

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting
Date: February 6, 2020

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, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza. Trustee Espinoza arrived at 7:05 pm.

Absent: None

A quorum was present.

Also present were: Town Manager Dennis Koenig, Police Chief Jerry Lujan, Building Inspector Joseph Trottnner and Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Medina asked to add the review of an application for a town attorney as item "a" under New Business.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve the agenda with the changes; seconded by Trustee Cummings.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Consent Calendar

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

Vote Result: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

Julian Espinoza was scheduled to be on the agenda to discuss topics from the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting, but was not present because the committee is gathering more information.

Citizen Comments

Matthew Gallegos, Director for the La Jara Food Bank and the Care and Share program for Conejos County addresses board and presented a handout that explained the two programs. He stated that these two programs are currently operating out of the Catholic church here in La Jara. The Food Bank is open every Wednesday from 2:30 to 5 and the Care and Share program takes place the first Monday of every month. Gallegos presented a list of food bank items that are distributed as well as the number of people that were helped with the services. He explained the relationship with the Alamosa Food Bank and stated that the banking portion of La Jara Food bank is one of 19 agencies that operate under the La Puente's 501-C-3 non-profit status. He explained the La Jara Mobile Food Pantry (Care and Share) provides food and money that is donated from grocery stores and private companies and individuals. The La Jara Mobile Food Pantry distributes about 150 food boxes the first Monday of every month. He stated that he has several volunteers from the LDS church that help in preparing the boxes. He explained that on occasion there have been some individuals that come to get assistance that have been a little threatening; Gallegos asked that the police stop by just to make their presence known. Gallegos stated that the needs for both of these programs would be to find a new location, volunteers, and monetary donations. He stated that the other food banks around the area are not located in churches and Gallegos feels that they may be able to reach more people if they were not located in a church. Mayor Zaragoza appreciated the fact that these programs assist citizens from all over the county. He stated that it would be nice if the Town could assist in any way and suggested that they could possibly use the west side of the senior center for the food bank. Mayor Zaragoza was going to discuss this with the Northerner's Senior board. Chief Lujan had concerns about parking the large delivery truck on distribution day. Matthew Gallegos explained that the Care and Share program would still need to be distributed out of the Catholic church simply because of the amount of space needed. He clarified that they only need space for the food bank. Mayor Zaragoza asked if the town could make a monetary donation.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to donate \$400 to La Puente La Jara Food Bank; seconded by Trustee Valdez.

Vote Result: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Larry Sisneros address the board regarding the trees being removed on Main Street; he stated that it looks nice.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Koenig reported that there has not been any new word from CDPHE regarding the waste water issue. He stated that he was going to talk to Martin Reynolds about the project. Mayor Zaragoza asked for clarification on what exactly Martin Reynolds was doing. Koenig explained Reynolds is the engineer on record and has come up with a plan to resolve the issues the town has with the waste water. Mayor Zaragoza asked if Reynolds could be put on hold due to some concerns with the budget. Koenig stated that it was budgeted for the year. Koenig stated that Reynolds had submitted a remediation plan to the state back in October and we are waiting on approval of the plan from the state. Koenig suggested that Reynolds come and present his plan to the board. The board would like to have Reynolds come and explain what the problem is and how he proposes to fix it. Trustee Espinoza wanted clarification on the work that Reynolds had done and asked if the town had already paid him for his services. Koenig explained that the town wouldn't have to pay for anything until the plan is excepted by the state. Trustee Espinoza stated she would like to have some price points on the different stages of the project, such as the engineering portion and the actual cost of the different plan options so that when the time comes funds can be obtained for the project. Koenig explained that until the plan is approved, we have no idea what the cost will be. Trustee Espinoza stated the town will need to multi-year plan for this project and not plan a year at a time because the town does not have the cash flow to handle such a project. Trustee Espinoza

asked why the board was not made aware of the plans or be able to approve them before they were submitted to the state.

Koenig reported that the next Planning and Zoning meeting is scheduled for February 19. He stated that any of the trustees can attend the meeting, however the meeting just needed to be posted.

Koenig asked the board if they wanted to pay the COG (Council of Government) dues for \$1129 for this year. He stated that they are generally paid in June. There was controversy over paying the dues because the Town of La Jara was not considered when designating enterprise zones, however, Koenig explained that the town has received grant funds for small projects. Mayor Zaragoza mentioned that the senior center would like to put in for a grant to have gutters installed at the back of the building, however, because the senior center is not a member of the COG they do not qualify. He suggested that because the town owns the building and are members of COG that the grant be written by the town on their behalf.

Motion: Trustee Valdez moved to pay the dues to COG; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

Vote Result: Ayes: Trustees Valdez, Gallegos, Espinoza, Cummings, Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Mayor Zaragoza

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Zaragoza asked Koenig if he could submit a written letter of resignation for his file since he is retiring the end of March. Koenig responded that his last day would be March 27 as that is the end of the pay period.

Approval of Town Managers Report:

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve the Town Manager's Report; seconded by Trustee Valdez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney's Report:

Attorney Valdez was not present.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Valdez: Nothing to report.

Trustee Espinoza: Nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina: Reported that the neighbor's dogs have been picked up several times and bitten several people; she asked what could be done as they are vicious dogs that are frequently getting out of their yard. Town Manager Koenig stated that after the owner has been issued a citation 2 times for a vicious dog and the dogs have been picked up, they are not allowed to be brought back into the town limits. There was some discussion and clarification on the dog ordinance in reference to how a vicious dog is dealt with.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina gave a shout out to Mayor Zaragoza for representing the Town by participating in the Polar Plunge in Alamosa.

Trustee Cummings: Asked if the town was still enforcing the junk ordinance and asked what was being done about the junk vehicles on Broadway.

Trustee Gallegos: Wanted to also add more comments in regards to the dogs running at large and would like to see the ordinance enforced.

Trustee Gallegos suggested that some of the issues or topics that are being discussed either by a citizen or in a report be added to the agenda so that citizens have a clear understanding of what is going to be discussed. Trustee Espinoza agreed with Trustee Gallegos in that the town needs to find a better way to get information out to the public.

Trustee Gallegos asked if the Town was going to take any action in regard to the letter that was submitted to the Mayor regarding the smell of gasoline in the water line that runs to their property. Town Manager Koenig explained that the ground at the old gas station is completely saturated due to fuel leaking from the old underground gasoline storage tanks when the property used to operate as a gas station years ago. Trustee Gallegos suggested that the water line be rerouted so as not to pass through the contaminated soil. Trustee Espinoza stated that this was a Brownfields Program issue and suggested contacting the EPA to have the soil mitigated. Trustee Gallegos asked as a property owner how the town was going to help so that they can have fresh water. It was explained that the issue should be reported to the Brownfields Program and the property owner is responsible for cleaning up the ground. The contaminated soil would need to be removed before a new water line could be laid. Trustee Gallegos asked why she had to pay for water that she can't use. It was explained that the water tap could be removed, however, because the property is out of the town limits once the tap is removed she could not get a new water tap after the soil is cleaned because of the moratorium the town has that prohibits water and sewer taps to out of town citizens. Mayor Zaragoza suggested that Luis Gallegos come in and address the board with his ideas of rerouting the water line.

Mayor Zaragoza: Nothing to report.

New Business

Applications for Town Attorney – Mayor Zaragoza stated that the town received one application for a Town Attorney. He stated that of the two positions that will need to be filled (Town Manager and Town Attorney) the attorney is the most pressing. It was discussed to advertise for an attorney to try and get a few candidates to choose from.

It was noted that the Town Attorney and the Municipal Judge are appointed at the meeting following the election in April.

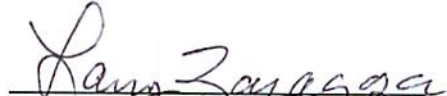
Old Business

Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta


Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

