

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting
Date: August 11, 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

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: Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Absent: Trustee Renner, Chavez.

Also present were Town Manager Zaragoza, Town Clerk Pagnotta, Deputy Clerk Romero, Chief Lujan, Public Works Rodney Saenz, building inspector Rodriquez and Town Attorney Farish. Town Attorney Seth Walker.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Consent Calendar

Trustee Wagoner noted the date on the minutes from the previous meeting was incorrect.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the consent calendar with the change of the date for the minutes; seconded Trustee Wagoner.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Guests

No guest

Citizen Comments

Larry Sisneros- addressed board about using the 24-acre park for housing development/affordable housing. Town Manager Zaragoza responded to Mr. Sisneros; stating that he has been working with a couple of separate groups to address the housing needs.

New Business

Housing Authority Land Purchase – Town Manager Zaragoza stated that Karen Hinojos, Conejos County Housing Authority Director, inquired about purchasing the land, but was not able to be present for the meeting. Town Manager Zaragoza had the land appraised; it is worth more than when the land was purchased.

Code & Ordinance- Trustee Rendon presented a Power Point presentation on blight within the town. She referenced Ordinances 2006-1 and 2004-2 and discussed how the community could help one step at a time. Trustee Wagoner suggested instead of issuing citations or warnings offering a solution. Town Attorney Farish stated that the board's duty is to set policies and not enforce the policies. It was suggested to put a reminder of these ordinance in the newsletter before the fall clean up.

Appointment to CML Policy Committee- Mayor Medina appointed Trustee Rendon to the committee and designated Town Clerk Pagnotta as the alternate.

Old Business

Resolution 2022-4 Water/Sewer rate increase- Town Attorney Ferish read Resolution. 2022-4 – A Resolution of the Board of Trustees of the Town of La Jara acting by and through its Water and Sewer Enterprise setting forth an increase in water and sewer rates to take effect upon passage thereof.

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to approve Res. 2022-4: Seconded by Trustee Rendon

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

FAMLI discussion- Town Attorney Walker discussed the new legislation and recommended that the board vote to either opt in or out at the next board meeting in September. Attorney Walker will draft a resolution for adoption at the next board meeting.

MOU for Multi-Municipal Collaboration- Town Manager Zaragoza stated that he has been part of The Western San Luis Valley Team, which was formed in response to the DOLA Regional Resiliency & Recovery Roadmap Program. The team is made of members from Center, Del Norte, Saguache, and La Jara to address housing needs. The MOU is a collaboration to execute an IHOP grant and to ensure a commitment as a town.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Multi-Municipal Collaboration; Second by Trustee Villagomez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Reports

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Zaragoza read his report. He requested premium pay for town employees for work performed during the pandemic. He stated that other municipalities and counties have used American Rescue Plan Act funds to provide premium pay to employees. The town received the second ARP distribution in the amount of \$102,000.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem moved to give Premium Pay to the employees who worked during the Covid Pandemic; seconded by Trustee Rendon.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Manager reminded everyone of the upcoming CML Fall District Meeting in Monte Vista on September 20th. Town Attorneys Walker and Ferish and Trustee Rendon wanted to register to attend.

Purchase of asphalt- Town Manager Zaragoza reported the County will assist with asphalt paving project on Elm Street from 1st to 2nd Streets. Work will be done on August 22nd. County will assist with prep work and laying asphalt down.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem moved to approve \$7000 to purchase asphalt: Second by Trustee Wagoner.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Manager Zaragoza announced that the Adelmo Medina Park dedication will be held at the park on Walnut on August 20th at 9 a.m. The dedication will include a Color Guard presentation and a 21-gun salute.

Town Attorney Reports

Town Attorney Faris inquired about the Main Street Beautification grant as a source for funding.

He attended a meeting apposing water export from the valley. He further added that the town might want to collaborate with counties to increase 1041 powers to oppose water export form the San Luis Valley.

He noted that he has been appointed by the governor's office to set on a panel to make recommendations for a successor for district attorney.

Town Attorney Walker stated he has been working with Town Manager Zaragoza to address the damaged building on Main Street. He stated that Town Manager Zaragoza presented him with another option that was used by anther municipality to go hand-in-hand with the town's nuisance codes to encourage cleanup of the building.

He has also addressed the East La Jara Water Company regarding the insurance requirements. He stated the need for them to have insurance is because this is a private system connected to the Town's water system. He further explained an example that if there should be a break in the line or contamination the policy needs to be in place.

He thanked Trustee Villagomez for discussion on trustees' powers and obligations as well as the limit to these powers and obligations. comment on roles of Trustees.

He explained additional ways that the ARPA funds have been spent in other municipalities. He wanted clarification on premium pay for employees asking if the pay is to only include employees that worked during the pandemic and are currently still employed or if the pay is to include those that worked during that time and are no longer employed. He stated that the motion might need to be modified with this clarification.

Motion: Amendment: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to amend his previous motion giving employees that are no longer employed but worked through the pandemic \$500.00 premium pay; seconded by Trustee Rendon.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustees Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez and Mayor Medina.
Nays: None
Motion Carried.
It was suggested that a letter explaining the premium pay accompany the check.

Approval of Reports

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to approve the Town Manager's and Town Attorneys' reports: second by Trustee Villagomez
Vote Results: Ayes: Trustees Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.
Nays: None
Motion Carried.

Police Report

Chief Lujan thanked Trustee Rendon for bringing up code enforcement issues stating they will be addressed at their next staff meeting. He reported that the department has been doing a great job keeping up with the required mandates, POST Certifications and CIRSA requirements. He presented a written report and offered to answer questions.

Public Works Report

Public Worker Rodney Saenz stated that a written report was submitted. He stated that Manassa's maintenance crew has been collaborating with them to help mow the weeds because the tractor is broken. He offered to answer any questions.

Clerk Report

Town Clerk Pagnotta submitted a written report. She stated that they will begin working on the budget. There will be a work session in September to present and review the budget to the trustees. She explained that the current utility billing software is outdated and needs updating. She stated that the upgraded hosted version will be \$254 a month. She explained that the latest version will be hosted on the web and eliminate the need to server equipment. She stated that about half of the new meters have been installed.

Building Inspector Report

Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez and submitted written report. He reported that the new Dollar General is up and running. He reported that there are a few small build projects and offered to answer questions.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Rendon – She has been reflecting on being a team member and wants to support and encourage all team members. She asked if the Police Chief could include the mileage on his report so that when community members ask about police coverage, she could defend them with the miles that the officers travel in a month. She closed by mentioning community pride and again stated that “You can delegate authority but not accountability.”

Trustee Villagomez – Stated that everyone holds different titles, took different oaths, and have obligations and we all need to do our part. He stated that we all must be more mindful and respectful.

Trustee Wagoner – Thanked Trustee Villagomez for mentioning teamwork and reminded everyone of the wonderful opportunity to participate and show that they are a team by attending Glory Days. She stated the Glory Days Committee has worked hard to put things together for the event. For the Glory Days Committee, she solicited donations from all the business to put together a gift basket that will be given away at Glory Dyas. She reminded everyone to shop local.

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez – Stated that the town is lucky to have the current board members because they work as a team. He highlighted the new businesses and things the town has accomplished.

Mayor Medina – Committed on the bushes in the planters. She appreciates the commitment from staff and trustees and reminded everyone to have fun.

Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta

Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem