

TOWN OF LA JARA

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

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Regular Meeting
Date: December 9, 2021

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

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 the Regular Meeting of the La Jara Town Board of Trustees was held as a hybrid meeting by trustees attending either in person or virtually via ZOOM. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Medina at 6:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Medina.

Roll Call

Present in person were Trustees: Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez and Mayor Medina. Trustee Chavez attended virtually at 6:10 pm.

Absent: Trustees Espinoza and Gallegos

A quorum was present. Also present were Chief Lujan, Town Attorneys Farish and Walker, Town Manager Zaragoza, Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez, and Town Clerk Pagnotta.

Approval of Agenda

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Consent Calendar

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Guests

Chris Brandewie from RCAC addressed the board regarding the water/sewer rate study model that he has been working on. He requested to schedule a work session to discuss the details of his proposed increase. A work session was scheduled for January 27 at 6 pm. Brandewie stated that he would meet with staff earlier in the day to gather additional information prior to the work session.

Citizen Comments

Larry Sisneros, a La Jara citizen, asked if the rate increase was mandated by the state. Brandewie explained the state isn't directly mandating the increase, however because the town has violations from

CDPHE and will likely need funding assistance to correct the issues CDPHE does require the town have adequate revenue to be eligible for funding.

New Business

Resolution 2021-6 - A resolution levying general property taxes for the year 2022, to help defray the costs of government for the Town of La Jara, Colorado for the 2022 budget year. Attorney Farish introduced and read the resolution title.

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to approve Resolution 2021-6; seconded by Trustee Villagomez.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustee Chavez, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Old Business

Approval of 2022 Budget

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to approve the budget for 2022; seconded by Trustee Villagomez.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustee Chavez, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Resolution 2021-4 – 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 1st day of January 2022 and ending on the last day of December 2022. the 2022 budget. Attorney Farish reviewed the resolution.

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to approve Resolution 2021-4; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustee Chavez, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Resolution 2021-5 Appropriating sums of money to the various funds and spending agencies, for the Town of La Jara, Colorado, for the 2022 budget year. Attorney Farish reviewed the resolution.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve Resolution 2021-5; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustee Chavez, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Reports

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Zaragoza submitted a written report and highlighted a few items. In addition to his written report, he reported the broken water main was caused as the maintenance crew was trying to connect the water line to the new maintenance building.

He reported that he is interested in pursuing as Public Administration Master's degree through Adams State University. He stated that we would put together a proposal and asks that the trustees consider supporting him with tuition and fees. Mayor Medina supported his willingness to get more education because of all the changing laws and state mandates. She encouraged the trustees to consider his proposal.

Town Manager Zaragoza reported that he and the Town Attorneys have been working on the public nuisance property at 417 Main Street. A letter was drafted and will be sent to the owners along with pictures in hopes to persuade the owners of the property to rectify the nuisance. Attorney Farish stated that the letter is a preliminary step in notifying the owners that they are in violation and the issue needs to be resolved. He stated that this is a multistep process. Attorney Walker stated the tenor of the letter is more informative in hopes of working together.

Town Attorney Report

Town Attorney Farish asked if the town participated in the 811 locate system and asked if the water and sewer lines have been mapped. Town Manager Zaragoza stated that the town does use the 811 locate system. Town Manager Zaragoza stated that it has been a process in finding accurate maps.

Attorney Farish stated that he and Attorney Walker would like to get a sense of the board's priorities and a direction on how to proceed.

Attorney Walker stated that in the past month they have met with the town manager and town clerk on a few projects that seem to be resolved. He encouraged them to continue meeting when necessary. Mayor Medina stated that after the elections would be a good time to have a retreat to focus on the boards goals and priorities.

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to approve the Town Manager and Town Attorney reports; seconded by Trustee Villagomez.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustee Chavez, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Police Report

Chief Lujan submitted a written report and offered to answer questions. Trustee Villagomez questioned if the officers are patrolling. He stated that there are a lot of people walking around town and a lot of thefts.

Public Works Report

Public Works Supervisor Jimmy Hinojos was not present for the meeting but submitted a written report. Town Manager Zaragoza excused the public works department because they had worked into the early morning hours fixing the broken water line. He reported that the Town of Sanford has a jetter truck and has helped in cleaning a few sewer lines. Town Manager Zaragoza reported on the sewer line issue at Curt Wilson's property on South Main. He stated there was a manhole located in the back of their property that should be relocated. Town Manager Zaragoza also commented on the Christmas lights that were put up by the public works department. He also reported that the water well pump will likely need to be replaced. He reported that Thomas Dufresne has been working with Mark Foxworthy learning the water and wastewater system and is preparing to take the test to obtain the operator's license for small systems.

Clerk Report

Town Clerk Pagnotta submitted a written report and offered to answer any questions. She explained that that at the last meeting Trustee Gallegos asked if the CD's were included in the budget. She explained the balances of the CD's along with all the other assets are shown on the Balance Sheet. She also mentioned that the regular municipal elections will be held on April 5 and nomination petitions can begin to be circulated on January 4th.

Building Inspector Report

Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez submitted a written report and spoke briefly about a few projects that includes a two-story addition to a home on Willow Drive. Mayor Medina asked about the progress at the Schimpf's property on Main Street. Rodriguez explained that they have completed the framing and drywall of a wall but haven't completed anything further. He stated he did discuss a time frame of them opening the business and was told that they are short on funds at this time. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez asked for an update on the Dollar General; it was explained that construction is to start in January.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Villagomez – Expressed his concerns about the water outage and how it impacts the patients and staff at the hospital. He mentioned that the hospital is looking at other options for a water supply.

Trustee Wagoner – Commented that the Public Works department did an excellent job with the street cleaning.

Trustee Chavez – Commented that the Public Works department is doing a great job staying on top of things around town. She glad to hear about the new Dollar General store. She reported that she would be attending the meetings virtually the next six months because she was having surgery.

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez – Inquired about the electric pedestal on Main Street.

Mayor Medina – Appreciated Trustee Villagomez’s statement at the last meeting regarding the trustees’ role and commitment to the citizens. She stated that as elected officials they need to remember that. She commented on the beautiful Christmas decorations. She reported that she was appointed by Governor Polis to sit of the Judicial Performance Commission.


Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta, CMC




Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem