

# TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting  
Date: June 10, 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/townofajara](http://www.colorado.gov/townofajara)

## 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: Gallegos, Wagoner, and Mayor Medina. Trustee Espinoza joined via Zoom at 6:04 pm. Trustee Chavez joined via Zoom at 6:21 pm.

Absent: Trustee Villagomez and Mayor Pro Tem Valdez.

A quorum was not present until 6:04 when Trustee Espinoza joined the meeting. Also present were Chief Lujan, Town Attorney Pacyga, and Town Clerk Pagnotta. Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez and Town Manager Zaragoza joined the meeting virtually via Zoom.

Mayor Medina asked members of the DAV La Jara Chapter who were present to proceed with their presentation even though there was not a quorum.

Commander Antonio Reed, Past Commander Steve Salazar and Past, Past Commander Pat Mascarenas, members of the DAV La Jara Chapter 3, received an award for 50 year of service and ask permission to display the award at La Jara Town Hall. Steve Salazar explained that the La Jara DAV Chapter was presented an award for 50 years of service by the DAV National Adjutant. Pat Mascarenas explained the history of the La Jara Chapter stating the old VFW/DAV hall had been torn down several years ago. There was an agreement with the Town to allow the DAV to continue to hold their meetings at Town Hall and the chapter felt it only fitting that the award be displayed at their "home." Mayor Medina stated she was honored to accept and display the award in the board room.

Trustee Espinoza joined the meeting virtually via Zoom at 6:04 pm, a quorum was determined.

## Approval of Agenda

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

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustee Espinoza, Gallegos, Wagoner, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

## Consent Calendar

**Motion:** Trustee Gallegos moved to approve the consent calendar; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.  
**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Espinoza, Gallegos, Wagoner, and Mayor Medina.  
Nays: None  
Motion Carried.

#### **Guests**

DAV made their presentation earlier in the meeting.

#### **Citizen Comments**

No Citizen Comments.

#### **New Business**

Annual Donation to San Luis Valley Welfare Society – Eileen Peak presented a written letter requesting their annual donation of \$1,000.

**Motion:** Trustee Gallegos moved to approve the donation of \$1,000 to San Luis Valley Welfare Society; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Espinoza, Gallegos, Wagoner, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Annual donation to La Jara Fire Department – Fire Chief Austin Valdez submitted a written letter requesting their annual donation of \$4,000.

**Motion:** Trustee Espinoza moved to fund the donation of \$4,000 to La Jara Fire Department; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

**Vote Results:** Ayes: Trustees Espinoza, Gallegos, Wagoner, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

#### **Old Business**

Schedule water/sewer rate increase Town Hall meetings – It was suggested by Trustee Wagoner to hold a few smaller group meetings rather than one large meeting. Mayor Medina stated that it was important that all trustees attend these meetings to show their support of the increase.

Mayor Medina recognized Trustee Chavez for joining the meeting via Zoom at 6:21 pm.

Lease purchase for Maintenance building – Attorney Pacyga stated that seeking financing through First Southwest Bank for construction of the maintenance building has become cumbersome. Town Manager Zaragoza reached out to San Luis Valley Federal Bank who suggested financing the project through a lease-purchase agreement. Attorney Pacyga stated that it is still in the early stages as there is not a lease agreement yet, however the bank provided an amortization schedule for the payments. Two schedules were provided, one financing \$125,000 to fund the entire project including the electrical and plumbing; and the other financing \$92,000 funding the construction of the building only. Attorney Pacyga drafted a resolution in anticipation of entering into the lease-purchase agreement. He also sent a confidential memorandum to the Trustees that discusses the legalities of entering into a lease-purchase agreement and how it applies to TABOR. He felt it was premature to adopt the resolution because there is no written agreement yet. He stated that he would like to review any documents to make sure it includes a non-appropriation clause to comply with TABOR. Additionally, Attorney Pacyga stated the collateral would need to be clearly defined before the trustees votes on it.

Town Manager Zaragoza joined the meeting via zoom and explained that the loan process with First Southwest Bank was stopped because of the many obstacles faced when dealing with a USDA loan.

## **Reports**

### **Town Manager Report**

Town Manager Zaragoza reported on the following items:

- Mosquito Fogger – It was worked on and worked for a couple of nights and then stopped working last night. Alamosa Mosquito Control provided approximately \$2,400 worth of in-kind work. The Town did have to purchase the control panel for \$990. Maintenance Supervisor Hinojos was going to take it back to see if they could repair it again. If the fogger is not able to be repaired there may not be any mosquito spraying this year or the Town may have to purchase one for \$8,000 to \$11,000.
- La Jara Glory Days has a date set for August 14<sup>th</sup>. The committee may be requesting to hold a beer garden.
- New Laundromat is up and running. It was decided to purchase flowers to welcome the new business. Mayor Medina and Trustee Wagoner will deliver them on behalf of the Town.
- Applied for a scholarship to attend the CCCMA conference in Glenwood Springs on June 23 to 25<sup>th</sup>. He was awarded the scholarship and will receive free registration and two nights lodging.
- Weed spraying will begin along the railroad and select frontages. He mentioned the increasing gas prices and suggested charging a fee for mosquito and weed spraying.
- New parklet has been set up in front of Town hall. Later to be placed at various locations as community engagement.
- Creative Placemaking meeting was held on June 4<sup>th</sup>. A list of individuals was invited to discuss community involvement and what needs to be done to activate the downtown area.
- Need to set a date soon to discuss water/sewer rate increases. He listed the requirements of the federal public participation requirements.
- Town of La Jara's June Newsletter distributed throughout town by hand. He recruited four Centauri Middle School students to assist with the distribution of the newsletter to engage the youths.
- Completed the patching of the road on Granada Court. The crew that was working on a project provided the service for free.

Town Manager reported on the discussion he had with Xcel Energy regarding the request from Robert Taylor to remove the guide wire and light pole for a drive through coffee shop. He stated Xcel Energy is not in favor of removing or relocating the light pole because if moved it would eliminate lighting of the intersection on Hwy 285 and Joe S. Chavez. He stated that he explained to Robert Taylor that he needed to have his property surveyed before anything further could be discussed. Trustee Gallegos suggested that he submit a detailed plan for the drive through to the Planning and Zoning Commission; Attorney Pacyga agreed. Trustee Espinoza feels there is not adequate space to have vehicles drive through to the back of the building.

### **Town Attorney Report**

Town Attorney Pacyga reported on the following:

- Prepared the lease purchase memorandum and resolution for financing the maintenance building.
- Researched a building permit issue.

### **Police Report**

Police Chief Lujan presented a written report and asked if there were any further questions. Town Manager Zaragoza thanked Chief Lujan for covering double shifts while the other officers were on vacation.

### **Maintenance Report**

Maintenance Supervisor Jimmy Hinojos was not present but submitted a written report.

### **Clerk Report**

Town Clerk Pagnotta submitted a written report and offered to answer any questions.

### **Inspector Report**

Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez was present via Zoom and submitted a written report and offered to answer questions.

### **Committee Reports**

Planning and Zoning Commission – Town Manager Zaragoza reported that there was no meeting.

Policy and Procedures Committee – Trustee Chavez stated the committee had not met and there was nothing to report.

Community Engagement Committee – Trustee Wagoner reported on the meeting and workshop that was held on Friday, June 4th. She explained the engagement signs that were put up along Main Street to provoke community interest and engagement. She mentioned scheduling a date for trash pick-up along the highway.

*Motion:* Trustee Gallegos moved to approve the reports; seconded by Trustee Wagoner.

*Vote Results:* Ayes: Trustees Chavez, Espinoza, Gallegos, Wagoner, and Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

### **Trustee Comments**

Trustee Wagoner – Recapped what she previously reported regarding the Community Engagement. She reminded everyone of the trash pick-up and asked for suggestions on scheduling a date.

Trustee Gallegos – Mentioned the regulations on the handicap signs that were painted on the streets and circulated an information sheet. She suggested reducing the amount of gas used by the maintenance crew by not allowing the supervisor to take the town truck out of town. She also suggested that maintenance should not be mowing out of the city limits to help reduce gas usage. She asked that the police department check on dogs that do not have water or shelter in the heat. She asked for more visibility by the police department.

Trustee Chavez – Thanked Town Manager Zaragoza for recruiting the kids for the Community Engagement program and stated one of the youths was her nephew. She stated they really appreciated and enjoyed it. She appreciated the newsletter and received a lot of good feedback.

Trustee Espinoza – Had a meeting with Commissioner Baroz on discussion of the sales tax issues that the county will have on the November ballot. She Also discussed with Commissioner Baroz the American Recovery Plan funds that the county will be receiving. She asked Commissioner Baroz to include town's elected officials in planning on the spending of the funds so that there can be some collaboration to help maximize the funds. She suggested contracting out some of the town's services such as weed cutting. It was suggested taking bids for contracting services.

Mayor Medina – Reported on the presentation from Sam Light from CIRSA that was very informative and beneficial to those that attended. She encouraged everyone to view the PowerPoint slides from the presentation. She reminded trustees to check emails regularly on outlook as this is how they will be communicated with. She reported on the meeting she had with the Attorney General regarding mental health and the opioid and drug addiction issues. She stated that they are looking at providing resources

and funding to help with these issues. She has been corresponding with the governor's scheduler to arrange a meeting with him to discuss financial assistance to smaller communities having infrastructure issues like the Town of La Jara.

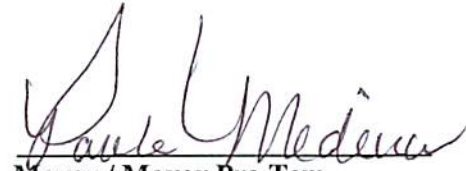
Town Manager Zaragoza mentioned an MOU from SLV Go regarding the walking path at South Main Park, the pocket park on Main Street, and a trail along Richfield Canal. Trustee Espinoza stated that SLV Go will be the fiscal agent to seek funding to enhance outdoor spaces. Town Manager Zaragoza will gather mor information so the trustees can approve the MOU.

**Adjournment:**

**Trustee Gallegos moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted by**

  
Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta

  
Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

