

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting

Date: November 9, 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: Chavez, Rendon, Villagomez, Wagoner, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Absent: None

Also present were Town Manager Zaragoza, Town Clerk Pagnotta, Public Works Supervisor Dufresne, Town Attorney Farish, Town Attorney Walker, Building Inspector Rodriguez, and Sargent Cortez.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Trustee Rendon 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 Wagoner mentioned a typo in the minutes. Trustee Rendon questioned two bills that were paid; her questions were answered.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Guests

None

Citizen Comments

Rita Gonzalez addressed the trustees about weeds around town and asked why they have not been cut.

Town Manager Zaragoza explained the new nuisance ordinance that states property owners are responsible for clearing the weeds and maintaining the area around their property including the curb and gutter and frontages. He stated that this is a new ordinance and will take some time for everyone to get used to. He also explained that the weeds were not cut because the tractor was broken.

New Business

Gift of Giving donation – Trustee Wilson addressed the board on behalf of Susan Robins requesting a donation to help buy Christmas gifts for less fortunate children.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to donate \$300 to Conejos County Gift of Giving; seconded by Trustee Chavez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Emergency Plan – Town Manager Zaragoza stated that if the discussion of the emergency plan was in response to the recent water main break Maintenance Supervisor Thomas Dufresne followed protocol dictated by CDPHE. Mayor Medina stated that there is a plan in place. She stated the main concern is to notify the community and offer support to the staff. She suggested promoting the E911 service and offering help to the citizens to sign up to receive emergency notifications. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez suggested contacting Rodney King, Conejos County Emergency Manager, for assistance. Mayor Pro Tem Valdez also mentioned that Rodney King may be able to provide cases of water for citizens if needed. It was further suggested to inform citizens to register for E911 by placing information in the monthly newsletter. Town Clerk Pagnotta asked if citizens had to register themselves or if town staff could input citizen numbers in the system. Attorney Farish and Attorney Walker cautioned that staff should not register citizens because of the liability if there was a failure with the system.

Old Business

None

Reports

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Zaragoza reported on the following:

- The next Mobile Care & Share will be on November 16th, (11-12 noon). If the Board would like to participate in 2024 a letter of support is needed.

Motion: Trustee Rendon moved to authorize Town Manager Zaragoza to draft a letter of support to participate in the Mobile Care and Share for 2024; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

- The Town of La Jara was awarded \$60,000 for the La Jara Water Master Plan. Working with Randi Snead, DOLA, on the procurement policy. Receive the go ahead to advertise in the local paper with our RFP. We have done so!
- Fun with 911 event held on Saturday, October 14th, it was well attended and thank you to SP Trash for providing receptacles.
- The Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting, November 7th was canceled because Mr. Ever Ojeda, Robert Fobert and Andy Martin did not have items ready for discussion.
- October 27th, zoom meeting with DOLA regarding Strong Communities Infrastructure Grant Pre-Application.
- Skate Park update.
- Purchased dump trailer, Cost was \$8,500, the price was less because they did not have the cover.

- Update on the Sewer Lagoon sludge removal project. Town Clerk Pagnotta is in the process of completing forms needed to pay Denali Water Solutions and close out the project.
- La Jara Foodbank update. He received \$6,500 from El Pomar Foundation for assistance with transition.
- Had a conversation with Mr. Arnold Salazar. He will come by the office to discuss his plans for putting up 2-3 modules on the Max Lara Property.
- Hired a third police officer on a conditional basis as well as a new maintenance worker.
- The Town will have two weekends of fall clean-up. Roll off dumpsters will be provided on the following dates - November (2nd, 3rd, 4th, 9th, 10th, and 11th). Hours: 9 am to 4 pm only. Only organic materials will be allowed in the roll-offs. No house trash of any kind!
- Received estimates for installing diffusers and ultrasonic units for the lagoons.
- Chief Lujan is requesting to have a couple of lights installed, one at south main park and one on Haven Lane.
- Working on our work plan for the lagoons.
- Drafted an MOU with SP Services for snow removal.
- November 14th Michael Yerman, a community planner will be touring the town to help assist with housing and community planning.
- Happy Veterans Day
- Spoke with Alamosa Mayor Ty Coleman and asked if he would be willing to give a motivational speech to trustees and staff to focus on being a team.

Kurtis Shawcroft attended the meeting virtually and offered his service as an engineer for the wastewater projects.

Trustee Villagomez suggested using solar lights in Haven Lane as opposed to purchasing a light pole from Xcel Energy.

Town Attorney Reports

Attorney Farish sent a memo updating on the 1041 powers rules and regulations as they apply to activities of state interest regarding the export of water from the San Luis Valley. He stated the regulations require a large amount of expertise from the permitting authority when an application is submitted to export water out of the valley. The memo expressed his concerns that the amount of expertise and time needed would be extremely difficult for most municipalities to obtain. The memo will be forwarded to the trustees. Attorney Farish reported on the various Veteran's Day activities in Monte Vista and Alamosa.

Attorney Walker mentioned that Proposition HH failed and hoped as a result that the budget process would be a little more streamlined. He stated that he or Attorney Farish would like to attend the Town's next Planning and Zoning Meeting. He stated that he has been working on some licensing and hiring questions. He commented on the meeting minutes stating they are very well put together, complete, and accurate. He also commented on the 1041 memo sent by Attorney Farish stating they are working on making a process that is workable for the Town.

Approval of Town Attorneys Reports

Motion: Trustee Wilson moved to approve the 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 was attending a conference but submitted a written report; Sargent Cortez was present to answer any questions.

Public Works Report

Public Works Supervisor Thomas Dufresne reported that RMS was contracted to make the repairs to the water main break at Reeds Tire because they don't have the proper equipment. He asked for clarification on the board's interpretation of the nuisance ordinance regarding who is responsible for cleaning the weeds. He stated the ordinance states the property owner is responsible for the curb and gutter area and frontages but if the board wanted maintenance to clean these areas the ordinance would need to be amended. Town Manager Zaragoza stated that this would be the focus going into the new year and felt citizens need to be educated on the new ordinance with information being put in the newsletter.

Clerk Report

Town Clerk Pagnotta requested the board nominate a Citizen of the Year to be recognized at the annual Christmas Party. Arnold Rendon and Matthew Gallegos were mentioned as nominations. Arnold Rendon was selected. It was mentioned that the Christmas party was planned for Dutch Mill in Antonito, however Vallecito was now open in La Jara. After a show of hands, it was decided to have the party at Vallecito to support a new local business. She mentioned the budget hearing and adoption of the budget will be held at the next meeting in December. She mentioned that the regular election will be in April and nomination packets can begin to be circulated in January.

Building Inspector Report

Building Inspector Rodriguez submitted a written report and offered to answer any questions.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Villagomez commented that it was nice to see the clean up at the property on Walnut and suggested offering to help neighbors.

Trustee Chavez thanked the maintenance department and Town Manager Zaragoza for all their hard work; she stated she appreciates all they do.

Trustee Wagoner thanked everyone who participated in the Trunk or Treat; it was a huge success. She gave a shout out to Deputy Clerk Romero for organizing the event.

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez stated that there are always two sides to every story and to not always believe what's on social media.

Mayor Medina commented on the mural that was painted on the building on Main and Walnut. She stated it looks nice. She also reported that the Boys and Girls Club contacted her needing a place for the kids to meet if the bus was running late. It was suggested that they could meet at Town Hall.

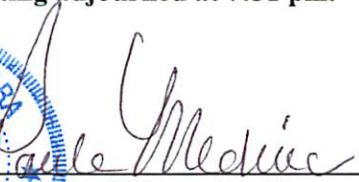
Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta




Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem