

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING LA JUNTA BOARD OF
UTILITIES
LA JUNTA, CO
AUGUST 11, 2026
4:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
601 COLORADO AVENUE

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Utilities of the City of La Junta, Colorado, was called to order by Chairman Patrick Berg on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

ROLL CALL (City Clerk)

Present: Joe Ayala, Mayor
Patrick Berg, Chairman
CaSandra Thomas, Commissioner
Paul Velasquez, Mayor Pro Tem/Vice-Chair

Absent: None

Also Present: Melanie Scofield, City Clerk
Tom Seaba, Director of Water Utilities
Chris Arguello, Electric Superintendent
Martin Montoya, Director of Engineering
Paula Mahoney, Admin. Asst.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Chairperson)

A. Regular Meeting July 14, 2026

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

MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY 14, 2026 MINUTES AS PUBLISHED: Velasquez

SECOND: Thomas

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION (5-minute time limit per person)

There was no citizen participation.

REPORTS

A. ARPA Board (Gary Cranson)

1) Summary of June 2026 Financial Statement:

In June, power sales revenue was greater than budget by \$135,404 (5.8%).

Cost of goods sold was under budget \$14,725 (1%).

Net operating revenue for June was \$721,436

2) Year to Date Income Statement:

Revenue from power sales was under budget by \$331,580 (2.7%)

Total revenues were less than budget by \$232,105.

The total cost of goods sold was under budget by \$131,663 (1.7%)

Total A & G expenses were under budget by \$140,868 (4.5%)

YTD Net Revenue was greater than budget by \$1,447,950 (2.9%)

Average of 160 days cash on hand

Debt service coverage year to date is 1.18X

3) June Operating Report:

Member Energy sales were 3.78% more than budget in June and 1.3% less than they were in June 2025.

Member energy sales YTD were 3.0% less than budget and 4.3% less than YTD 2025 sales.

Member demands of 63 mW were 2.8% less than June 2025.

All in cost to members YTD was \$0.09262 per kWh.

The avoided cost rate for July will be \$40.78 per mWh

The 2026 YTD blended rate for power is \$42.33 per mWh compared to \$43.92 per mWh in 2025, about 3.6% cheaper.

In June, ARPA purchased 17,650 kWh from individual La Junta renewable (solar) generators for \$775.01

4) Next Regular Meeting: August 27, 2026 at 10:00 AM at Otero College in La Junta.

B. Water & Wastewater Treatment (Tom Seaba)

R.O. Plant

- Routine maintenance: Flushed air relief valves, calibrated lab equipment, checked well static levels.

- Replaced or repaired multiple items in well houses and booster stations to include blower fans, needle valves, filtering screens, and solenoids.
- Installed new water softener, blower fan switch, and float switch on clor-tec.
- Diagnosed valve on prairie view boost with a broken diaphragm. Ordered repair pack.
- Replaced batteries on 3 generators, including the RO plant generator.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance; meter reading.

Distribution

- Replaced several services.
- Replaced an irrigation culvert on one farm and mowing weeds.
- Installed backflow and control valve on the bulk water station.
- Began system extension around 24th and Carson to help with volume, flow, and fire protection.
- Meter reading and utility billing office generated work orders and equipment maintenance.

Wastewater

- Treated 23.955 million gallons. Removed 21ft³ of screenings and 19ft³ of grit.
- RO concentrate discharge to the plant was 25.399 million gallons.
- Jetted 7,464 of line for 9 emergency calls and 22 manhole locate requests.
- Repaired an electrical fault on the north clarifier and line crew repaired a fault on the Walmart lift station.
- South clarifier was taken out of service and all metal surfaces cleaned, rust removed, and repainted; flush valves and scum seals were replaced, oil was changed and all moving parts greased. This is the first time south clarifier has been taken offline for servicing since the plant went online.
- Dewatering press is set in place with sludge, flocculent, filtrate, and drainage lines installed. Operations training is scheduled for August 10th.
- Additional facilities and grounds maintenance.

Other Notables:

- Plant operates on generator power during exceptionally hot days to reduce the power load on the electric distribution system.
 - Grant applications for new water meters and storage tank rehabilitation and replacement.
- Spoke about the lagoons at the Industrial Park, the lead and copper surveys, the drought affecting the grasses at the farms and the proposed water lagoons on the east side of town.

C. Electric Department (Chris Arguello)

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

additional tasks.

- Performed maintenance on an air compressor at the light plant substation.
- Installed underground service to a house on 8th and Barnes Avenue.
- Upgraded a 208 transformer bank at 317 W. 3rd Street.
- Added a transformer at the intersections of 9th and Carson and 9th and Adams Avenue.
- Ensured all outlets were functioning properly, and that trailers were connected; additionally, we installed new outlets for the Early Settlers Day celebration.
- Continued with tree trimming operations.

System Update: We have been experiencing brief interruptions due to heat and system overloads.

Solar Accounts: In July, a total of 15,526 kWh was returned to the grid.

D. Sanitation (Martin Montoya)

- Clean Valley and South East & East Central Recycling: Merge is still on track for the first part of the year. Having monthly meetings, working on board members and bylaws.
- Cardboard Program: Have taken over everything from Clean Valley Recycling and added additional accounts.
- Staffing: We are down quite a few people. One moved, one broke his ankle and one is on leave.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Board Vacancy Letter of Interest (Chairman) (Action)

1. Zach Miner

Chairman Berg read Zach Miner's letter of interest.

MOTION TO ACCEPT ZACH MINER TO THE BOARD: Thomas

SECOND: Velasquez

DISCUSSION: There was no discussion

VOTE: The motion carried 4-0

B. City Manager Comments

The City Manager was not in attendance.

C. Governing Body's Comments

Mayor Ayala: People are saying that La Junta has the highest utility rates in Colorado, so he is putting information together for comparison.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

ATTEST:

CITY OF LA JUNTA

Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk

Patrick Berg, Chairman