

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Special Meeting
Date: August 12, 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/townoflajara

Call to Order

The Special 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, Espinoza, Cummings, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza.

Absent: None

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Town Manager Dennis Koenig, Police officer Luis Sisneros, Deputy Clerk Felicia Gomez, and Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta.

Appointment of Trustee

Trustee Gallegos questioned when the vacant trustee position notice was published. Town Clerk Pagnotta explained that the notice was sent to the Valley Courier on July 12 and was to be published until August 2. Town Clerk Pagnotta also stated that the notice was displayed at the Post Office on Friday, July 12 following the council meeting when Trustee Salazar's resignation letter was received. Trustee Gallegos stated that the letter of interest from Robert Wagoner was submitted on July 12 and she had concerns about the timing of when the letter was received. Mayor Zaragoza commended Robert Wagoner on being scrupulous in acting on the notice and still showing interest in serving on the board. Pro Tem Medina added that there was plenty of time for anyone to see the notice and submit a letter of interest. Mayor Zaragoza asked if everyone had an opportunity to review the letters of interest from Robert Wagoner and Annette Chavez. Robert Wagoner was present but Annette Chavez was not. Mayor Zaragoza suggested moving on to the next agenda item to give Chavez a chance to arrive.

Weed Ordinance

Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked for this issue to be discussed because there has been concerns from citizens regarding the weeds in the alley ways and frontages. She also stated that there has been some contention when the police department issues a warning or citation for weeds. With these concerns she asked if the board should discuss the issue further or start cutting the weeds in the alleys and frontages again. Trustee Cummings feels that the town should be taking care of the weeds on town property including the alley and frontages. Mayor Zaragoza asked if anyone felt they should go back to spraying the weeds. Trustee Valdez stated that he feels the weeds should be cut but not sprayed. Mayor Pro Tem Median would also like to see the weeds mowed. Mayor Zaragoza asked how many citations have been

issued for weed violations; Town Manager Koenig stated that he could get that figure. Town Manager explained that there is an ordinance that was adopted in 2006 that states that property owners are responsible for the weeds in the alley and frontages along their property. The current ordinance would need to be repealed or amended because the town cannot enforce half of the ordinance because it would be capricious and arbitrary. Trustee Espinoza feels that the weeds should not be sprayed but do need to be cut because 50% of the population is elderly and don't have the means to cut the weeds, especially in the alleys. It was decided to amend that weed ordinance and have the maintenance department begin cutting the weeds again.

Mayor Zaragoza stated that they have given Annette Chavez ample time to attend the meeting and asked if anyone had questions before making a decision on appointing the trustee to fill the vacant seat. Trustee Gallegos stated that in Mr. Wagoner's letter he stated that he would be interested in serving as the town's judge or attorney in the future if needed. Wagoner stated that he is licensed to practice law in Colorado, however his license is inactive and he would just need to petition the board to have it reinstated.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina stated that Chavez and Wagoner submitted great letters and they are both very qualified candidates. Mayor Zaragoza explained that as a trustee the candidates would meet once a month on the second Thursday of every month and asked Wagoner if he had any prior comments that would interfere; Wagoner replied that he did not.

Larry Sisneros asked Wagoner if he had a personal agenda and if he would serve the people of La Jara. Wagoner replied that as a trustee he would try to solve the town's problems and represent the citizens. Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked Wagoner what he likes about La Jara. He responded that he considers himself as a moderate, but is conservative about the things that are good and be progressive about the things that are problematic. He stated that he would want to address the concerns of the citizens as a trustee. He stated that he and his wife moved back to La Jara as it is were his wife grew up and many of the things his wife remembers of La Jara are still here like being a small quiet town with low crime rate and clean. He stated, like Trustee Espinoza, he would like to see more economic development in the down town area.

Trustee Espinoza stated that she had Town Clerk Pagnotta verify the residency and voter registration of both candidates. A secret ballot with the names of the two candidates were given to the Trustees. It was explained that the appointed trustee would serve until the next election in April on 2020. Town Clerk Pagnotta read the votes aloud; Annette Chavez received one vote and Robert Wagoner received five.

Mayor Zaragoza read a letter from Conejos County EMS Coordinator Sara Loggin who requested use of the park at 312 S. Main in order to hold the second annual Fun With 911 on September 14 from 10 to 2.

Town Clerk Pagnotta sworn in Robert Wagoner as a trustee.

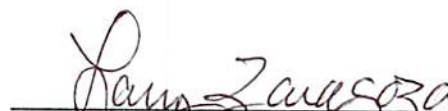
Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk - Shawn Pagnotta, CMC




Mayor (Mayor Pro Tem)