

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting

Date: September 14, 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: Rendon, Villagomez, Wilson, Mayor Pro Tem Valdez, and Mayor Medina. Trustee Chavez attended virtually.

Absent: Trustee Wagoner

Also present were Town Clerk Pagnotta, Police Chief Lujan, Public Works Supervisor Dufresne, Town Attorney Farish, and Town Attorney Walker.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Rendon requested to add discussion of putting a decal on the town car as item "c" under New Business and discussion of Ordinance 107 as item "d" under New Business.

Motion: Trustee Wilson moved to approve the agenda with the added items; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Consent Calendar

Motion: Trustee Rendon moved to approve the consent calendar; seconded by Trustee Villagomez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Guests

Kate Jack from SLV Behavioral Health requested the board proclaim September as Suicide Prevention Awareness month and read the proclamation.

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Citizen Comments

Josephine Montoya, a resident of Myron Way, read a letter about the paving project on Myron Way. She stated that Town Manager Zaragoza requested residents from this area meet to explain the details of the paving project. She stated Town Manager Zaragoza requested to have the residents in this area contribute to extend the paving in front of their properties. She felt this was an unreasonable request.

New Business

T&D Liquor license renewal – Darlene Burh requested the liquor license renewal for her liquor store. Chief Lujan stated he had not receive any calls or complaints about the store.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the liquor license renewal for T&D Liquor; seconded by Trustee Rendon.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

2024 Budget – Town Clerk Pagnotta presented the board with the 2024 proposed budget. She suggested holding off on the budget hearing and adoption because of Proposition HH that will appear on the ballot in November. Proposition HH could negatively affect the amount of property taxes the town receives. Trustee Wilson questioned why the donation to the fire department was reduced and felt that donations should not be reduced. Town Clerk Pagnotta asked the trustees to review the budget and meet with her if there are questions or concerns. Attorney Walker suggested preparing a secondary budget to be prepared if Proposition HH should pass.

Decal for Town Car – Trustee Rendon questioned why the magnetic decals for the town car were not being used.

Motion: Trustee Rendon moved to pursue having permanent decals put on the town car; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Valdez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Ordinance 107 – Trustee Rendon explained an incident where her neighbor had several pet pigs in her yard. She stated the town has an ordinance prohibiting hooved animals in town limits. She called the police dispatch service to report the pigs in her neighbor's yard. She went on to state that she also met with Town Manager Zaragoza, who was aware of the pigs in town. Trustee Rendon wanted to know why the ordinance was not being enforced. Police Chief Lujan stated the issue had been resolved; the neighbor removed the pigs from her property. It was suggested that a reminder of this ordinance be put in the newsletter.

Old Business

PSN and Caselle Online bill pay agreement – Nick Photos from PSN gave a brief explanation of how their system works as well as how they integrate with Caselle, our utility billing software. He answered questions from the trustees. Town Clerk Pagnotta explained that she contacted other municipalities who use PSN for references. The contract was provided to the attorneys in August for their review, however Trustee Wilson asked that they look closely at the fees to make sure there isn't anything missing. The issue was tabled until the meeting in October.

4-Day Work Week – There was discussion on making sure the citizens were informed. Trustee Wilson suggested having a meeting to invite input from the citizens. A meeting was scheduled for 5:30 pm on October 12.

1041 Ordinance – Attorney Farish explained that he attended a meeting where the discussion was focused on setting regulations and the application process for the export of water out of the San Luis Valley. He stated this ordinance is a collaborated effort with all the entities in the San Luis Valley to work together concerning the export of water. It was explained that an IGA and the 1041 Ordinance would need to be approved. It was further explained that in the adoption of the ordinance the town would have to have a hearing; the hearing notice was published in the Valley Courier and the hearing date has been set for October 12, at the beginning of the regular board meeting.

Reports

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Zaragoza was not in attendance but submitted the following written report:

- The next Mobile Care & Share will be on September 21st (11-12 noon). 178 people served from 68 households.
- Northerner's Senior Center will do two more food distributions prior to the end of the year.
- Youth Enterprise Zone has 5 students involved and will recruit at least 5 more to get underway.
- Fun with 911 event has been moved to October 14 and will take place at South Main Park from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting, September 6th and will meet again on September 26th with Community Planner, Nancy Dosedell, to review Zoning Ordinances.
- Demolition of the buildings located in the maintenance yard has been completed. Needed 4 roll-offs to haul debris away.
- Filming here in La Jara that took place on and 18th, follow-up.
- On 8/22/23, DOLA Reps, Thomas, Shawn, Kurtis and I, met to discuss Master Plan Grant.
- Completed Individual department meetings to review budget for 2024.
- The LOI for a Strong Communities Infrastructure Grant Program was submitted and waiting for the next step.
- Proposing a Richfield Ditch community clean-up day. We need volunteers to assist with this clean up.
- On 8/28/23, met with residents located on 4th street and Myron Way to discuss the paving project.
- 8/29/23, met with Karen Hinojos and Seth Walker to discuss a formal proposal for the housing project. Mrs. Hinojos will attend the October Board Meeting to present.
- 4 Day Work Week Proposal feedback.
- 8/24/23, attended the SLV Transportation Planning Region Meeting. Brief discussion regarding the free transit service connecting Alamosa to Antonito with stops along the way. Coming this fall, 2023.
- The generators for both the lift station and the pump house at well #1 have been serviced.
- Christmas Party is in the planning stage. Thinking of December 9th at the Dutch Mill. Also on the 9th is "Meet Santa Claus" and Goody bag giveaway by the Fire Dept. at the Northerner's Senior Center beginning at 10:00 am.
- Notice has been shared with residents via the town newsletter regarding overdue W/S payment. Rather than immediately discontinuing service to residents that are overdue with payment, we are asking them to make arrangements for payment prior to taking action.

Town Attorney Reports

Attorney Walker reported about attending the CML District meeting in Alamosa. He also mentioned that he and Attorney Farish would be attending a CML meeting in October. He provided some information on the legislative updates including discussion of housing issues. He mentioned Prop. 123 and thought it might benefit the town to consider opting into this program; he noted that the town would need to opt in by November 1st.

Attorney Farish added that CML has several tools and templates for the town to use regarding housing development and funding options; he added that he has a large library of resources available for the town that covers many topics.

Approval of Town Manager and Attorneys Reports

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to approve the Town Manager and Town Attorney reports; Seconded by Trustee Rendon.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Police Report

Chief Lujan submitted a written report and offered to answer any questions.

Public Works Report

Public Works Supervisor Thomas Dufresne reported that the generators for both the sewer lift station and the water well pump #1 have been serviced and are working correctly now. He submitted a written report.

Clerk Report

Town Clerk Pagnotta reported that new legislation requires websites to be accessible for people with disabilities. She noted that Deputy Clerk Romero contacted SIPA, who hosts the town's website for some direction in making the website accessible. She also mentioned that a condolence card for the passing of Trustee Wagoner's father was circulated for everyone to sign, flowers were also ordered and will be sent to the funeral.

Building Inspector Report

Building Inspector Rodriguez was not in attendance but provided a written report.

Trustee Comments

Mayor Medina reported that she attended the Mayor's Day event at the State Fair. She stated that she would attend the CIRSA luncheon. Mayor Medina met with Trustee Wagoner to offer condolences for the passing of her father.

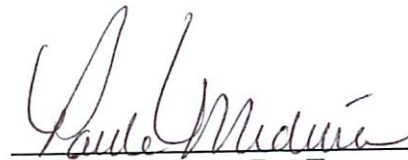
Trustee Rendon suggested a link be provided to citizens that may want to attend board meetings but can't attend in person. It was suggested citizens be informed through the newsletter to contact the Town Clerk for access to the meetings.

Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Valdez moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta


Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

