

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting
Date: March 8, 2018

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

Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the La Jara Town Board of Trustees was called to order by Mayor Zaragoza at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Zaragoza.

Roll Call

Present were Trustees: Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar, Mayor Pro Tem Medina, and Mayor Zaragoza.

Absent: Trustee Gallegos

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Town Manager Dennis Koenig, Maintenance Supervisor Matthew Herrera, Town Attorney Ray Valdez and Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve the Agenda; seconded by Trustee Salazar.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Consent Calendar

Motion: Trustee Salazar moved to approve the Consent Calendar; Trustee Valdez seconded.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar, Mayor Pro Tem Medina, and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

No scheduled public comments.

Recognition of Unscheduled Public Comment

No unscheduled public comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Koenig stated that Police Chief Lujan was excused from attending the board meeting because he was at a conference. Town Manager Koenig reported that Luis Sisneros has been hired as a new police officer and will be starting on March 1.

Koenig reported that Spring Clean-up will be held beginning on April 21 and continue through May 5.

Koenig reminded everyone of the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt that will be held on March 31 at the park next to Town Hall. The hunt will begin at 10 am and he asked the trustees to arrive at 9am to help hide eggs.

Koenig updated the trustees on the upcoming retreat that has been set for April 13 and 14 at the Windsor Hotel in Del Norte. Town Clerk Pagnotta gave a few details and asked everyone to choose a lunch menu item.

Koenig stated that he has completed and submitted a grant to San Luis Valley COG to help fund the decorative street lights that will be put up on Main Street.

Koenig reported that the maintenance department has been fixing and grading the alleys and dirt roads. In addition, road base will be laid in the areas that need it.

Koenig has been updating the personnel policy manual and hopes to have it complete in 2 weeks.

Koenig reported that Senator Gardner will be holding an informal meeting here at Town Hall on March 29 from 10:30 to 11:30. Senator Gardner would like to hear any concerns that anyone may have.

Koenig wished the candidates "Good Luck" in the election that will be held on Tuesday, April 3rd at town Hall.

Koenig reported that there is a Water Fluency Class being offered on May 22 and 23 in Pueblo. He asked the board's approval to attend this class so that he can gain more knowledge on the ever-changing water issues. He stated that there will be a series of classes over a period of time and this is just the first installment. The Trustees approved his attending these classes.

Town Manager Koenig stated that the lease agreement for the senior center will expire in April. He stated that Attorney Ray Valdez has been working on the new lease and once it is finished he will circulate the document so that the Trustees have a chance to review it.

Town Manager stated that there was an issue that he would like to discuss in executive session. Mayor Zaragoza asked if they could finish the other agenda items prior to going into executive session. It was agreed to hold the executive session at the end of the meeting.

Approval of the Town Manager's Report:

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve the Town Manager's Report and Trustee Espinoza seconded.

Vote Results Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney's Report:

Town Attorney Valdez reported that he is working on the lease agreement for Northerners Senior Center that will expire in April. He stated that the lease states that the senior center provides the insurance as well as pay a \$50 deductible for repairs, with the town paying the remainder. Attorney Valdez stated that the current lease states the facilities are available to only Town citizens and he explained the language that concerns subleasing and the fees for renting the facility. Trustee Espinoza asked if, when refereeing to subleasing, if the agreement specified whether the facility is rented on a long term or short-term basis? Attorney Valdez stated that the subleasing is intended to be on a short-term basis. He explained the restrictions and limitations. Trustee Espinoza asked about the lease of the facility for Meals on Wheels, Town Manager Koenig explained that the new lease needs to have language either allowing or disallowing the sublease to South Central Seniors program that is now based out of Alamosa. Attorney Valdez reiterated the need for language for subleasing. He also mentioned that the sublessees would need to provide proof of insurance. Attorney Valdez stated he would continue to work on the lease agreement.

Approval of the Town Attorney's Report:

Motion: Trustee Valdez moved to approve the Town Attorney's Report and Trustee Cummings seconded.

Vote Results Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Board of Trustees Comments

Trustee Cummings: Nothing to report.

Trustee Medina: Gave kudos to the police department in their help in apprehending the convict that escaped from Conejos County Jail.

Trustee Salazar: Reported that he has been visiting with citizens in preparation of the upcoming election and stated he has learned that people may want to check to make sure their voter registration is correct. He also reported that he sent the handout for the RAD conversion for the housing authority, but had some issues accessing it. He stated he would send this out again.

Trustee Espinoza: Had nothing to report.

Trustee Valdez: Had nothing to report.

Mayor Zaragoza: Reminded everyone of the election and encouraged the candidates to meet with their neighbors and encourage them to vote.

Mayor Zaragoza stated that he is still concerned about the speed of the traffic on South Main during the time the school buses run both in the morning and in the afternoon. He stated that he sees most of the traffic coming off Highway 136 heading North on South Main are not obeying the speed limit signs. He asked if it would be feasible to put in speed bumps and asked if the police department could be more vigilant in patrolling in that area when school is starting and ending. Trustee Valdez stated that it was never a policy of the school to have a bus stop on South Main and Willow. Trustee Valdez stated the elementary school should be the only bus stop for kids that reside in the Town of La Jara. It was suggested to have a conversation with the school superintendent in regards to these alternate bus stops and the safety of the kids.

Mayor Zaragoza gave kudos to Chief Lujan in his assistance in capturing the escaped fugitive.

Mayor Zaragoza asked Building Inspector Joseph Trottnner how many visits he makes when issuing building permits. Trottnner explained that he inspects each property about 3 or 4 times depending on what they are doing?

Mayor Zaragoza reported that he was appointed to serve on the SLVDRG Board. He stated he was interested in serving on this board because there is no representation for this area.

Executive Session

Motion: Trustee Salazar moved to go into executive session for a conference with the Town Attorney for the purpose of receiving legal advice on specific legal questions under C.R.S Section 24-6-402(4)(b) and Mayor Pro Tem Medina seconded.

Vote Results Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Zaragoza announced "I hereby attest that this recording reflects the actual contents of the discussion at the executive session and has been made in lieu of any written minutes to satisfy the recording requirements of the Open Meetings Law. I will hand the tape to the Town Attorney to retain for a 90-day period. The time is now 8:12 pm, and we now conclude the executive session and return to the open meeting.

New Business

There was some discussion regarding legal issues with Jade Communication. Attorney Valdez had sent a letter to Jade regarding expenses the town accrued repairing broken water and sewer lines that were caused by Jade Communication's contractor while installing fiber optic line throughout town. Attorney Valdez stated that Jade has done very little to rectify the issue.

Motion: Trustee Salazar moved to pursue litigation procedures against Jade Communication and to hire an attorney to preside over the case on behalf of the Town of Lara. Mayor Pro Tem Medina seconded.

Vote Results Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, Salazar, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.


Old Business

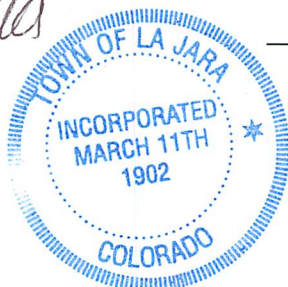
No old Business.

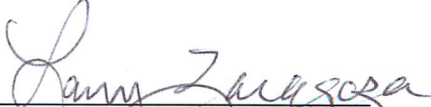
Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Salazar. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta




Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem