

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting
Date: October 14, 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

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 7:15 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Medina.

Roll Call

Present in person were Trustees: Chavez, Villagomez, Wagoner, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina.

Absent: Trustees Espinoza and Gallegos.

A quorum was present. Also present were Chief Lujan, Public Works Supervisor Jimmy Hinojos, Thomas Dufresne, Town Attorney Pacyga, 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 Chavez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Consent Calendar

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Citizen Comments

No Citizen Comments.

Guests

2020 Audit – Tom Gearhart from Kozleski CPA reviewed the 2020 Audit with the board. He stated the auditors gave an “Unqualified Opinion” which he explained is a great opinion to receive. He stated that all who worked to prepare the financials for the audit should be commended. He explained a material weakness was noted because a journal entry for payroll expenses that had a zero net effect on the total. He explained that it is fairly minor in context of the number of transactions that were completed.

New Business

Decision on hiring Town Attorney – Mayor Medina asked if the board had any further discussion on hiring Eugene Farsish and Seth Walker as Town Attorney. Trustee Wagoner stated that if their fees are within the budget, they should move forward with hiring them. It was explained that Seth Walker would be mentored by Eugene Farish. Attorney Pacyga suggested that the board direct the Town Manager to get a written agreement from Mr. Walker and Mr. Farish.

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to direct Town Manager Zaragoza to gather a written agreement expressing the Town's interest in hiring Eugene Farish, P.C., and Seth Walker Attorney at Law; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Public Nuisance – Building on Main Street. Attorney Pacyga explained that he has been working with Town Manager Zaragoza and Chief Lujan to issue a nuisance violation to owners to enforce maintenance of the building on Main Street that is in disrepair and a safety hazard.

2022 Budget presentation – Town Clerk Pagnotta presented the budget for 2022. She encouraged everyone to review it and get back to her if there were questions or concerns. She stated the budget hearing is scheduled for November 18.

Reschedule of November meeting – It was explained that the next regular board meeting is scheduled for November 11, which is Veteran's Day. The meeting was rescheduled for November 18. There was discussion on moving the start time for the meetings; it was decided to keep the start time at 6 pm.

Old Business

No Old Business

Reports

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Zaragoza submitted a written report that was included in the council packet. In addition to his report, he highlighted the construction of the new maintenance building. He noted that in his report he stated the LED light poles for Main Street have been ordered, however he did not order them because of the price of the poles and the delay in shipping. He will be seeking a grant for them. He highlighted the meeting with Chris Brandewie from RCAC who is conducting the water and sewer rate study.

In addition to his written report, Town Manager Zaragoza presented a Power Point presentation that discussed the direction and vision that he proposed to the board. Mayor Medina suggested that Zaragoza present the Power Point at the next retreat.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to accept the Town Manager's Report; seconded by Trustee Wagoner

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney Report

Town Attorney Pacyga reported that he consulted with Town Manager Zaragoza regarding the public nuisance issue that was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Motion: Trustee Wagoner moved to approve the Town Attorney report; seconded by Trustee Chavez

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. Mayor Medina shared information from a flier that provided resources and assistance for substance abuse.

Maintenance Report

Maintenance Supervisor Jimmy Hinojos submitted a written report. Mayor Medina stated the maintenance department did a great job with demolition of the old building.

Clerk Report

Town Clerk Pagnotta submitted a written report and offered to answer any questions. Town Manager Zaragoza reported that he nominated Clerk Pagnotta as Clerk of the Year for CMCA. She will be awarded at a luncheon in Greeley.

Building Inspector Report

Building Inspector Darrin Rodriguez submitted a written report and closed out a few of the older permits.

Committee Reports

Planning and Zoning Commission – Nothing to report

Policy and Procedures Committee –Nothing to report.

Community Engagement Committee – Nothing to report

Trustee Comments

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez – Reported that he attended the CML Conference in Westminster and met with the Town Manager from Center, who has some aerators that they would be willing to donate or sale for a low price. He also mentioned that there is funding available to be funneled down from the county level. He suggested that the Town reach out to the county commissioners to coordinate with them. He also attended a session that talked about mental health issues and assistance for police officers and first responders.

Trustee Wagoner – Reported that the Conejos Library District will hold a pumpkin carving at each library location on October 23.

Trustee Chavez – Reported that she had a few calls of complaints about the smell from the hemp building. Chief Lujan stated that when the hemp is harvested it will create a stronger order; but will go away. Town Manager Zaragoza stated that the owner gave him a copy of the state inspection that was done in September indicating that the hemp business falls within the state regulations.

Trustee Villagomez – Reported that Conejos County Hospital will be having a Trunk-or-Treat again this year on October 29. The event will be done in a safe manner as last year.

Mayor Medina – Attended the CML Conference in Westminster. She met with the mayor from Castlerock, who commented about the exceptional care his parents received when they were traveling through and was involved in an accident. Mayor Medina reported that she met with Ashley Valdez from Xcel Energy about charging stations for electric vehicles. She also attended a session on water/sewer rate increases and how to best notify the citizens. It was suggested to hold open houses rather than having Town Hall meetings. Trustee Villagomez stated that people are understandably frustrated with the

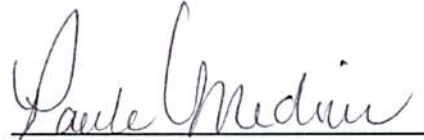
ongoing water outages and the concerns increasing the rates. It was explained that the increase is needed so that repairs can be made to the aging infrastructure.

Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta, CMC


Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

