

TOWN OF LA JARA

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Regular Meeting
Date: July 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, Cummings, Mayor Pro Tem Medina, and Mayor Zaragoza. Trustee Espinoza arrived at 7:38.

Absent: Trustees Gallegos and Salazar

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Approval of Consent Calendar

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve the Consent Calendar; seconded by Trustee Cummings.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

Rebecca Martin addressed the board requesting a donation for the summer baseball program. Martin explained that the donation helps to refurbish or purchase equipment and helps to keep the registration fees lower so that more children can participate. Martin explained that they have 62 participants in the program.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve a donation of \$400 to the Summer Baseball Program; seconded by Trustee Cummings.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Lois Trenholm submitted a letter requesting a donation on behalf of the Rotary Club. The donation would be used for purchasing livestock form area kids at the annual 4-H Livestock sale. Mayor Zaragoza asked what the donation would be used for and if other communities contribute. Mayor Pro Tem Medina suggested that Trenholm be asked to report back to the board.

Motion: Trustee Cummings moved to donate \$200 to the Rotary Club to be used for the 4-H Livestock sale; seconded by Trustee Valdez.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Curt Wilson, North Conejos School District Superintendent, addressed the board and expressed gratitude to the board. He stated that as a citizen he notices all the little things that they do. He also expressed gratitude to the law enforcement for the chief's presence at the elementary school. Wilson explained that the school received a BEST grant in an effort to replace Centauri High School that is 56 years old. He stated that they started the design process and come up with an estimated cost to rebuild the school at \$31million. With the BEST grant the cost would be reduced by 49%. Wilson stated that the school district also received a Statutory Waiver that would drop the needed funds down to \$6.4 million. He stated that he and the school board understand the impact that this would have on the agriculture community as well as the citizens. He explained that he will circulate a flier that will explain the impact of the bond in perfect clarity and provide transparency. He is asking the board to except a flier that can be displayed at Town Hall with the correct information. He also asked if the board would be willing to adopt a resolution in support of passing a bond for the construction of a new school. Wilson stated that the finances at the school district are good and he and the school board try to earn the trust of the public both financially and academically. He explained how the bond would impact individual's property taxes and gave an example. He stated that the school district has enough funds to finish the bond early. He explained that there is a provision that the bond would not affect the elderly. Mayor Zaragoza asked if the BEST grant requires the project to be completed this year. Wilson explained that the project would be completed by 2022. The bond issue will be on this November's ballot. Mayor Zaragoza felt that the board should wait until the other two board members are present before making a decision to adopt a resolution in support of the issue.

Citizen Comments

Larry Sisneros addressed the board in regards to the county sales tax resolution. He asked who benefitted from the sales tax? He asked how much sales tax would be generated in five or 10 years. Town Manager Koenig stated that a county sales tax would generate about \$1.3 million the first year, with La Jara contributing about \$350,000. Mayor Zaragoza asked for some clarification as to what Sisneros was asking and determined that Sisneros was making a statement supporting the school bond issue rather than supporting the county sales tax issue.

Alyssa Campos addressed the board and gave a report on her trip to Washington, DC. She thanked the board for the donation and explained her experience by detailing the many sites that she visited and how she worked on leadership skills. Mayor Zaragoza stated that he was glad she had a great time and that she had an opportunity to see an important part of our country. Mayor Pro Tem Medina thanked her for remembering to come and report back to the board.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Koenig reported that there will be a dinner during the CML Executive Board Retreat on Friday, July 12 at 6pm at Ninos.

Town Manager Koenig reported that Cielo installed WIFI at Town Hall for citizens to use while in the park.

Town Manager Koenig updated the trustees on the Bed and Breakfast that is being operated at 114 Joe S. Chavez. He stated that the owner has been given a Cease and Desist letter. Koenig explained that the town's only recourse is to have the owner request a variance for a special review use through the Planning and Zoning Committee since the property is not zoned for this type of business. The biggest issue facing this business is parking. Trustee Valdez asked if the owner needed to get a business license. Town Manager Koenig stated that with the current laws Air B&B's are not considered a commercial business and therefore are not required to get a business license. Mayor Pro Tem Medina stated that the facility is pet and children friendly and asked if the extra pets effect the town's current laws. Town Manager Koenig replied that because the pets are transit pets they are not required to be licensed.

Town Manager Koenig reported on the controversy with the hole that was dug by hemp building near the railroad tracks. He explained that there is a sewer line that comes out of the building. Husmann Plumbing has located this line and dug the hole to flush out the line. They will be connecting to the town's sewer main.

Town Manager Koenig reported that the auditors have completed that field work and the town has another pristine audit. Koenig explained that a rough draft should be completed by the end of the week and will be available for the August meeting. He explained that audits are to be submitted to the state by July 31st but due of the timing and scheduling the town must file an extension. He explained that Town Clerk Pagnotta has submitted the request for an extension.

Town Manager Koenig reported that the police department conducted a bust where five individuals were arrested. He explained that one officer was attacked by a dog and as a result the dog was shot. Koenig stated that all but one individual had already bonded out.

Town Manager Koenig reported that he received a call from Piedad Romero concerning the spraying of mosquitos. Her complaint was that the maintenance department was spraying a little too early in the evening to be effective. Koenig explained that Maintenance Supervisor Matthew Herrera addressed the issue with staff and instructed them to spray later in the evening.

Town Manager Koenig stated that on July 15th Ordinance 2006-1 will begin being enforced. The ordinance provides that citizens will be responsible for maintaining the weeds around their properties including the frontages and alleys.

Town Manager Koenig reported that Colorado Rural Water is coming to help Maintenance Supervisor Matthew Herrera navigate the portal where all the reports from the state are required to be filed.

Town Manager Koenig read a letter from Trustee Victor Salazar stating that he is resigning from the Board of Trustees.

Approval of Town Managers Report:

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

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Clerk Pagnotta explained the process for filling a vacancy on the town board. She stated that a notice will be posted requesting interested parties to submit a letter of interest to the board. The board of trustees would need to appoint someone to fill the vacancy with 60 days.

Town Attorney's Report:

Town Attorney Valdez reported that he reviewed the cease and desist letter that was given to the owner of the bed & breakfast located at 114 Joe S. Chavez. The owner sent a letter back to the Town Manager, who instructed Attorney Valdez to draft a response letter. In his response letter Attorney Valdez explained that the owner would need to request a variance and explained the process for doing so. Attorney Valdez explained that if the owner applied for a variance there would have to be a hearing and a hearing officer would need to be appointed. He also stated that a clear and accurate record of the proceedings would need to be kept. It was explained that Mayor Pro Tem Medina, who also serves on the Planning and Zoning Board would need to recuse herself because she lives next door to the Bed and Breakfast. It was also discussed that Trustee Espinoza may have a conflict of interest as well as her husband Julian who serves as Planning and Zoning board chair.

Approval of Town Attorney's Report:

Motion: Trustee Espinoza moved to approve the Town Attorney's Report; seconded by Trustee Cummings.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Cummings: Nothing to report.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina: Reported on that the concerts in the park have been awesome. She encouraged trustees to attend.

Trustee Espinoza: Apologized for being late and for not being able to attend many of the meetings and events during the summer.

Trustee Valdez: Nothing to report.

Mayor Zaragoza: Nothing to report.

Town Manager Koenig commended Chief Lujan and the police department for handling the situation with the bust in a very safe manner. He stated that it was a very tense and dangerous situation.

New Business

No new business.

Mayor Zaragoza stated that citizen Larry Sisneros had requested the contact information for the housing authority. Mayor Zaragoza clarified with Mr. Sisneros that if he contacted the housing authority he should be acting as a concerned citizen and not speaking on behalf of the board of trustees.

Old Business

Mayor Zaragoza recapped the bond issue for the building a new school that Superintendent Curt Wilson presented. Attorney Valdez felt that it was going to be a tough sale, but felt that he would rather support the school ballot issue instead of the county sales tax issue.

County Sales Tax Resolution – Mayor Zaragoza asked if the trustees had reached an agreement on adopting a resolution supporting the county sales tax issue. The trustees agreed that they could not support the county sales tax with the current mismanagement of funds and no resolution in support would be drafted.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Shawn Pagnotta
Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta, CMC

Paul Medina
Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem

