

TOWN OF LA JARA

PO Box 273
La Jara, CO 81140
Phone: (719) 274-5363
Fax: (719) 274-5986

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer

Regular Meeting
Date: March 14, 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, Espinoza, Cummings, Mayor pro Tem Medina, and Mayor Zaragoza.

Absent: Trustee Salazar.

A quorum was present.

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

Approval of Agenda

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

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 Espinoza moved to approve the Consent Calendar; seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Medina.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

Roberto Campos introduced his daughter Alyssa who addressed the board and read a letter that stated she was nominated to attend the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC. She stated that she needs to raise \$2,500 in order to attend and asked for sponsorship a donation from the town.

Trustee Gallegos felt that the kids that are attending the conference should have addressed the board as a group rather than individually because she was concerned that 10 other kids might be asking for donations. Mayor Zaragoza responded that if other kids come and request donations, they should address each student individually and donations would be granted if money is available.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve donating \$200 to Alyssa Campos to attend the leadership conference contingent on her coming back to the board and telling about her experience; seconded by Trustee Cummings.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Kelly Cornum addressed the board regarding a letter that he received stating that his water would be shut off because he failed to comply with installing a backflow device. He read the second paragraph of the letter stating that "Pursuant to Parts 1 and 2 of Article 16 of Title 31 and part 4 of Article 15 of Title 30 of the Colorado Revised Statutes, the Town of La Jara was ordered by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to require all commercial and multi-unit water users of the municipal water system to install and maintain back flow prevention devices in their water supply lines. In response to the state statutes mentioned above, the Board of Trustees of La Jara adopted Ordinance No. 2016-1 in order to comply with the state's mandate." He asked when the last time the Trustees read Ordinance 2016-1 and if they had in fact read the ordinance then why did he receive the letter? Mayor Zaragoza responded that a public meeting was held about two years ago explaining what these requirements were. Cornum stated that according to Section 3 that reads that this ordinance applies to all commercial, industrial, multi-family and single-family residence service connections and then goes on to say that regardless of who you are a survey must be completed to establish whether a cross connection exists in order to be required to have a back-flow device installed. He stated that a survey of his property had not been done to determine if he has a cross connection and therefore asks why he has failed to comply as the letter implies. Attorney Valdez responded that the letter states that he has until April 1 to comply before his water would be shut off. Cornum's argument is that a cross connection survey or inspection had not been done to determine whether he needs to install a back-flow device. It was explained that a cross connection and a back-flow device are two separate issues. Town Manager Koenig stated that an individual from the state will be coming down at the end of this month and he will have him stop by Cornum's business and explain the requirements.

Citizen Comments

There were no citizen comments.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Koenig reported on the following items:

CIRSA will be holding a luncheon on May 9th in Monte Vista. This year Tami Tanoue will be discussing "Maintaining a Respectful Workplace Free from Harassment, Bullying, and Violence." Mayor Pro Tem Medina and Trustee Espinoza stated that they wanted to attend.

Town Maintenance will be working on roads, water lines, and other infrastructure projects in the next several months.

The Christmas lights will be taken down soon.

Spring Clean up will start on April 22 and end May 2.

Trustees were given a calendar of Town events for the year. Mayor Zaragoza added that volunteers are needed to help with some of the activities. He suggested contacting Deputy Clerk Ross if interested in helping. Trustee Espinoza asked if the Easter Egg hunt could be moved to a later time so that the weather might be warmer. It was decided to move the time to 10:30.

It was decided to hold the Town Christmas party on December 14.

Striping on the streets will begin as soon as the weather breaks. Diagonal parking signs will be put up as well.

Northerner's Senior Center has a quagmire at the rear entrance to the building do to the run off of the snow and ice from the roof. Town Manager Koenig suggested laying concrete back there to alleviate the problem. He stated that he would look into the cost, but this would need to be done next year for budget purposes. Trustee Espinoza stated that if concrete was laid at the senior center, this would create issues for neighboring business. She suggested getting a quote to have the entire alley concreted and if the other businessowners wanted to have concrete poured behind their businesses they could contribute to the cost.

Geese at the lagoons are causing higher than normal E. coli levels. Town Manager Koenig asked for permission to get an estimate on a propane gun that would discourage the geese from habituating in the lagoons. Town Manager Koenig would research the cost and report back. Trustee Espinoza suggested sending out a notice to citizens warning them if a propane gun will be used so as not to cause alarm when the gun is discharged.

COG Dues for 2019 are \$1,111.00. Town Manager Koenig stated that the Town was overlooked and not considered for the Opportunity Zone by COG. He asked if the Trustees wanted to pay the dues since they have not done anything to benefit the town. Trustee Valdez asked why pay the dues if they are not helping the town out. Mayor Zaragoza suggested the dues be paid for this year, but send a letter expressing the Town's concern and discontent and state in the letter that the Town would not be members next year.

Valdez Subdivision is moving forward. Town Manager Koenig explained the progress for the subdivision and the process for annexing each section to ensure that there is access from the highways.

Dispatch Contract – Town Manager Koenig received a 5-year contract for dispatch services through Colorado State Patrol. He stated the contract is renewed every five years. Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem would need to sign the contract when it is available.

Community Housing – Town Manager Koenig reported that he was contacted by someone from Community Housing Development who is interested in putting houses on 5 acres in the park at 312 S. Main.

Block Grant – Town Manager Koenig was to meet with Monte Vista's Town Manager this past week but due to the weather they had to postpone the meeting. They will be discussing the block grant that Monte Vista received to help with rehabilitation of buildings. Town Manager Koenig stated that there is a 15% match for these funds.

Retreat Dates – It was decided to have a retreat for the trustees on May 3 and 4 at the Windsor Hotel in Del Norte.

Approval of the Town Manager's Report:

Motion: Trustee Valdez moved to approve the Town Manager's Report and Trustee Espinoza seconded.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney's Report:

Town Attorney Valdez had nothing to report.

Approval of the Town Attorney's Report:

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve the Town Attorney's Report and Trustee Cummings seconded.

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

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Trustee Comments

Trustee Gallegos: Nothing to report. Mayor Zaragoza expressed his condolences to Trustee Gallegos for the loss of her brother-in-law.

Trustee Cummings: Asked about the logs that were left behind from the tree trimming. It was explained that they would be removed and taken to the burn pile. Town Manager Koenig reported that the only trees that will be trimmed this year are the ones located in the park at 312 S. Main.

Trustee Cummings discussed the issue and expressed his concern with the backflow devices.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina: Feels that there may be a lack of communication or a miscommunication regarding Kelly Cornum and the backflow prevention devices. She wanted to make sure that there is some clear communication with Cornum in what is required. She also stated that the town needs to make sure the individual from WQCD visits with Cornum.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina wanted to give a shout out to Trustee Espinoza for appearing in the Stanford Business Magazine for being highlighted as a Latino business owner. She stated was really proud of her and for what she does for the Town.

Mayor Zaragoza: Reported that Glory Days will be held June 15. They will be requesting a donation of \$750 for the parade as well as assistance from maintenance and the police department to help set up for the event.

ASU President Cheryl Lovell will be at North Conejos Administration building on March 26 from 7 to 8 as an outreach to Conejos County. He suggested everyone go and meet with her to show her support from this community.

Mayor Zaragoza stated that it was previously discussed to give new business incentives; he stated that this needs to be considered when the new laundromat opens. He said this is something that will need to be discussed at the retreat.

Northerner's Senior Center is in need of a new commercial stove. He reported that the Senior Director Lynette DePriest located a new one from Breckenridge for \$2,200. He stated that he volunteered to go pick it up.

Mayor Zaragoza mentioned that Larry Buhr's father recently passed away. Larry served on the town board for many years and was a former mayor. Mayor Zaragoza visited with Larry Buhr and stated that he had a lot of positive things to say about the town and the employees. Trustee Valdez suggested sending flowers to Larry Buhr and his family.

Trustee Espinoza: Asked if the bands that are scheduled for the Summer Rocks Concerts could be posted on the website.

Trustee Espinoza asked if the town has been receiving the fees from Conejos County for the Use Tax. Town Clerk Pagnotta stated that we had just started getting the funds today. Trustee Espinoza stated that she was visiting with someone from the Conejos Oversight Board who was stating that Conejos County is making big financial cut backs because their budget is emaciated. She is concerned about funding for the Meals on Wheels program here in La Jara. Mayor Zaragoza stated that Senior Director Lynette DePriest does a great job getting grants to keep that program going. Town Manager Koenig explained that the Meals on Wheels program is a separate program not run by the Conejos County board of commissioners.

Trustee Valdez: Nothing to comment.

Town Manager Koenig mentioned that there will be a celebration for Lois Broyles' 100th birthday on Saturday, March 16th at 1 pm at the LDS Church in Sanford.

New Business

No new business.

Old Business

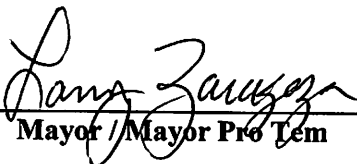
No old business.

Adjournment

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Town Clerk – Shawn Pagnotta


Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem