy sales YTD are about 1.9% better than budget and about 5.3% better than sales in 2023. Member demands of 68 mW were 8% higher than August 2023. All in cost to members YTD is \$0.10001 per kWh which is 2.2% lower than 2020 when ARPA last changed its rates. The avoided cost rate for August will be \$ 49.58 per mWh.

4. **General Update:** ARPA board decided to proceed with the agreement with The Ferguson Group (TFG) for grant writing services to assist members with the grant process for member's projects. Members will create plans for projects which may acquire grant matching funds. Preliminary budget will be reviewed in October meeting.
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: mixed back-up chlorine, cleaned/calibrated concentrate conductivity probes, cleaned/maintained degassifiers.
 - Pipestone diagnosed issues with AUMA actuator, RO Plant staff performed repairs and replaced gears.
 - Diagnosed leak on FW pump #2. Repair kit ordered.
 - Installed new stroke controller on chlorine pump #2.
 - Replacement flow transmitter installed on RO cleaning system.
 - New electrical panel installed on well #8.
 - New radios installed on all remote sites. Radios not yet integrated with SCADA system.
 - Meter Reading, additional facilities maintenance.
2. Distribution
 - Installed 2" service line to Brick & Tile Park along with two frost-proof hydrants.
 - Replaced setter and pit on service in 900 block of Adams Avenue.
 - Maintenance on farms to include weed control and moving irrigation pipes into storage.
 - Meter Reading and utility billing office generated work orders, equipment maintenance.
3. September 2024 Water Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$4,129,100 less \$2,427,236.47 in expenses and \$184,353.71 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$1,517,509.82. Revenues exceed expenses by \$243,701.78.
4. Wastewater
 - Treated 30.344 million gallons. Removed 43ft³ of screenings and 49ft³ of grit.
 - RO concentrate discharge to plant was 21.71 million gallons.
 - Jetted 7,002 feet of line for six emergency calls and twenty-seven manhole locate requests.
 - Routine maintenance: sound clarifier ring and scum pit cleaned, RAS pump oils changed, filters replaced on all air handling units, dosed orbal outer rind with hypochlorite to help remove filaments.
 - Check valve replaced on blower #1.
 - New motor installed in air transfer unit in headworks.
 - Sludge loadout pad and area cleaned after two separate sludge hauling vendor hoses blew.
 - Additional plant, collection system, and grounds maintenance.
5. September 2024 Wastewater Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$3,810,300 less \$2,697,342.36 in expenses and \$128,960.02 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$983,997.62. Expenses exceed revenue by \$558,253.87.
6. Other Notables:
 - Ken Tanner announced his retirement effective October 15th. Ken began working with the City on May 23rd, 1984. His over 40 years of knowledge, attention to detail, and desire to ensure our Water Department is consistently one of the best in the state will certainly be missed.

- Lead and Copper survey submitted to CDPHE. Continuing to refine LCR replacement plan.
- Three employees attended the Rocky Mountain Leadership Academy.
- Hired three new employees. One to the Distribution Crew and two for the RO Plant.

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

1. Line Crew

- Daily reads, disconnects and maintenance.
- The crew has been tree trimming around the power lines.
- An open secondary service was upgraded behind the Colton Electric building.
- In preparation for Early Settlers Day, the crew worked at the City Park changing out breakers and outlets.
- Broken bulbs and fixtures were replaced at Veteran's Field.
- Street light troubleshooting occurred on the North La Junta Bridge.
- Some of the load was split at the La Junta Police Department Shooting Range.
- Underground lines were hit by a contractor at Lewis Bolt & Nut. The crew was able to repair the damaged line without causing an outage.
- A city-wide outage was experienced on the 26th when an arrestor blew on the incoming 69 feed at the Gardner Substation. Repairs were done and power was restored in an hour and forty-five minutes.
- An electric trailer was set up and some outlets were replaced in preparation for the Tarantula Fest.

2. SOLAR Accounts

- The total kWh returned to the system was 13,523 from 40 customers. A total of \$676.15 was rebated at the avoided cost. There are currently 38 residential and 2 commercial solar customers.

3. System Update

- In the event of an outage, we appreciate calls as to the location of the problem, if there were loud bang sounds, visible sparks, or smoke. This helps us locate the problem.
- As you can see, equipment wears out or fails and we are always looking for weak and outdated equipment to replace.

4. September 2024 Electric Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$12,352,800 less \$8,758,156.04 in expenses and \$138,689.49 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$3,455,954.47. Revenue exceeds expenses by \$738,009.10.

D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya):

1. Customer Information (September)

CUSTOMERS	2024	2023	DIFF.	CHANGE
Residential	2,803	2,799	4	0.14%
Commercial	439	462	(23)	-5.24%
Industrial	10	0	10	100.00%
Municipal	29	10	19	65.52%
Total	3,281	3,271	10	160.42%

BOARD OF UTILITIES COMMISSIONERS – October 8, 2024

2. Landfill	2024	2024	2023	2023				
TONS	September	YTD	September	YTD	DIFF.	CHANGE	TONNAGE	
Otero County Landfill	489.69	4813.17	637.27	5038.67	(147.58)		Open Top	29.11
Southeast Recycling	24.23	181.12	25.27	165.13	(1.04)	-4.29%	Compactor	13.57
Clean Valley - Curbside	3.33	30.95	2.74	33.58	0.59	17.72%	Residential	228.78
Clean Valley - Trailer	2.52	25	3.32	24.89	(0.80)	-31.75%	Commercial	129.45
							Roll Offs	91.39
Total	519.77	5050.24	668.6	5262.27	(148.83)	-18.32%		492.3

3. Other Income

ITEM	Sep.2024	Sep.2023	YTD 2024	YTD 2023	DIFF.	CHANGE
Special Pick-Up	2	4	26	54	-28	-107.69%
40-YD Boxes	18	19	221	227	-6	-2.71%
20-YD Boxes	14	21	215	164	51	23.72%
Overages	8	6	111	123	-12	-10.81%
Compactor	6	3	43	39	4	9.30%
Trx Station (Open Box)	29.11	25.12	338.47	312.91	25.56	7.55%
Trx Station (Compactor)	13.57	9.52	100.5	156.32	-56	-55.54%
Tote Replacement	15	4	146	43	103	70.55%

4. Streets and Sanitation helped with the Tarantula Fest. Last year there was one or two dumpsters. This year there were five dumpsters and about twenty trash cans.
5. Meeting with CDOT tomorrow to go over potential grant money/funding for the design of the bridge at 3rd and Anderson Arroyo.
6. The Brick & Tile Park will have sidewalk support on the south pedestrian bridge tomorrow. Hope to finish the work on the north pedestrian bridge on Thursday.
7. The Street guys are doing the sidewalk that's in the right-of-way on 10th Street from the corner of 10th and Barnes going up to at least the bridge.
8. The transfer station is going well. There have been a few who tried to use the facility that have been commercial companies. It seems like there isn't as many items coming in this year as previous years. The transfer station is open every day of the week except for Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to :00 p.m.
9. September 2024 Sanitation Fund Financials. The 2024 budget is \$1,683,800 less \$1,298,632.06 in expenses and \$0.00 in encumbrances leaving a remaining budget of \$385,166.94. Expenses exceed revenues by \$275,411.71.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A Resolution Changing the Pricing of Water for the City of La Junta; Providing for an Effective Date of the New Rates; Providing for the Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions.** Resolution No. RUB-4-2024 was presented for the Boards consideration.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. RUB-4-2024: Velasquez

SECOND: Ayala

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

- B. A Resolution Changing the Pricing of Wastewater (Sewer) for the City of La Junta; Providing for an Effective Date of the New Rates; Providing for the Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions.** Resolution No. RUB-5-2024 was presented for the Board's consideration.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. RUB-5-2024: Berg

SECOND: Ayala

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

C. Rate Effective Date.

MOTION TO SET NEW RATES FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2025:
Berg

SECOND: Ayala

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

D. A Resolution Recommending to City Council the Adoption of the 2025 Proposed Budget for the Electric Fund, Water Fund, Wastewater Fund and Sanitation Fund. Resolution No. RUB-6-2024 was presented for the Board's consideration.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. RUB-6-2024: Berg

SECOND: Ayala

DISCUSSION: These numbers are recommended by department heads and the Interim City Manager.

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

E. Interim City Manager Comments.

- Not in attendance.

F. Governing Body's Comments.

- There were no governing body comments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Gary Cranson, Chairman