

*Subject to approval at the  
May 8, 2018  
City Council Meeting*

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 Lorenz Sutherland on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Roll was called and the following Board Members were present:

Present           Mike Bourget, Commissioner  
                      Jim Goodwin, Commissioner  
                      Frank McKenzie, Vice-Chairman  
                      P. Lorenz Sutherland, Chairman

Absent:           Jeffri Pruyn, Mayor

Also present:    Bill Jackson, Asst. City Manager  
                      Phil Malouff Jr., City Attorney  
                      Melanie Scofield, City Clerk  
                      Reuben DeLeon, Electric Superintendent  
                      Darren Adame, Director of Engineering  
                      Aliza Libby-Tucker, Director of Finance  
                      Gary Cranson, ARPA Representative  
                      Elaine McIntyre, Council Member  
                      Edward Vela, Council Member  
                      Kathy DelRio, La Junta

#### MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Chairman Sutherland asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2018. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as published.

#### CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

There was no citizen participation.

#### REPORTS

**A. Water & Wastewater Treatment.** Tom Seaba emailed the following report:

1. R.O. Plant
  - New motor installed on Well #10. Well is back in service.
  - Replaced output module on Clortec and re-installed new generation cells. The system is back in service
  - Flushing main transmission line from well fields to plant. This removes build-up and lowers turbidity in preparation for seasonal water demand increases.
  - Repaired two control valves, several flow meters, and made adjustments to radio telemetry system.
  - Residential meter reading.
2. Distribution
  - Repaired main break on 6<sup>th</sup> Street near cemetery.
  - Installing electric read meters.
  - Assisting MASTEC as they bore in new fiber optic through town.
  - Residential meter reading.
3. Wastewater
  - Plant treated effluent flow discharged 34.89 million gallons and removed 33 feet of screenings and 28 feet of grit.
  - Grit collector motor failed. New motor installed on 03/12/18.

- Flushed/jetted/cleaned 7,349 feet of sewer main throughout the city.
  - New plant progress listed at 32% complete.
4. All Departments
- 2017 Consumer Confidence Report published.
  - 2017 Industrial Pre-Treatment, Stormwater, and Bio-solids reports submitted.
  - First round of letters mailed for Backflow Preventer testing.
  - Trenching and shoring safety.
  - Weed control.
  - Facilities maintenance.

**B. Power Distribution.** Reuben DeLeon gave the following report:

1. Line Crew
- The Line Crew continues to read electric meters each month and will do so until all meters are replaced with automated meters.
  - The crew has been doing line maintenance in different parts of the city. They replaced a pole at 12<sup>th</sup> and Bradish Avenue due to butt rot and another at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Belmont Avenue that broke off at the base due to high wind. They also retired four poles at the Lewis Bolt Anchor Plant and added three new 400 watt rental lights at that location.
  - The Line Crew has replaced four more street lights along 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and retired four of the old steel street light poles and will continue to replace others as time allows.
  - The crew has trenched in a new underground secondary service at 1<sup>st</sup> and Bradish Avenue that will be used to feed the new flood gate at that location. The crew also moved underground wires at the Rodeo Grounds as the announcer's booth had to be moved to make room for the new bucking shoots being installed.

**C. Power Plant.** Bill Jackson gave the following report:

1. Electric Cost of Service/Rate Design Study
- JK Energy Consulting, LLC submitted a letter agreement to prepare a Cost of Service/Rate Design Study for the City of La Junta and its electric utility. The letter provides the scope of services, fee, deliverables and schedule.
  - A flow sheet will be ready by the May meeting.

After some discussion amongst the Board, it was decided to table the matter.

MOTION TO TABLE THE LETTER AGREEMENT FOR ELECTRIC COST OF SERVICE/RATE DESIGN STUDY UNTIL THE MAY 2018 UTILITIES BOARD MEETING TO ALLOW TIME TO REVIEW THE INFORMATION: Goodwin

SECOND: McKenzie

DISCUSSION: There was no further discussion

VOTE: The motion carried unanimously

**D. Sanitation.** Darren Adame gave the following report:

1. Year-to-date numbers are as follows:
- Special pickups down by 19
  - 40-yard boxes up by 1
  - 20-yard boxes up by 8
  - Containers from the shop down by 4
  - Compactor Box Service down by 1
  - New dumpster up by 1
  - New 40-yard box rents down by 4
  - New 20-yard box rents up by 2
2. The two new sanitation trucks are expected to arrive on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
3. OCLI is running great.

NEW BUSINESS

A. **City Manager's Comments.**

1. Rick Klein is attending a Downtown Colorado, Inc. conference in Boulder.

B. **City Attorney's Comments.**

1. **Landowner liability for unpaid utilities.** City Attorney Malouff has been asked by the City Finance Department to pass an ordinance concerning electricity similar to what is already on the books for water and sewer. A draft ordinance has been created as a starting point to give us some things to start thinking about. The City of La Junta has a monopoly over these utilities with a fixed service area. The City can't deny service to anyone unless they owe us money for unpaid utility bills. Adjustments need to be made to help reduce the almost \$400,000.00 in utility debt. We will continue to have more discussions concerning this topic and comments are greatly appreciated.

C. **Governing Body's Comments.**

1. Commissioner Bourget: What kind of numbers on the dormant utility fees are we seeing?

Aliza Libby-Tucker: At last count, there were 129 accounts being billed and 15 of those are not paying.

2. Commissioner Bourget: I would like to take a look at some of the land and water leases on the farm ground prior to the next meeting and see what the potential would be for putting those out to bid.

Commissioner McKenzie: The prices on the leases seemed very low while looking at them during the budget process.

Asst. City Manager Jackson: The leases do go out for bid when the term expires. The Holbrook leases are currently set for one year terms.

Commissioner Bourget: I would like to see the public information the next time those go out for bid.

Asst. City Manager Jackson: We can do that.

3. Commissioner Goodwin: What is the process of beginning water restrictions?

Asst. City Manager Jackson: It begins with the recommendation of City management, then is brought to the Utilities Board and then is finally approved by the City Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

CITY OF LA JUNTA

ATTEST:

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P. Lorenz Sutherland, Chairman

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Melanie R. Scofield, City Clerk