

TOWN OF LA JARA

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

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Regular Meeting

Date: May 12, 2015

A permanent set of these minutes are maintained in the Town Clerk's Office. Approved Minutes are also available on the web at www.townoflajara.com

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: Cummings, Salazar, Gallegos, Valdez, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Absent: Trustee Espinoza

A quorum was present.

Also Present were: Town Manager Koenig, Town Attorney Valdez, Chief of Police Dan Martinez, Town Clerk Shawn Pagnotta, Deputy Clerk Krista LaBlanc, Maintenance Supervisor Matt Herrera, and Building Inspector Joseph Trottnner.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved for the approval for the agenda and Trustee Gallegos seconded.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees: Cummings, Salazar, Gallegos, Valdez, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Approval for Consent Calendar

Trustee Valdez moved for the approval of the consent calendar and Trustee Salazar seconded.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees: Cummings, Salazar, Gallegos, Valdez, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Xcel Franchise Agreement

Ashley Valdez the Area Manager for Xcel Energy, introduced herself and thanked the Town Council for their due diligence. She then turned the floor over to John Valdez, Operations Manager for Xcel Energy (San Luis Valley and Salida Branch).

Trustee Valdez asked what the protocol in responding to incidents such as the La Jara fire. John Valdez explained the protocol process. He gave a time line in regards to the La Jara fire. Ashley Valdez suggested having a training for first responders. Town Manager Koenig asked John Valdez if he had any local emergency numbers for Xcel. John Valdez reiterated the training for first responders.

Ordinance 2015-1

Mayor Zaragoza read Ordinance 2015-1 by title only. An ordinance of the Town of La Jara, Colorado granting by a non-exclusive franchise to Public Service Company of Colorado. Its affiliates, successors and assigns, the right to use the streets within the town to furnish, sell, transmit, transport and distribute gas to the town and all residents of the town, granting the right to acquire , construct, install, locate, maintain, operate and extend into within and through the town all facility reasonably necessary to furnish, sell, transmit, transport and distribute electricity and natural gas within and through the town, and granting the right to provide street lighting service to the town; and fixing the terms and conditions thereof.

Trustee Salazar moved for the approval of Ordinance 2015-1 and Mayor Pro Tem Medina seconded.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees: Cummings, Salazar, Gallegos, Valdez, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.
Nays: None
Motion Carried.

Guests: None

Recognition of Scheduled Public Comment

There were no comments.

Recognition of Unscheduled Public Comment

No comments

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Koenig talked about the debris removal of the La Jara fire. The state inspected the site to determine where the debris should go. If the debris can go to Del Norte it will cost an average of \$30,000 for disposal. If the material has asbestos or other caustic hazardous materials it must be taken to Pueblo, and cost an average of \$100,000.00. The cause of the fire could not be determined. Koenig commended Fire Chief Valdez and Police Chief Martinez on a job well done. Koenig explained the issues with increasing the pressure in all the lines. He explained that when increasing pressure, the entire system has to be pressurized. Koenig stated that the fire hydrants were flushed and all working. The fire hydrants are tested twice a year, once in the spring and once in the fall.

Koenig updated on the trunk line project. He explained that the town has to get approval from Army Corps of Engineers and the Historical Preservations.

Attorney Valdez explained that the Richfield Ditch is asking the town to enter into an Indemnity Agreement regarding this project. Attorney Valdez explained that he drafted an agreement. He read portions of the agreement highlighting valid points. Attorney Valdez stated that he didn't believe the town even needed an indemnity agreement, however the Richfield Ditch wants an agreement in perpetuity. He stated the agreement is written very well. Mayor Zaragoza read the introduction of the agreement.

Approval of the Indemnity Agreement:

Trustee Salazar moved to approve the Indemnity Agreement and Trustee Cummings seconded.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees: Cummings, Salazar, Gallegos, Valdez, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Mayor Zaragoza read a letter from Representative Ed Vigil regarding the trunk line project. Town Manager Koenig updated on the DOLA Grant. He updated the trustees on the meeting with CIRCA.

Koenig addressed the code of ethics regarding two letters submitted to the town by Luis Gallegos. He explained once a person is elected as a trustee the town cannot receive services from a board member. He cited several codes that are listed in the Colorado Revised Statutes. Trustee Gallegos stated in reference to the letters Eric Gallegos and Louis Gallegos submitted, that the issues were not addressed to her satisfaction. Trustee Gallegos stated that Louis and Eric Gallegos will go ahead and proceed with what they were planning to do. Trustee Gallegos stated that when she joined the board she was asked what was on her agenda. She stated that her agenda was to find out why the town was so unhappy with this board. Trustee Gallegos stated that she pays taxes to the town and wanted to know what the town gives back. In response, Town Manager Koenig stated that as being a tax paying citizen of the town she received the services of the town, such as water, sewer, and maintenance to maintain the roads, as well as police protection. She stated that one could do better as a citizen rather than serve as a board member. Town Manager Koenig stated all he can do is what the board tells him to do. She asked if the letter Louis Gallegos submitted will be taken care of. Town manager Koenig stated that it has been turned over to the police because a town employee was threatened.

Approval of the Town Managers Report:

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve the Town Managers Report and Trustee Cummings seconded.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees: Cummings, Salazar, Gallegos, Valdez, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.

Nays: None

Motion Carried.

Town Attorney's Report:

Town Attorney Ray Valdez stated he worked on a revision to the towns' current weed ordinance. He explained that the ordinance 2015-3 was revised to clarify some things and make the ordinance enforceable. The revision was that if cited 5 times there would be a fine of \$1000.00 and one day in jail.

Approval of Revised Ordinance 2015-3

Mayor Zaragoza read the title of Ordinance 2015-3. An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 2013-1 adopted February 12, 2013 that adopted by reference the 2012 International Property Maintenance Code in order to provide for additional penalties with respect to issues concerning weeds.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina moved to approve Ordinance 2015-3, and Trustee Gallegos seconded.

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees: Cummings, Salazar, Gallegos, Valdez, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.
Nays: None
Motion Carried.

Approval of the Town Attorney's Report:

Trustee Valdez moved to approve the Town Attorneys report and Trustee Cummings seconded

Vote Results:

Ayes: Trustees: Cummings, Salazar, Gallegos, Valdez, Mayor Zaragoza, and Pro Tem Mayor Medina.
Nays: None
Motion Carried.

Town Board of Trustees Comments:

Trustee Gallegos- Commented on the letters the town received, she stated that good or bad all letters should be presented to the council. She also asked about the town's personal trainer and if it is truly benefiting the town. She asked why the sheriff was in town. She commented about the contamination on the Miller and Weaver property and what was being done about that. Town Manager Koenig stated that it has been reported to the state.

Trustee Cummings – He had some questions regarding the how the town handles yards that have garbage and debris in them. Town Manager Koenig explained the procedures on that. Cummings also asked the town to consider not removing the old fire hydrants, as he feels they display a piece of history of the town.

Mayor Pro Tem Medina- She asked when the planters were going to be put out. She also discussed the Rural Philanthropy "Listening Tour", and what a great turn out it had. She wanted to remind everyone that we are still a small town and we need to keep that small town feel.

Trustee Valdez- He thanked everyone for helping and supporting the fire dept.

Trustee Salazar- He commented on the corner light outside of Town Hall and the street. He said it is very dim and to have maintenance please look into it. He stated that he would like to revisit the scholarship program, and discuss the struggle with financial aid.

Mayor Zaragoza- He had some questions about the fitness program. He asked if it was a benefit to our community and if the town employees were taking advantage of this program. Town Manager Koenig explained a few incidents with police officers that prove the fitness program is working for the officers.

Mayor Zaragoza asked about the GOCO Grant. He thanked the maintenance crew for the clean-up of the senior center after the Rural Philanthropy meeting. He thought that the meeting went very well. He reminded everyone that Glory Days is on June 20th and they need volunteers. He addressed the questions on trash cleanup procedures. He read a letter from Eric's Towing.

New Business:

None

Old Business

Nothing to report.

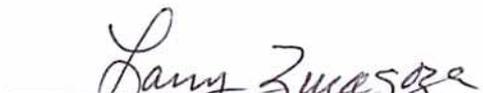
Adjournment

Trustee Gallegos moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by


Town Clerk ⁰² Shawn Pagnotta




Mayor / Mayor Pro Tem