

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting
Date: April 11, 2019

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, Gallegos, Cummings, Salazar, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza. Trustee Espinoza was absent but arrived at 7:50.

Absent: None

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Town Manager Dennis Koenig, Police Chief Jerry Lujan, Maintenance Supervisor Matthew Herrera, Building Inspector Joseph Trottnner, Attorney Ray Valdez and Assistant Clerk Krista Ross.

Approval of Agenda

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Consent Calendar

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

County Commissioners were on the addenda but were not present.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Koenig stated he had researched pricing on the propane gun for the lagoons, he stated they are programmed on a timer to go off every hour to 2 hours the cost is \$1,500 to \$2000.

Approval to purchase propane gun:

Motion: Trustee Valdez moved to approve the purchase of a propane gun for the lagoons; seconded by mayor Pro Tem Medina.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Manager Koenig stated he has an estimate to pour concrete for the Northerners Senior Center The cost would be around \$10,000.00 for just the one, and not the car port. He stated the carport would cost roughly another \$5,000.00. He stated this would be something for next year's budget because it was not budgeted for this year. He stated the curb that was installed last year has really helped the water shed to not get in the building. Mayor Zaragoza asked if the \$15,000.00 is the estimate for the entire project. Koenig stated that the carport where the van is would be \$5,000.00 and the other section would be at the back door where the kitchen is. Koenig again stated that this will have to be a line item on next year's budget.

Town Manger Koenig stated he was approached by the owners of Richfield Canal. He stated they want the Town to spray the weeds and they will pay for it. Trustee Valdez asked if we can fit the four-wheeler in there. Maintenance Supervisor Matthew Herrera stated they could in some spots. Mayor Zaragoza asked to table the topic due to concerns about using round up. Mayor Zaragoza asked if that is in fact what we will be using to spray the weeds with this year. Town Manager Koenig stated he will be using an organic goat byproduct spray. He stated he will let the board members take a look at it as well as smell it. He stated once it gets put on the weeds the smell will last a couple of months. He stated there are very few choices for weed control. He understands the concerns with glyphosate however the board needs to decide very soon because the weeds need to be caught while they are small to stunt the growth. Mayor Zaragoza asked if the Richfield Canal company has given any sort of formal proposal. Koenig stated they have not, and he figured around \$2,000.00.

Mayor Zaragoza stated he and Town Manager Koenig have spoken about the weed control before. He wanted to see what the other board members thought about spraying early in the morning and possibly giving some sort of notice, and avoiding the few individuals that do not want their weeds sprayed. Mayor Zaragoza he doesn't want our town to smell for two months. Mayor Zaragoza asked if there was any harm to pets with the organic spray. Town Manager Koenig stated there is no harm. Trustee Gallegos asked that maintenance avoid spraying near the individuals that were mentioned. She believes they would peruse the subject of using the weed killer with glyphosate anywhere in town. She thinks that there will be an opposition from them. Mayor Pro Tem Media stated putting something in the water bills stating we are looking for alternatives to the round up and a notice of spraying for transparency. She stated also welcoming citizen comments and suggestions in that regard. Trustee Salazar stated exposure can be hazardous which includes our maintenance team. He suggested putting together a safety team to notify the public when and where the spraying will occur. He believes this would be a helpful remedy to this problem. Town Manager Koenig also suggested putting something in the water bills that states if residents don't want the weeds sprayed near their homes to come in to town hall and let the clerks know.

Town Manager Koenig stated the town will give notice of what areas will be sprayed. Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked if the Maintenance team was protected while spraying the weeds. Maintenance Supervisor

Matt Herrera stated they wore Tyvek suits, rubber gloves and masks. Trustee Cummings asked if there was any spray that did not contain all the chemicals. Town Manager Koenig stated this is the spray that is a level lower than the kind the professional grade. Otherwise the town will have to have a license to use industrial strength weed killer.

Trustee Gallegos asked how much the weed spray costs per year. Town Manager Koenig stated it costs \$2,000.00 a year buying in bulk. Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked to get information to see how long the spray lasts. Trustee Valdez asked to look into the chemicals in the mosquito spray also. Mayor Pro Tem Media stated there were residents that appreciated the weed spraying. Trustee Salazar stated another option could be to plant grass to choke out the weeds.

Mayor Zaragoza suggested notifying the community of when the spraying will occur. Town Manager Koenig stated that notices will be sent through special mailing explaining what days and times the spraying will be done. Mayor Zaragoza suggested keeping it simple by notifying the community as to what the town as a board is thinking and if there are any concerns to come in and visit. Trustee Gallegos suggested just posting a notice. Town Manager Koenig stated the town will post a detailed notice on the street, a special mailing, and a map of where the spraying will be done.

Town manager Koenig stated the Northerners Senior Center's old stove has been replaced and would like to know what the trustees would like done with the old one. He stated a disclaimer would need to be written if it were decided to be sold. Trustee Gallegos suggested giving it to Trustee Cummings. Trustee Valdez suggested scrapping it. Mayor Zaragoza stated the stove was way beyond repair. Mayor Pro Tem Medina said scrap it if it could potentially be a danger. Mayor Pro Tem Medina thanked Mayor Zaragoza, Trustee Cummings, and David Dexter for going to pick up the new stove. Mayor Zaragoza stated if the stove does get scrapped to have the money go back to the Senior Center. Mayor Zaragoza stated that it appeared the board all agrees to just scrap it.

Town Manager Koenig stated that Trustee Espinoza has asked him to look into block grants for blighted property. He stated he had lunch with Forrest Neuerburg, the City Manager of Monte Vista, who was an expert on this. City Manager Neuerburg worked with these grants when he worked for land use for the state Wyoming. He stated that the town has two properties left that were blighted, however he stated the grantors will not even look at it if there are less than twenty properties. Monte Vista has a \$600,000.00 grant with 67 blighted homes. The grantors offer them \$8,000.00 per home, they have 43 home signed up so far. They will use the block grant for mitigation on the asbestos cleanup and it is at a 15% match. Mayor Zaragoza asked if Town Manager Koenig has shared this information with Trustee Espinoza yet. Town Manager Koenig stated that he thinks she has been out of town. Mayor Zaragoza thanked Town Manager Koenig for looking in to that matter.

Town Manager Koenig stated the CIRSA Luncheon with Tami Tanue will be held May 9th in Monte Vista at 11:30. He asked who will be attending. Mayor Pro Tem Medina, Trustee Gallegos and Town Attorney Valdez stated they will be attending.

Town Manager Koenig stated on May 20th there will be the CML listening tour in Alamosa at 10:00 a.m. that will last about an hour. Mayor Pro Tem stated she will try to attend. Town Manager Koenig stated he and Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta will attend.

Town Manager Koenig stated the effective date for the Augmentation rule is March 15th however the rule was not mailed until March 29th. He and Town Attorney Valdez have looked into this process very carefully, if the town augments then the town will have to buy water which would be very costly. He stated it would be in the towns best interest to join the Conejos County sub district. If the town joins this sub-district, he will make sure to get a seat on the board so the town will have a direct voice. He stated

Alamosa would be too big and the town would have no voice at all. Mayor Zaragoza asked if Town Manager Koenig had spoken with Joseph Valdez. Town Manager Koenig stated that was the second appropriation that had been talked about. He stated that this would be something to discuss at the retreat.

Town Manager Koenig stated the retreat will be Friday, May 3rd and Saturday, 4th. He stated dinner will be served at 6:30p.m. and to please be there around 6:00p.m. He suggested bringing a list of what the trustees would like to discuss. He stated Town Clerk Pagnotta will not be attending. Mayor Zaragoza suggested preparing an early agenda beforehand and to let the clerks know about what the trustees would like to discuss.

The town's 7th annual Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 20th at 10:30a.m. Assistant Clerk Ross asked that Trustees be there by 9:15a.m. to help hide eggs.

Approval of Town Managers Report:

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve the Town Managers Report; seconded by Trustee Gallegos.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney's Report:

Town Attorney Valdez had nothing to report at this time.

Trustee Comments:

Trustee Valdez: Nothing to report. He needs nuts and bolts to put up the neighborhood watch signs.

Trustee Salazar: stated the Housing Authority is doing really well and got their budget passed. Now that they are using the R.A.D conversion that has helped them to draw down from the H.U.D. Housing and has given them the ability to expand so a lot of the Housing Authorities that are failing are urged by the government to move toward those R.A.D. Conversions to be able to access other resources. They are just moving into that conversion and doing well. He stated there is a tax credit that could help work with municipalities. He is going to a conference that will hopefully help network and learn more about that. He stated he would like to invite the director of the Housing Authority to do a presentation and have her on the agenda for possibly May or June. He stated they have a 501c3 and are trying to determine what they want to do with that. He stated with that 501c3 they sometimes can apply for small grants do some rehab on some houses using H.U.D dollars. He stated they are doing well with residencies and will soon be doing some inspections to see what improvements need to be made.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina: Reported that she and Mayor Zaragoza attended a meeting with Dr. Lovell and Lori Laski from ASU. She talked with them for about an hour and they were very personable and very interested in the valley and our community. Dr. Lovell is interested in giving opportunities to valley youth and working with the valley communities. Town Manager Koenig stated Lori Laski is on the agenda for May.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked about the dates for the CML Conference. Town Manager Koenig stated the rooms are set and can be checked in to after 4:00p.m. on June 18th.

Trustee Cummings: He stated he wanted to talk about the weed, trash, and junk car ordinance. He stated Maintenance Supervisor Herrera does a beautiful job keeping the town clean and mowed. He stated some

people threw some trash and yard debris in the street and he was pretty upset with the lack of respect for our maintenance crew. He stated that same person has a junk car still sitting out in the street full of trash. He stated it looks like a trash dumpster. He stated he just wanted to stick up for our town and hopefully something will be done with that car.

Trustee Gallegos: Reported on the subject of trash, she was concerned about some residents having a permanent yard sale and parking their junky trailer on railroad property. She stated that she thinks that shouldn't be allowed. She asked about other vendors that have roadside yard sales if they have business licenses. Chief Lujan stated that every vendor needs a business license. She asked if when there is construction or repairs or tearing down if there could be orange fencing around it so it doesn't look so bad. She stated she had some people come in and tell her that this town is looking pretty bad and dirty. Mayor Zaragoza stated he had to disagree with her. She asked about the fire hydrant inspections. Town Manager Koenig stated they do them twice a year. She asked when they were last done. Town Manager Koenig stated they will be inspected in May.

Trustee Espinoza arrived at 7:50.

Trustee Gallegos stated she also did an internet check on all the active hemp grows and she stated the one here in town is not listed. Town Manager Koenig stated they had their license renewed last year and as far as he knows it is posted out on the door of the building. Trustee Espinoza stated it should be updated on the web site and that they update the website monthly. Trustee Gallegos stated from what she heard that the town can make their own regulations and restrictions on what grows can and can't do and she thinks the town should. Town Manager Koenig responded that on the last farm bill hemp was deregulated. Trustee Gallegos stated she was told that people can buy marijuana there. Town Manager Koenig stated that there needed to be an undercover there. Trustee Espinoza stated she contacted the state about the hemp grow and said the marijuana people directed her to the department Agriculture. The department of agriculture stated they don't test it. Neither department wanted to do anything about it and with hemp being deregulated on the last farm bill nothing will get accomplished. She stated it boils down to law enforcement. Chief Lujan stated it had been tested and that it was below the legal limit so it was classified as hemp.

Trustee Gallegos wants to get water compliance reports included with the council packets. Mayor Zaragoza stated he couldn't interpret them and asked if she could. She stated that trustees used to get reports on the test results on the water. Mayor Zaragoza asked if it would satisfy her to physically come to Town Hall and review them. He stated he wouldn't care to include them in the report. She stated she was concerned that the town residence had received two letters regarding the water. Town Manager Koenig stated it had nothing to do with the water it had to do with not looking at the top of the water tank. Town Manager Koenig stated the water is tested daily but the state report happens once a year. Trustee Gallegos stated just including some sort of report that could compare results. Town Manager Koenig stated there is nothing to compare there is no physical number, it is either good or bad. Trustee Espinoza had a question about what report they were getting before regarding the water. Town Manager Koenig stated that it is either a pass or fail, and if there is a fail we have to notify the community.

Trustee Gallegos stated her husband had picked up Howard Galvez's truck and that Howard was being taken to hospices. She wanted to know if the town could send some sort of card to him.

Mayor Zaragoza: He stated the resident at 602 Broadway came to him to ask if there is anything the town can do about the tree that is lifting the sidewalk in front of his house before he installs the new sidewalk. Mayor Zaragoza asked if we could look at that tree coming out of this year tree trimming budget. He stated the alleyways look great and thanked Maintenance Supervisor Herrera. He stated that

Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta was out for surgery and is back to work and wishes her a speedy recovery and officially welcome her back. He asked if any of the board members know of a 501c3 that wants some money. He stated that he has given in the past to the Northerner's Senior Center, Boys and Girls Club, and Special Olympians. Town Manager Koenig suggested the fire department. Trustee Valdez stated that would be worth looking in to. They are in need of gear and had reapplied for money to purchase equipment. Mayor Zaragoza asked to let him know before May 18th.

Trustee Espinoza: She stated C.O.G has a bunch of mini grants that have to give money away. Town Manager Koenig stated we could get two for \$5000.00 apiece. Trustee Espinoza suggested applying for the grants and using the funds for sidewalks or parking striping and things the town already has plans for. Town Manager Koenig stated the grant we received last year was \$8750.00 and state wide is set by DOLA. Town Manager Koenig stated stripping might be a good idea. Mayor Zaragoza stated the town should give it a shot.

Trustee Espinoza stated the pesticide issue the town has been facing and the group that was active regarding that now have a Facebook page. She stated she had posted on their page about the research she had found regarding the chemicals used in weed killer including glyphosate, and challenged them to help our town come up with an alternative solution. She had received no response.

Chief Lujan wanted to answer Trustee Gallegos' question regarding the matter of the hemp grows state license. He stated their licenses is good until September 3, 2019. Trustee Gallegos stated the guy who gave the board a tour is no longer employed. She stated she doesn't feel comfortable with the way they run their business. She asked if the hemp grow has water hooked up at the building. Town Manager Koenig stated they paid for the water and sewer taps. The water has been tapped in but not turned on and the sewer they have not tapped.

New Business

Mayor Pro Tem Media asked if the state inspector ever came to speak with Kelly Cornum. Town Manager Koenig stated he hasn't come yet. He was supposed to come within the next week and the Mayor will be notified

Old Business

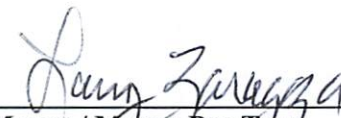
None

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Gallegos. The meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Assistant Clerk - Krista Ross


Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

