



MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA BOARD OF
UTILITIES
LA JUNTA, CO
MAY 12, 2026
4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
601 COLORADO AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

The 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, May 12, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

Present: Patrick Berg, Chairman
Joe Ayala, Mayor
Mike Bourget, Commissioner
CaSandra Thomas, Commissioner
Paul Velasquez, Council Member/Vice-Chair

Absent: None

Also Present: Michael Hart, City Manager
Erin Harris, City Attorney
Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Aliza Libby, Director of Finance
Tom Seaba, Director of Water Utilities
Chris Arguello, Electric Superintendent
Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Chairperson)

A. Regular Meeting April 14, 2026

Chairman Berg asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 14, 2026. Hearing none, the Chairman asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 14, 2026 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Bourget

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute time limit per person)

There was no citizen participation.

REPORTS

A. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson)

Summary of March 2026 Financial Statement:

- In March, power sales revenue was less than budget by \$102,889 (5.3%).
- Cost of goods sold was under budget \$105,295 (8.2%).
- Net operating revenue for March was \$416,548.

Year to Date Income Statement:

- Revenue from power sales was less than budget by \$407,662 (6.8%).
- Total revenues were less than budget \$417,128.
- Total cost of goods sold was under budget by \$334,931 (9.5%).
- Total A & G expenses are under budget by \$70,602.
- YTD Net Revenue is under budget by \$676,919 (1.7%).
- Average of 175 days cash on hand.
- Debt service coverage year to date is 1.15X.

March Operating Report:

- Member Energy sales were 5.2% less than the budget in March and 1.0% less than they were in March 2025.
- Member Energy sales YTD are 6.2% less than budget and 6.9% less than YTD 2025 sales.
- Member demands of 42 mW were 12% higher than March 2025.
- All in cost to members YTD is \$0.09168 per kWh.
- The avoided cost rate for April will be \$41.91 per mWh.
- The 2026 YTD blended rate for power is \$42.22 per mWh compared to \$46.70 per mWh in 2025, about 9.5% cheaper.
- In March, ARPA purchased 21,736kWh from individual La Junta renewable (solar) generators for \$933.56.

Next Regular Meeting: May 28, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Otero College in La Junta.

B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba)

R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: Changed chlorine analyzer membrane, calibrated lab equipment, inspected meter bearings in wells #11 and #13, PM's on air handlers and cleaned AC condensers.
- Updated security on SCADA system.
- Replaced feed dump valve.
- Installed new ClorTec cells.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance; meter reading.

Distribution

- Backflow preventer inspections.

- Completed new fire line into McDivitt Hall.
- Repaired multiple service leaks.
- Installed new service on South San Juan Avenue.
- Field/irrigation prep on Holbrook farms.
- Meter reading and utility billing office generated work orders and equipment maintenance.

Wastewater

- Treated 27.323 million gallons. Removed 38 cubic feet of screenings and 69 cubic feet of grit.
- The RO concentrate discharge to the plant was 18.232 million gallons.
- Jetted 7,959 feet of line for nine emergency calls and thirty-nine manhole locate requests.
- Removed wind-blown trash and debris out of orbal basin and west digester.
- Oil change on Pista-Grit, gravity thickener, and both clarifiers.
- PM on valves in headworks.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance.

Other Notables

- Level 1 water restrictions begin April 15th through October 15th. Probable elevation into Level 2 restrictions depending on water allotments in June.
- Currently listed in Level D2 or Severe drought conditions as of May 7th.
- Conducted interviews for open positions.
- Working on possible impact grant with Colorado Circular Communities (C3), a statewide program dedicated to supporting Colorado communities achieve their waste aversion and diversion goals. The program is funded through user fees at Colorado landfills and administered through the CDPHE.

C. Electric Department (Chris Arguello)

In addition to daily reads, disconnects, and maintenance, the crew performed these additional tasks:

- John Grinstead and Joe Zamora received their Class A CDL certification.
- The Electric Department sent a total of six linemen to the Mesa Hot Line School in Grand Junction, Colorado, for training.
- We are working on adding a new service for Lewis Bolt & Nut at the Anchor Plant location.
- We have installed new street light poles, one at the City Park and two at the Brick & Tile parking lot.
- We performed maintenance on our Substation due to a failed compressor.
- We replaced a damaged underground splice box on 22nd & Carson Avenue.
- We had a quick interruption on the East side of town. The cause was a semi-truck that hit a pole.
- Catherine Mondragon was selected for the ARPA/LJ Electric Scholarship. She will be attending the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, UCCS – Intended College major: Biology & Veterinary.

System Update

- There are no system updates.

Solar Accounts

- There were 30,255 kWh put back onto the system in April and no new customers.

D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya)

- Welcomed back Macahi Salazar who is in the military reserves and stationed in the Middle East for about 6-8 months. Thanked him for his service.
- Changed the cardboard pickup schedule from Wednesday and Friday to Tuesday and Friday to help accommodate people.
- Working on a list for additional cardboard customers. Seeing who's not on the list and talking with the sanitation guys that are working the route.
- Clean Valley Recycling has a new chairman, Bethany Bender. They did not re-hire John Armstrong as their warehouse manager. It is now Stephan Nielson as interim. John is still helping SECHRA with some of their warehouse management and is also conducting the merger. The merger is complicated. They've applied for grants through the state.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. A Resolution of the Utility Board of the City of La Junta, Colorado, Recommending Approval by the City Council of a Loan Agreement and Governmental Agency Bond with the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority in Connection with the Drinking Water Revolving Fund Lead Service Line Replacement Project; Recommending Authorization of City Officials to Execute Documents Necessary to Carry Out the Transaction; and Providing Other Matters Relating Thereto (City Attorney) (Action)

This loan is for us to do a lot of distribution main replacement and also the removal of old lead service lines or other lines that don't meet the new Lead & Copper improvement rule. In 2015, the water department developed this project that had 3 key elements. One was the replacement of the South Booster Station which occurred a couple of years ago that was completed. This section to replace at minimum the distribution main from the South Booster Station up to the 250,000-gallon storage tank along with a few other choice areas and then the final element, phase 3 is a replacement tank for that south tank up at 26th Street. When the project was first development, it came back at that time as being too expensive. So, we've been biting our time and have divided it into those 3 particular phases. This being phase 2. We're hitting it at a point with there being some good moneys in the lead service line replacement portion that that's how we will be receiving that \$6.245 million in principle forgiveness and then we will just take on the remaining \$8.715 million and change as moneys we need to repay at 1.7% over 30 years.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. RUB-3-2026: Bourget

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

- B. A Resolution of the Utility Board of the City of La Junta, Colorado, Recommending that the City Council Declare a Stage II Water Shortage Pursuant to Section 13.04.315 of the La Junta Municipal Code and Implement Stage II, Level A Water Restrictions (City Attorney) (Action)

Stage 2 Level A will require Residential customers with odd numbered addresses to irrigate only on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Commercial users may only irrigate on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You can continue to water your plants, bushes, shrubs, trees with that at any time with a handheld positive shut-off device. It's just green grass is what's limited to these specific times.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. RUB-4-2026: Ayala

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

- C. A Resolution of the Utility Board of the City of La Junta, Colorado, Amending Section 19 of the Policies of the Board of Utilities Commissioners Concerning Outside-City-Limits Water Service During Declared Water Shortage Conditions (City Attorney) (Action)

Non-district people asking for water would have to come before the board to seek a special dispensation to receive water. They could also join into the city and be annexed in that way city utilities would be extended to them.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. RUB-5-2026: Bourget

SECOND: Ayala

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 5-0

- D. City Manager Comments

There were no City Manager comments.

- E. Governing Body's Comments

1. Mike Bourget: It's come time for me to pass the torch. My home is under contract and will be sold later this month effective May 21st if all goes as planned. The board policy stipulates that a member of the Utility Board must have a residence within the City of La Junta.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Joseph Ayala, Mayor