

# TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting  
Date: November 10, 2022

A permanent set of these minutes are maintained in the Town Clerk's Office. Approved Minutes are also available on the web at [www.colorado.gov/townoflajara](http://www.colorado.gov/townoflajara)

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Medina at 6:00 pm.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Medina led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll Call**

Present were Trustees: Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Absent: None

Also present were Town Clerk Pagnotta, Chief Lujan, Public Works Supervisor Thomas Dufresne, Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez, Town Attorney Farish and Town Attorney Seth Walker.

## **Public Hearing – 2023 Budget**

Mayor Medina opened the public hearing for the 2023 Budget and a quorum was present. Town Clerk Pagnotta stated that the line item for the donation to the fire department was reduced, the senior center and animal shelter donations were increased. Trustee Wilson felt the town needed to support the fire department. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez explained how the fire department is funded and the need for volunteers. It was decided to increase the fire department donation to \$4,000; to offset this increase line item 8477 – Sinking Fund, was decreased to \$6,000.00. The public hearing was closed

## **Public Hearing – MTC**

Attorney Farish opened the public hearing at 6:24 pm where a quorum was present. He recited the public hearing notice that was published in the Valley Courier and asked for testimony. Chief Lujan questioned Section 2(c) regarding the reduction in point assessment if the penalty is paid prior to court. He explained that currently no points are reported to the DMV if the fine is paid prior to court. It was decided to make the change to the ordinance to reflect that no points would be reported if the fine is paid prior to court. Attorney Farish explained that the surcharge was modified from 40% to 50%. He explained that the ordinance would need to be published in full. He stated that he would forward the ordinance to CDOT for approval. He stated that the town would need to conduct an inventory of the traffic control devices. The hearing was closed at 6:50 pm.

## **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion:** Trustee Rendon moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

### **Consent Calendar**

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the consent calendar; seconded by Trustee Rendon.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

### **Guests**

Susan Robins requested a donation for the Conejos County Gift of Giving. She explained that the group works with the schools and DHS to obtain a list of the ages of children in Conejos County that are in need. They have also received donations from Toys for Tots. Robins explained that the check for the donation should be made payable to Concepts.

**Motion:** Trustee Wilson moved to donate \$500 to Conejos County Gift of Giving; seconded by Trustee Rendon.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

### **Citizen Comments**

None

### **New Business**

Resolution 2022-6 – A Resolution summarizing expenditures and revenues for each fund and adopting a budget for the Town of La Jara, Colorado, for the calendar year beginning on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2023 and ending on the last day of December 2023.

**Motion:** Trustee Wilson moved to approve Resolution 2022-6, Summarizing expenditures and revenues, and adopting the 2023 Budget; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Resolution 2022-7 – A Resolution appropriating sums of money to the various funds and spending agencies, for the Town of La Jara, Colorado, for the 2023 Budget year.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve Resolution 2022-7, appropriating sums of money for the 2023 Budget year; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Ordinance 2022-1 – An ordinance for the regulation of traffic by the Town of La Jara, Colorado; adopting by reference the La Jara “Model Traffic Code”, repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith; and providing penalties for violation thereof.

**Motion:** Trustee Wagoner moved to adopt Ordinance 2022-1 with the changes to section 1(c) to state that no points would be reported to the DMV if fine is paid prior to court; seconded by Trustee Wilson.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.



Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

Ordinance 2022-2 – An ordinance of the Town of La Jara, Colorado, repealing and reenacting Title VII (Traffic Code) of the Town of La Jara Code of Ordinances.

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to adopt Ordinance 2022-2; seconded by Trustee Rendon.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

Ordinance 2022-3 – An ordinance of the Town of La Jara, Colorado, acting by and through its water activity enterprise, authorizing a Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority loan to finance sewer system capital improvements; authorizing execution of a loan agreement and bond to evidence the loan; and providing for payment of the bond from the operation of the joint Water and Sewer

**Motion:** Trustee Rendon moved to approve Ordinance 2022-3; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None  
Motion Carried.  
system.

Skate Park project approval to proceed – Town Clerk Pagnotta explained that American Ramp Company provided a proposal to construct a skate park and need approval to proceed so that the cost of \$33,300.73 would be locked in. It was discussed that the project would only move forward if the town received grant funding. There was discussion on the location of the skate park. It was suggested locating the skate park at the South Main Park rather than Aspen Circle Park.

**Motion:** Trustee Rendon moved to approve the proposal from American Ramp Company for \$33,300.73 with the understanding that grant funding be obtained to help with the cost; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

Citizen of the Year – Mayor Medina asked for nominations; Arnold Rendon, Eleanor Valdez and Laura Revera were nominated as Citizen of the Year. Trustees voted on the three by secret ballot. Eleanor Valdez was selected.

Housing Authority land purchase – Town Clerk Pagnotta stated that Town Manager Zaragoza would like to have a work session to discuss in detail. Trustee Rendon asked if the land had been appraised. Further discussion was tabled until the December meeting.

### **Reports**

#### **Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Zaragoza was out of town but submitted a written report. Town Clerk Pagnotta offered to answer any questions. The trustees were reminded of the Governance webinar on December 1. Trustee Rendon asked if there would be another dumpster for Clean-up day; it was explained that the three dumpsters were more expensive than budgeted for so no additional dumpsters would be provided.

### **Town Attorney Reports**

Town Attorney Walker thanked the staff for the budget preparation and for assisting with the election process. He reported that he had worked on the Model Traffic Code and will be sending over the revised ordinance to be published. He asked the trustees to be thinking about what their area of focus should be next, for example revisions to policies, employee handbook, or other codes. They have worked on updating the contact list with the new board members as well as employees. He opened an invitation to all board members that may have questions to reach out to their office. He welcomed Trustee Wilson.

Attorney Farish reiterated what Attorney Walker stated regarding updating the contact list and roster that is included in the trustee training manual. He asked if the board had thought any more about becoming a court of record; Mayor Medina stated that the municipal court will continue to operate as a court of non-record. He wanted to look at codes that the trustees feel need to be addressed.

Attorney Walker updated the board on the dilapidated building on Main Street. He explained that he and Town Manager Zaragoza have attempted to contact the property owner to try and enter a contract to have the building cleaned up. Attorney Farish explained the process and any potential liability the Town could have regarding a private property.

### **Approval of Reports**

**Motion:** Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the Town Manager and Town Attorneys reports; Seconded by Trustee Rendon.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

### **Police Report**

Chief Lujan submitted a written report.

### **Public Works Report**

Thomas Dufresne submitted a written report. He explained the need for isolation valves.

### **Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Pagnotta reported that she sent flowers on behalf of the town to the funeral service for Marguerite Salazar. She reminded everyone to send their RSVPs for the Christmas Party.

### **Building Inspector Report**

Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez submitted a written report mentioning that there has not been a lot of new building.

### **Trustee Comments**

Trustee Rendon – Read a statement that she had written expressing her dedication and commitment as a trustee and the code and ordinance committee that she was assigned to. She stated that she had asked for guidance for the committees and hoped that board could begin to work together as a team. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez suggested having a work session to discuss revisions to ordinances and policies.

Trustee Wilson – Expressed his gratitude to the employees and attorneys. He reported that he attended the housing presentation in Monte Vista stating that there was a lot of great ideas and information.

Trustee Wagoner – Also attended the meeting in Monte Vista that focused on creating resiliency with the youth by sparking an interest in a trade and encouraging them to stay in the valley.



Trustee Villagomez – Thanked the maintenance department and the police department. He stated the town is starting to make progress.

Trustee Chavez – Nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez – Reported that the Trunk-or-Treat was a big success.

Mayor Medina – Attended the Affordable Housing Seminar in Pueblo where she gathered some information and ideas. She encouraged that trustees to attend the tree lighting ceremony on November 19. Trustee Wagoner explained that the Glory Days Committee is hosting an ornament decorating and lighting ceremony on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

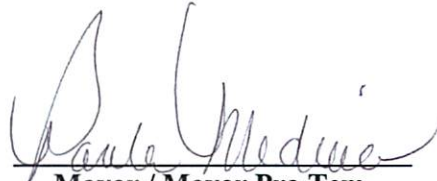
**Adjournment:**

**Trustee Rendon moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted by**

  
Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta



  
Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem