

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting
Date: August 8, 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 Pro Tem Medina at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Roll Call

Present were Trustees: Valdez, Gallegos, Cummings, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina. Trustee Espinoza arrived at 7:05.

Absent: Mayor Zaragoza

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Town Manager Dennis Koenig, Police Chief Jerry Lujan, Building Inspector Joe Trottnier, Attorney Ray Valdez, Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta.

Approval of Agenda

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Consent Calendar

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Review of Trustee Vacancy Letters

Town Clerk Pagnotta explained that two letters of interest were submitted for the vacant trustee position. She stated that the trustees could review the letters and make a decision to appoint a trustee during the current meeting or hold a special meeting at a later time when all the board members could be present. She informed the board that an appointment would need to be made no later than September 10. It was decided to table the issue and hold a special meeting on August 12 at 7 pm.

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

No scheduled public comments.

Citizen Comments

No citizen comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Koenig reported that the budget process would begin on August 26 and a preliminary budget will be presented to the board in October. He asked the board for input on projects that they would like to see included in the 2020 budget.

Town Manager Koenig reported that the water meters are at the end of their life span. Koenig explained that he met with several meter companies and recently met with Dave Conway from Master Meters who presented a meter option that would work on a telemetry system. He stated the cost to re-meter the entire town would be less than \$200,000 and the town's maintenance department would be able to install them. He stated that the current meters only have a 7-year life span where the new meters have a 10-year warranty and about a 20-year life span. He stated that this is a project that will need to be completed in the next 2 or 3 years, but he stated he wanted to start budgeting for this now and begin pursuing funding.

Town Manager Koenig met with Mike Sharp from a Versus Environmental regarding sludge removal who initially submitted an estimate of \$800,000 but reduced the cost to about half. Koenig stated that the town might be able to get money from DOLA to help with this project.

Town Manager Koenig spoke with Sam Light from CIRSA and has been gathering information and ordinances from other municipalities on short term rentals and B&B's. Mayor Pro Tem Medina would like Town Manager Koenig to put some samples together for the trustees to look at. Town Manager Koenig suggested adopting an ordinance for a lodging tax. He suggested putting it on the General Election ballot in November of 2020.

Town Manager Koenig reported that Willow Lane is in the process of being paved. He reported that ACI has held their price of \$25,000 to pave that street.

Town Manager Koenig commend Trustee Espinoza on being the emcee at the SLV Economic Summit and stated she did a great job. Trustee Espinoza had a conversation with the economist that was a guest speaker at the Economic Summit and conducted a matrix on the assets in the community and the San Luis Valley. In his research he feels that Alamosa may be the next micropolitan area. He was going to get back with Trustee Espinoza with information on Conejos County.

Town Manager Koenig met with Alice Johnson, CEO of Xcel Energy to discuss the future energy needs for Conejos County. The issue with this area is that there is not enough power. He stated that Xcel listened to his concerns and said Conejos County is in their future plans for improvements.

Town Manager Koenig reported that the audit was complete and the town had another pristine year. He stated that there was only one item that had to do with the manner in which sales tax is being reported; because we are on an accrual system the sales tax is 3 months behind in when it is recorded. He stated that the trustees were provided with a copy of the 2018 audited financial statements.

Town Manager Koenig reported that the CML District meeting will be held in San Luis on September 24th. RSVP's need to sent in by September 16.

Town Manager Koenig will be meeting with CE Corp. on August 16 to discuss the water pressure issues.

Town Manager Koenig has been flowing up with Chris Brandewie on the emergency response plan for the water system. He explained the that the plan would set a protocol in the event of an emergency with the water system.

Town Manager Koenig reported that Max Lara's property at 618 6th Street will be raised in the next few weeks and the owners are planning on replacing the house with an apartment. He stated that they will providing plans for a minor subdivision of the plot.

Approval of Town Managers Report:

Motion: Trustee Valdez moved to approve the Town Managers Report; seconded by Trustee Espinoza.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney's Report:

Town Attorney Valdez had nothing to report. Mayor Pro Tem Medina thanked Attorney Valdez for his work dealing with short term rentals.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Gallegos: Asked about the propane gun to scare the geese at the lagoons. Town Manager Koenig stated that the guns have not been purchased yet due to the Migratory Bird Act that states that the town cannot disturb the geese until the hatchlings can fly on their own. Trustee Gallegos thought there should be more patrolling during the day because trucks are parking along the highway where there are 'No Parking' signs. She reported that a few citizens have complained to her that their water bills have increased. Town manager Koenig explained that the maintenance department goes and checks the meters for leaks and people have been using more water on their lawns. Trustee Gallegos asked about the B&B and asked if she is still on a Cease and Desist order. Town Manager Koenig stated that she is still in operation, but has removed her listing form Air B&B. Trustee Gallegos stated she was approached as to why the weeds in the alleys are not being cut and she feels that there will be a lot of complaints about the weeds. Citizen Joe Sisneros stated that taking care of the weeds in the alleys and frontages is not that big of a deal and feels that its up to the property owner to keep the area clean. Trustee Gallegos asked if another Stop sign could be put up on 1st Street. She also stated that the new Deputy Clerk is doing a good job and several people have commented on her friendliness.

Trustee Cummings: Wanted to address concerns about the weeds, he thinks the town is starting to look trashy. He asked if maybe the town could go back to cutting the weeds. Town Manager Koenig stated that when the board discussed enforcing the ordinance that was put in place in 2006, he knew there would be some pushback. He explained that warnings and tickets have begun to be issued. There was some discussion on alternatives for spraying the weeds instead of using Roundup. Town Manager Koenig explained that there is no good alternative for weed spray because the organic option is very smelly. There was discussion on looking at the weed ordinance in more detail.

Trustee Espinoza: Mentioned that her and her husband have obtained a 3.3-kilowatt solar system power inverter for the BMX track. She said they are still working on getting the BMX track operational. She stated they are also looking at setting up a paintball course so that there is something for the kids to do. She stated that she is having a meeting with First South West Bank who has asked her to be on their foundation board. Trustee Espinoza wanted to warn everyone that individuals are going around trying to open car doors. She urged everyone to keep their doors locked as the town has a lot more vagrancy.

Trustee Valdez: Reported that there is a post on Facebook regarding spraying of weeds. He stated the post was from an individual in Antonito who is providing phone numbers to contact attorneys in regards to the lawsuits filed for spraying Roundup.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina Reported on the CML Executive board retreat that was held in Alamosa. She stated that it was a real nice event and it was nice to have other board members from other parts of the state visit our area. She gave a shout out to Trustee Espinoza for emceeding the SLV Economic Summit. She asked if Attorney Valdez and Town Manager Koenig could gather some information on the pros and cons of a statutory town versus a home rule town. Mayor Pro Tem Medina suggested taking a look at the ordinances to see what needed to be updated or changed. Town Manager Koenig responded that the ordinances have been sent and is in the process of being codified. Town Clerk Pagnotta explained that the codification process will take about 2 years as the codification company will look at the validity and legality of all the current ordinances.

New Business

Liquor License Renewal for Pester Marketing – Maria Esquer, Area Sales Manager for Pester Marketing was available to answer questions. Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked if there were any questions. Chief Lujan stated that he has not had any issues with liquor license violations at this store.

Motion: Trustee Valdez moved to approve the Liquor License for Pester Marketing; seconded by Trustee Cummings.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

National Health Center Week 2019 Proclamation – A letter was sent asking the Town to proclaim August 4th -10th, 2019 as National Health Center Week.

Motion: Trustee Gallegos moved to approve signing the proclamation National Health Center Week, 2019; seconded by Trustee Cummings.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: Trustee Espinoza

Motion Carried.

Replat of lots – Town Manager Koenig explained that the property at Poplar and Main has been sold and replotted so that a new home could be built.

Motion: Trustee Espinoza moved to approve the replotting of Lots 5 through 12, Block 24 of the Town of La Jara; seconded by Trustee Cummings.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: Trustee Gallegos

Motion Carried.

Old Business

Resolution in support of school bond issue

Motion: Trustee Espinoza moved to approve a resolution in support of the school bond issue; seconded by Trustee Valdez.

Trustee Gallegos felt that the board should not approve a resolution supporting the bond issue but rather, each individual person should vote how they feel when it comes time to vote.

Vote Results: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Espinoza, Cummings, and Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Nays: None

Abstained: Trustee Gallegos


Motion Carried.

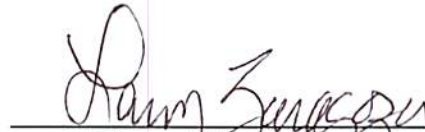
Citizen Larry Sisneros – Asked to address the board in regards to the vacant trustee seat. He asked why the trustees were going through the process of voting on the vacant trustee position when one of the interested citizens ran during the last election. He felt that since this person is still showing interest in the vacant trustee seat he should just be appointed. Town Manager Koenig explained that by statute the town must send out a notice of the vacant trustee seat and take letters of interest from citizens that wish to serve on the board. He stated that the board of trustees must appoint someone to the vacant seat within 60 days or call for a special election. The board received 2 letters of interest, one from Robert Wagoner and one from Annette Chavez.

Adjournment

Trustee Gallegos moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta, CMC


Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

