

TOWN OF LA JARA

PO Box 273
La Jara, CO 81140
Phone: (719) 274-5363
Fax: (719) 274-5986

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Regular Meeting
Date: August 10, 2023

A permanent set of these minutes are maintained in the Town Clerk's Office. Approved Minutes are also available on the web at www.townoflajara.colorado.gov

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. Trustees Chavez and Wilson attended virtually.

Absent: None

Also present were Town Manager Zaragoza, Town Clerk Pagnotta, Police Chief Lujan, Public Works Supervisor Dufresne, Building Inspector Rodriguez, and Town Attorney Farish.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez 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

Trustee Rendon asked about a check, in the amount of \$1,500.00. that was written to Glory Days Committee; it was explained that the Town makes a donation to pay for the bands.

Motion: Trustee Rendon moved to approve the consent calendar; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Guests

No guests were present.

Citizen Comments

Mayor Medina read a letter from Frank Rendon with concerns about the lack of 24-hour police coverage and asked the Board of Trustees to provide Chief Lujan with the tools and personnel needed to provide

safety for the citizens of the Town. Town Manager Zaragoza explained that the Town has been attempting to hire another officer for the past several months; the lack of police officers is a nationwide issue.

New Business

PSN and Caselle online bill pay agreements – Town Clerk Pagnotta explained that she contacted Caselle for directions on how to offer an online bill payment solution so citizens can pay their utility bills online. Caselle recommended PSN (Payment Service Network, Inc.). She stated that she forwarded the agreement to Attorney Farish, who had some concerns. Attorney Farish stated his assistant ran a profile from the Better Business Bureau which showed the company didn't have an A+ rating and had some customer complaints. He recommended the clerk reach out to other clerks and gather feedback on their level of service from PSN.

Old Business

4-Day Work Week – Mayor Medina stated that there was an article in the Valley Courier reporting that the City of Alamosa recently implemented a 4 Day work week. Town Manager Zaragoza provided a proposal similar to what Alamosa implemented. Staff would work 7:30 am to 5:30 pm Monday through Thursday and remain open during the lunch hour with staff rotating a 30-minute lunch period. The staff would continue to work 40 hours per week, but citizens would have continual access to the Town for 10 hours per day. Trustee Wilson stated that there needed to be some outreach to the citizens informing and educating them with compelling reasons for implementing a 4 Day work week. He stated he had experience addressing these issues when a 4-day work week was implemented at the school district and offered to assist the Town Manager work through some of the issues. It was decided that Town Manager Zaragoza, Trustee Wilson, and Town Clerk Pagnotta would meet to work through the details.

Reports

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Zaragoza submitted a written report highlighting the following:

- The next Mobile Care & Share will be on August 17th (11-12noon) and on September 21st (11-12 noon). Northerner's Senior Center will do a food distribution August 11th starting at 9:00 AM.
- Mosquito Spraying for this Spring/Summer was discontinued as of July 28th. Maintenance will resume if the Town experiences another hatch. Contract for Richfield residents and East La Jara residents is being drafted.
- Resumed meetings with CE Corp (Community Engineering Corp.) as of July 20th. Will continue to meet on a monthly basis.
- Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting, July 20th and August 29th to discuss variance request by Ever Ojeda and an update from Andy Martin and Robert Fobert regarding annexation of property west of Catholic Church.
- Senator Michael Bennet's visit to the Town of La Jara.
- Filming here in La Jara will take place August 18th. The film crew is drafting a new plan. State Patrol Captain Lyons recommends 4 officers to help direct traffic.
- Completed a grant for \$10,000 to be used for sign-on bonus for prospective 3rd officer and bonus pay for our two officers for their mentoring of the new hire.
- Completed the grant request to DOLA for funding to develop the Master Plan. Thanks to Kurtis Shawcroft and Town Clerk Pagnotta for mostly working on this grant request.
- Applied for a grant titled a Strong Communities Infrastructure Grant Program.
- Proposing a Richfield Ditch community clean-up day.
- Town Hall Park Wi-Fi has been changed to only be available from 7am to 7:15 pm. As per Chief Lujan's request.

- 4 Day Work Week Proposal, clerks sent out a notice in the Town Newsletter stating that the proposal has longer daytime hours (7:30-5:30), open during the lunch hour, on-line payments and open on Friday's if needed.
- Demolition of the old storage building in the Maintenance Yard has begun. The Town received a grant to assist with the fencing after demolition.
- The paving project in alley behind the bank will be done August 17. Paving Myron Way will be done August 20 and 21.
- Danny Gallegos took some scrap metal and brass from the old water meters to the salvage yard and brought back a check for \$925.00. Town Manager Zaragoza suggested giving Gallegos some money to help pay for his gas.

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to give Danny Gallegos 30% of the \$925.00 for taking the metal and brass to the salvage yard; seconded by Trustee Rendon.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Manager Zaragoza reminded the trustees of the housing meeting that will be held on August 17 at 6 pm at the senior center. It was suggested that flyers be made to inform the citizens of the meeting.

Town Manager Zaragoza read a letter from the Glory Days Committee thanking the Town for their support for the Glory Days event.

Town Attorney Reports

Attorney Farish reported the final draft for the Town Manager's employment agreement had been sent with the changes that were decided on at the previous meeting.

He reviewed the general liability waiver and stated the courts may not validate the waiver with the phrase "Regardless of whether such loss is caused by the negligence of the releasees;" this phrase was removed from the waiver.

The 1041 Ordinance from COG dealing with the export of water out of the valley is a boilerplate template that was sent to all entities in the valley. Attorney Farish stated that there will likely need to be a hearing and publication of the ordinance that will be likely be completed by the end of the year.

He reported that he has been attending round table water meetings. The meetings are held once a month and have valuable information regarding water issues.

He reported that the town should consider opting into participating in Proposition 123 for funding opportunities for housing. The town will need to opt in prior to November 1st, once the town opts in the town becomes eligible for funding to increase workforce housing.

He has been working on provisions for outdoor sidewalk sales for retail and food service establishments in other communities and wanted to see if La Jara would be interested in adopting something similar.

He wanted to clarify with the board that he has an open-door policy to answering questions from board members. The positive side of the open-door policy being that the board members get fast answers to questions; however he stated the down side is that staff may not be aware of the situation and may be blindsided. He stated that whatever policy the board makes he will follow that policy. He asked for

clarification as to how he should address questions from trustees. Mayor Medina stated that the Town Manager and staff should be made aware of any issues that are brought up with the attorneys by trustees so that they can be addressed. Attorney Farish stated that he could draft a policy stating that any questions from trustees will be followed up with a memo to the Town and The Manager. He stated that he represents the Town as a whole and not trustees individually.

Attorney Walker was out of town.

Approval of Town Manager and Attorneys Reports

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the Town Manager and Town Attorney 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 and offered to answer any questions.

Public Works Report

Public Works Supervisor Thomas Dufresne reported that the department prepared for the Glory Days event, completed the storm drain at the elementary school, and demolished the old building in the maintenance yard. Mayor Medina thanked Dufresne for explaining the lagoon project and issues with Senator Bennet and stated he did a great job. Trustee Wagoner thanked the maintenance department for use of the building to work on and store the parade float.

Clerk Report

Town Clerk Pagnotta presented a written report. She mentioned the CML District Outreach meetings that will be held on September 12th at Cattails Golf Course in Alamosa beginning at 4 pm. She will begin preparing the 2024 budget. She should have it ready to present to the board at the September meeting and have the hearing in October or November. She stated that a work session could be scheduled to review the budget if needed. She offered to answer questions.

Building Inspector Report

Building Inspector Rodriguez submitted a written report and stated there hasn't been any new projects starting; he is finishing up some of the older projects.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Rendon mentioned that Monte Vista COOP will take old paint with no charge.

Mayor Medina thanked Trustee Wagoner for building the float for Glory Days and Pioneer Days. She commented on the visit from Senator Bennet. She stated that Senator Bennet saw the monument located in the park next to Town Hall and was impressed that Bob Howsam, original owner of the Denver Bronco, the Denver Bears baseball team, and the Cincinnati Reds, grew up in La Jara. She reported that she attended the Xcel Energy open house where the rerouted new transmission line was discussed. She stated they are rerouting the transmission line to not interfere with properties along the highway.

Trustee Wilson thanked everyone involved with Glory Days. He stated that the people involved with this event need to be acknowledged for their time and efforts. He also expressed his gratitude for the people and employees that serve La Jara. He stated there are always going to be critics and wanted to express

appreciation to the mayor, his colleagues, and the Town Manager for wanting to move La Jara forward. He stated he is grateful to be a part of this group.

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez agreed with Trustee Wilson and stated that he heard good things about Glory Days.

Trustee Wagoner commented that the Glory Days Committee is a very dedicated committee that does the best they can but could always use more help.

Trustee Villagomez stated that everyone needs to be vigilant and help neighbors and not rely on the maintenance or the police officers.

Town Manager Zaragoza reported that there was an issue with the control panel at the water pump; Maintenance Supervisor Thomas Dufresne explained in detail. Town Manager Zaragoza thanked Dufresne for manning the pump throughout the night so that the water tank would not overflow.

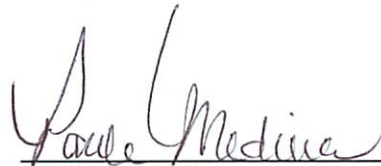
Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta




Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem