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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**TOWN OF MESILLA**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016**  
**6:00 P.M.**

**TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
Linda L. Flores, Mayor Pro Tem  
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee (absent)  
Jesus M. Caro, Trustee  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee

**STAFF:** Cynthia Stoenner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director  
Chris Mangusing, Marshal  
Irene Parra, Special Events Coordinator  
Larry Shannon, Community Development  
Gloria Maya, Recorder

**PUBLIC:** Chris Alexander                      Thomas Maese  
Robert Chavira                                Russel Hernandez  
Ruben Vasquez                                 Mark Schwartz  
Trina Witter

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

**Roll Call.**

**Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Flores, Trustee Johnson-Burick, Trustee Caro.

1           **3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2 Mayor Barraza asked to remove item b (new business) until editing is finished.

3  
4 **Motion:** To approve agenda as amended, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Flores, **Seconded by** Trustee Caro.

5  
6 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary: Yes = 3**).

7 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

8 Trustee Caro Yes

9 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

10  
11           **4. PRESENTATIONS:**

- 12           **a.** A Proclamation declaring the Month of March 2016 “Athletic Training Month” in Mesilla,  
13           New Mexico –**Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**

14 Mr. Andy Krentz read the proclamation declaring the Month of March 2016 “Athletic Training Month” in  
15 Mesilla. He thanked the town for their support.

16  
17 Mayor Barraza responded it is our pleasure; we know the importance of athletic trainers.

- 18  
19           **b.** A presentation about what a Colonia’s designated community is. – **Sandra Alarcon, USDA-**  
20           **Rural Development and Espie Holguin, HUD.**

21  
22 Ms. Sandra Alarcon and Ms. Espie Holguin gave a presentation about what a Colonia’s designated  
23 community is.

24  
25 Mayor Barraza stated Colonias creates some negative impact. People have asked if the name of the town  
26 will be changed to Mesilla Colonias; they see it as a negative solution. She asked what would be the  
27 qualifications needed to qualify for the funding. Also, explain how this is not a negative designation.

28  
29 Ms. Holguin stated the City of Sunland was one of the first communities designated as a Colonia.

30 She heard the negativity and why. There are some communities that did not want to be designated as a  
31 Colonia until recently due to infrastructure needs. The whole community does not be designated as a  
32 Colonia. It is up to us how it is presented; it is for the purpose of funding. The qualifications are lack of  
33 water and wastewater and housing or roads. In the older communities, the cost to replace is very high.  
34 Being designated as a Colonia makes federal funding available. She feels that the housing replacement  
35 program could help the residents in Mesilla.

1 Mayor Barraza responded we have a diverse population in Mesilla making it difficult to qualify for  
2 programs. There are some residents still on septic tanks and wells; the town has not been able to expand  
3 our waterlines. We have roads that are not paved; we do not have money available for those infrastructure  
4 needs. She is concerned with the housing in certain areas. This is what she was thinking of in terms of  
5 funding.

6  
7 Ms. Alarcon stated the Town of Mesilla median household, according to the 2010 Census, is \$53,497.  
8 Our agencies threshold is \$43,797 so anything above that is 100% loan. Mesilla would qualify for a loan,  
9 but not any grant funding.

10  
11 Mayor Barraza asked if the resolution is approved would it change the odds for a grant. She asked what  
12 would happen if only certain areas were designated Colonias.

13  
14 Ms. Alarcon responded it would change making you (the Town) eligible for 100%. Through her agency  
15 the median income would not apply but it would impact the loan component. The town would get the  
16 market rate; an income survey could be done and it would be reevaluated at that time.

17  
18 Mayor Pro Tem Flores stated there are certain Colonias in real need and she would feel guilty taking  
19 away from other communities. She also understands that there are areas in Mesilla that are low income.  
20 The water rate hike done has made an impact on several of our residents. There are homes in dire need in  
21 the community. She does not want to deny, out of pride, people in our community that have needs that  
22 the town cannot afford to take care of which is our job.

23  
24 Ms. Holguin stated we fill the gap in some of the funding. We are only talking about infrastructure not  
25 housing.

26  
27 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she understands the money is designated for any Colonias but she hears we  
28 do not meet the criteria.

29  
30 Ms. Alarcon reiterated as Mesilla is currently, it only qualifies for loans. If Mesilla or portions of Mesilla  
31 are designated a Colonia it will be eligible for funding through the Colonia Grant as well as other various  
32 state programs available.

33  
34 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she believed the town's median is too high to be allowed.  
35

1 Ms. Alarcon responded once the town is designated as a Colonia by the state or county, in writing, we  
2 will honor that. At that time, the town will meet the criteria.

3  
4 Mayor Barraza stated we can designate our community through resolution as a Colonia; we do not have to  
5 meet the criteria that HUD or USDA.

6  
7 Ms. Alarcon responded they combine it into one resolution.

8  
9 Mayor Barraza stated all we have to do is pass the resolution designating the town or a portion as a  
10 Colonia.

11  
12 Ms. Alarcon responded the resolution will need to address the lack of water and wastewater.

13  
14 Mayor Barraza stated she and Trustee Caro can testify that when they were going up it was a Colonia.

15  
16 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the definition of a Colonia differs from agency to agency.

17  
18 Ms. Holguin responded there is a slight difference, mainly in the distance from the US-Mexico border.

19  
20 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if only a portion of Sunland Park is designated a Colonia.

21  
22 Ms. Holguin responded the whole City of Sunland Park is designated a Colonia. Socorro (Texas) has  
23 designated only certain areas as a Colonia to increase water systems into the area.

24  
25 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if funding can be used to repair our older homes.

26  
27 Ms. Holguin responded HUD does not do direct funding. CDBG goes to the local state funding,  
28 Department of Finance and Administration Local Government Division. Housing goes to Mortgage  
29 Finance Authority (MFA).

30  
31 Ms. Alarcon stated due to the Town of Mesilla's proximity to the City of Las Cruces USDA is unable to  
32 assist on the housing side. There are other programs that may assist with water and wastewater facilities.

33  
34 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if there would be matching grants and if yes, monies cannot come from the  
35 General Fund.

1 Ms. Holguin responded these matching funds could match if there is money allocated. The CDBG,  
2 Capital Outlay could have a match but we can work together. The more funding the less the customer has  
3 to pay. We work together to insure the community knows about the programs; we will provide  
4 information.

5  
6 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated we just raised rates so we could provide an ample Enterprise Fund to take  
7 care of the water issue. She feels our priority is for the roads.

8  
9 Trustee Caro asked if once a municipality is designated a Colonia would we be penalized in receiving  
10 Capital Outlay funds.

11  
12 Ms. Holguin responded she does not believe Mesilla would be penalized. This year the state is putting  
13 aside \$12 million for Colonias.

14  
15 Representative McCamley stated the capitol process from the state is different. When the town comes to  
16 me indicating money is needed for wastewater; we make that decision, no matter what happens at the  
17 federal level. There are two separate types of funding that the town can apply for. He does not see a  
18 roadblock in place since it is a separate process for each.

19  
20 Trustee Caro stated being a tourist town it seems to be worse since we do not have sidewalks; people have  
21 to walk in the middle of the street. He asked what would be the best source to put sidewalks in Mesilla.

22  
23 Mayor Barraza stated we are going off our agenda.

24  
25 Representative McCamley stated he wants to make sure that Mesilla is taken care of and septic tanks are a  
26 big deal since they could pollute the water table. The question is what the cost is since we do not have  
27 money and can we get it done; prioritize.

28  
29 The Mayor opened up for questions from the public:

30  
31 Mr. Schwartz asked how the designation will affect property values and are there any rules, regulations or  
32 standards that would be mandated? Are there strings attached to this funding? He asked what would be  
33 the long term effect.

34  
35 Ms. Alarcon responded that would have to be discussed with the county. The town would be responsible  
36 and will need to adhere to all the state and local requirements. The town will need to hire an engineer to

1 prepare engineering reports in accordance to our guidelines as well as the state guidelines as well as an  
2 Environment report. The consultant will ensure the Town of Mesilla is in compliance.

3  
4 Mayor Barraza stated she believes it does not affect the home value. She spoke to Mr. Andy Segovia,  
5 County Assessor. The only way home value is affected is if all the homes in the area are put up for sale.  
6 The town will have to meet the requirements.

7  
8 Mayor Barraza stated we had to go through all the agencies and requirements when applying for funding  
9 for the Public Safety Building as well as the Community Center.

10  
11 Ms. Holguin responded it is just the paperwork.

12  
13 Mayor Barraza stated we are familiar with the CDBG process.

14  
15 Mr. Alexander stated we have not been able to provide services for the core of the town. He asked if we  
16 were to take the core of Mesilla and give it the designation that would put the money into the core. It is  
17 his understanding the money goes only to the designated area. Putting the money on Calle de Norte it  
18 will grease the wheel for more housing developments. We are looking at other forms of money to  
19 improve services; under the pretense of taking care of the Colonias. To take the Town of Mesilla and  
20 designate it as a Colonia in its entirety would be a disservice. We need to figure out another way to get  
21 funds. When we were going up many of the current trustees were the lowest class of people. We have  
22 worked hard to bring Mesilla to the service above that through Historic Preservation. The other problem  
23 with this designated improvement lends itself to change. There are homes that are in need of services and  
24 homeowners do not have money to do the repairs. In his opinion designating the Town of Mesilla as a  
25 Colonia is a disservice. We need to find other ways to obtain funds and not reclassifying us to meet  
26 qualifications. If this transpires the town needs to have full control over its designation and the use of the  
27 funds.

28  
29 Ms. Witter asked if there a process to get off the Colonia designation. She read articles on Safe  
30 Affordable Housing and Colonias. The town could actually be hurting the residents you are trying to  
31 help.

32  
33 Ms. Holguin responded the process would be up to the trustees through a resolution. Texas Colonias are  
34 different from New Mexico. They were the same prior to the 1992 Subdivision Act Revision.

35  
36 Inaudible

1  
2 Mayor Barraza stated if we provide funding to improve infrastructure property value would increase.

3  
4 Inaudible

5  
6 Ms. Krueger stated Mesilla did a survey of the historic district, the same boundaries cited in this paper, in  
7 application for a CDBG Grant. The Fire Department conducted the survey and found that Mesilla was  
8 not eligible for CDBG funding. The Community Center was the only one eligible because it served low  
9 to moderate income people; elderly, young children and Teen Court. Effectively our access to CDBG  
10 was cut off. She asked is there a particular structure to follow in designating Mesilla a Colonia. The  
11 questions are should we have exhausted CDBG funding and our legislative funds. We had a HUD  
12 Housing Rehabilitation Program. There were homes selected for rehabilitation; some were successful and  
13 some were not. The problem was with the contractors. Before we consider a resolution should the town  
14 look at the resources and be able to document them before addressing the criteria for being designated a  
15 Colonia. We do not want to waste a lot of people's time in completing an application that might be  
16 worthy of submission.

17  
18 Mayor Barraza stated a worksession will be held to discuss the Colonia designation further.

19  
20 **5. PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

21 **No public input**

22  
23 **6. \*APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one**  
24 **motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked**  
25 **with an asterisk \*:**

26  
27 **Motion:** To approve consent agenda, **Moved by** Trustee Johnson-Burick, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem  
28 Flores.

29  
30 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary: Yes = 3**).

31 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

32 Trustee Caro Yes

33 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

34  
35 **a. \*BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting minutes of February 22, 2016. *Approved by consent*  
36 *agenda*

1           **b. \*PZHAC Case 012513** – 2202 Calle de Picacho, submitted by Robert Taylor; a request for a  
2 building permit to add a 10 ft. by 10 ft. addition to an existing shed at this address. Zoned:  
3 Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda*

4           **c. \*PZHAC Case 012515**– 1680 Calle de Alvarez, Suite B; submitted by Kate Schaefer for Dr.  
5 Stefan Schafer; a request for a permit to replace a directory sign at this address. Zoned:  
6 General Commercial (C). *Approved by consent agenda*

7  
8       **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

9           **a. PZHAC Case 012506** – 2600 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Palacio’s Bar; a request for  
10 a building permit to allow and outdoor seating area constructed at this address. Zoned:  
11 Historic Residential (HR).

12 Mr. Shannon reviewed Case 012506.

13  
14 Mayor Barraza stated the trustees had questions on the application brought forth. There would be  
15 conditions placed that would need to be met before the trustees could approve this application; written  
16 approval from the State Gaming/Licensing and Department of Transportation. She asked the applicant  
17 why the front is being selected versus the back.

18  
19 Mr. Vasquez responded it will reduce the parking spaces and there would be a liability as we would not  
20 be able to see the area. The front area does not serve as parking area vehicles and does allow us to keep  
21 an eye on it.

22  
23 Mayor Barraza stated the motorcycles park in the proposed area so it is being used as parking. That will  
24 be eliminated.

25  
26 Mr. Vasquez responded there is still enough parking in the front from the patio wall to the sidewalk. It  
27 has never been an issue to find a parking.

28  
29 Mr. Chavira responded we are making additional parking on the north side of the building.

30  
31 Mayor Barraza responded currently cars park in that area; is it going to be designated for bikes only.

32  
33 Mr. Chavira responded yes it will be motorcycle parking only.

34  
35 Mayor Barraza stated cars cannot back up into the street; it will have to be addressed.  
36

1 Mr. Chavira stated usually bikes back up into parking spaces.

2

3 Mayor Barraza stated that is something we will have to address with Mr. Shannon; we have to follow the  
4 rules. Her other concerns is the ponding area. Currently the area has cement that collects the run off from  
5 the building and channels it. If the area will be leveled what is being done to address the ponding.

6

7 Mr. Chavira responded gutters will be installed to continue channeling it as it is now.

8

9 Mayor Barraza stated now that an addition is being done we will need to rectify the ponding issue. She  
10 does want that there be a designated ponding area.

11

12 Mr. Chavira responded he did include a ponding area to the north side of the building in the plans just in  
13 case one was needed.

14

15 Mayor Barraza asked Mr. Maese if that would that be a sufficient ponding to address the needs.

16

17 Mr. Maese responded we will have to look at the whole building to determine the ponding area. Since  
18 this is a commercial property he recommends getting it engineered based on the town's requirement. He  
19 can verify those calculations to ensure the dimensions will suffice for the amount of ponding that is  
20 required. We do require that the plans be stamped by an engineer. The channeling seems to be the best  
21 solution at this time but we will have to go back to the engineer or architect for their professional opinion.  
22 If we start changing it drastically then we open up a can of worms. The facility has made arrangements  
23 with the property owner to provide additional parking. In order for the trustees to approve this case, a  
24 definite set of drawings will need to be provided. Also since this commercial property is in a historical  
25 area we will need something from a professional engineer or an architect. He did go out to the property  
26 and believes the picture is a little deceiving. He also thought that the patio went out to the sidewalk. The  
27 patio is about 3 ft. from the sidewalk which would accommodate the sidewalk and bring it outside the  
28 DOT right of way. By channeling the water with gutters we eliminate the possibility of creating a  
29 liability for the town. Per codes specifies that water must be channeled away from walking areas for  
30 safety reasons. This must be addressed and that is what the business owner is trying to accommodate as  
31 well.

32

33 Mr. Chavira responded he understands there needs to be a ponding area but asked why do we have to look  
34 at the whole building when it is only a small area.

35

1 Mayor Barraza responded they will look at the whole thing to insure that there is ponding for the building  
2 and address the area that is going to be affected. She asked if there are two doors going into the patio  
3 area.

4  
5 Mr. Vasquez responded there is one emergency gate, one door from the entrance of the building and the  
6 fire escape exit.

7  
8 Mayor Barraza asked how will the patrons enter the patio.

9  
10 Mr. Vasquez responded the south front door will be designated as entrance into the patio.  
11 There will be a fire escape/emergency exit.

12  
13 Mayor Barraza asked if the emergency exit will only open from the inside; no one can enter from the  
14 outside. She asked Fire Chief Hoban if that is going to be sufficient.

15  
16 Mr. Vasquez responded the gate will only be used as an exit; no one can enter from the outside.

17  
18 Fire Chief stated he did a site visit. The door that will be used for entrance to the patio is currently not  
19 being used at all. The main entrance will not change; there will be an emergency egress for the patio  
20 which will be alarmed and cannot be opened from the outside . The design of the entrances and exits  
21 improves the flow out of the building. They have able to meet code with their current exits but with the  
22 additional exits it will improve the flow. They did a nice job of taking that into consideration.

23  
24 Mayor Barraza asked how tall is the proposed patio fence.

25  
26 Mr. Chavira responded the fence is 8 ft. tall.

27  
28 Mayor Barraza stated she believes the ordinance allows a height of 6 ft.

29  
30 Mr. Shannon stated that is for a free standing wall. There are provisions in the ordinances that if the wall  
31 is part of a structure or engineered it can go higher than the 6 ft.

32  
33 Mayor Barraza stated she is doubting that because there was a home that wanted to go higher than the 6  
34 ft.

35

1 Mr. Shannon responded it was allowed to go higher since it was a privacy wall. There is a provision in  
2 the ordinance that if there is a privacy wall along the property wall since it was part of the structure.  
3 He read the ordinance.

4  
5 Mr. Chavira stated wrought iron will have expanded wire so nothing can be passed through.

6  
7 Mayor Barraza responded that was one of her concerns.

8  
9 Mr. Vasquez stated that was one of his main concerns due to the liability so we wanted to ensure nothing  
10 could be passed through.

11  
12 Trustee Caro asked if all the parking issues have been observed and arrangements have been made for  
13 additional parking.

14  
15 Mr. Vasquez responded we have an agreement with our fellow neighbors.

16  
17 Mayor Barraza asked if they had provided signed statements from the property owners.

18  
19 Mr. Vasquez responded yes.

20  
21 Mayor Barraza indicated conditions must be placed in the motion; DOT, State Gaming and engineering  
22 stamped report be submitted. We have to place some conditions

23  
24 Mr. Maese responded the plans can be stamped by either an engineer or an architect.

25  
26 Mr. Chavira stated we will do our best to ensure to blends with the rest of the building. It will be a nice  
27 area to sit and enjoy the scenery.

28  
29 Mayor Barraza stated she is so concerned with it being so close to a major road. She hopes everyone  
30 works diligently to provide safety for pedestrians, vehicles, residents and patrons.

31  
32 Mr. Vasquez responded all that has been taken into consideration. We will enforce that the safety of our  
33 customers are not at risk.

34  
35 **Motion:** To approve PZHAC Case 012506 – 2600 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Palacio Bar, a  
36 request for a building permit to allow an outdoor seating area constructed at this address; with the

1 conditions State Alcohol/Gaming written approval, DOT written approval, plans be submitted with a seal  
2 from an engineer or architect, and that fire codes are met Zoned Historic Residential (HR), **Moved by**  
3 Mayor Pro Tem Flores, **Seconded by** Trustee Caro.

4  
5 Trustee Caro stated he feels they have done their homework and hopes everything continues well.

6  
7 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary: Yes = 3**).

8 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

9 Trustee Caro Yes

10 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

11  
12 **b. Resolution 2016-02:** A resolution repealing and enacting certain sections of the Mesilla  
13 Personnel Code pertaining to Drug Free Workplace and Reasonable Suspicion. – **Joseph**  
14 **Cervantes, Cervantes Law. *Removed from the agenda***

15  
16 **c. Resolution 2016-03:** A resolution authorizing staff to submit an application for a  
17 Comprehensive Plan through NMFA. – **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.**

18 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated the Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2004. Souder Miller has  
19 helped us prepare the application.

20  
21 **Motion:** To approve Resolution 2016-03: A resolution authorizing staff to submit an application for a  
22 Comprehensive Plan through NMFA, **Moved by** Trustee Johnson-Burick, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem  
23 Flores.

24  
25 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary: Yes = 3**).

26 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes

27 Trustee Caro Yes

28 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

29  
30 **d. Appointment of representative(s) to the committees as listed:**

- 31
- 32 • The Southwestern Area Workforce Development Board;  
33 Carlos Arzabal  
34 Stephanie Johnson-Burick
  - 35 • South Central Council of Governments, Inc. (SCCOG);  
36 Nora L. Barraza  
Carlos Arzabal (alternate)

- 1           • Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization;
- 2            Jesus Caro
- 3            Debbie Lujan
- 4           • Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO);
- 5            Nora L. Barraza
- 6            Jesus Caro
- 7            Carlos Arzabal
- 8           • MPO Technical Advisory Committee;
- 9            Larry Shannon
- 10           Debbie Lujan
- 11           Sean Lucero
- 12           • South Central Regional Transit District (RTD);
- 13            Nora L. Barraza
- 14            Linda Flores
- 15           • Viva Dona Ana/Camino Real Consortium
- 16            Stephanie Johnson-Burick
- 17            Jesus Caro (alternate)
- 18           • MVMPO Bicycle Committee
- 19            Ashleigh Curry
- 20            Lance Shepan

21

22 **Motion:** To approve appointment of representative(s) to the committees, **Moved by** Trustee Johnson-

23 Burick, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Flores.

24

25 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary: Yes = 3**).

26 Mayor Pro Tem Flores   Yes

27 Trustee Caro   Yes

28 Trustee Johnson-Burick   Yes

29

30           e. Submission of names of persons who shall fill the appointive offices of the Town

31            pursuant to MTC 2.10.060 and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978 - **Nora L. Barraza,**

32            **Mayor**

33 Mayor Barraza read the names of persons who shall fill the appointive offices of the Town pursuant to

34 MTC 2.10.060 and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978.

Public Works Director  
 Fire Chief  
 Town Clerk/Treasurer  
 Marshal

Debbie Lujan  
 Kevin Hoban  
 Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez  
 Christopher Mangusing

35

1 **Motion:** To approve submission of names of persons who shall fill the appointive offices of the Town  
2 pursuant to MTC2.10.060 and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978, **Moved by** Trustee Johnson-Burick,  
3 **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Flores.

4  
5 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).

6 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes  
7 Trustee Caro Yes  
8 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

9 f. Submission of names of persons who shall be employed by the Town pursuant to  
10 MTC 2.10.060, and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978 –**Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**

11 Mayor Barraza read the names of persons who shall be employed by the Town pursuant to MTC  
12 2.10.060, and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978.

13  
Community Development Larry Shannon  
Community Programs/Spec. Events Irene Parra  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer/ Human Resources Gloria S. Maya  
Accounts Payable Pam Bateman  
Public Works Foreman Sean Lucero  
Maintenance I/Janitorial Brian Romero  
Maintenance I Jose Gonzales  
Maintenance I George “Danny” Dominguez  
Maintenance I Orlando Orona  
Part-Time Brick Layer Gary Garrison  
Utility Clerk Jody Pino

**Court:**

Full-time Court Clerk Andrea Carbajal  
Part-time Court Clerk Ramona Molina

**Marshal’s Department:**

Deputy Marshal Ben Azcarate  
Deputy Marshal Manuel Cortez  
Deputy Marshal Enrique Salas  
Deputy Marshal Frank Gonzales  
Deputy Marshal Diana Mejia  
Deputy Marshal/School Resource Officer Lance Shepan

14 **Motion:** To approve submission of names of persons who shall be employed by the Town pursuant to  
15 MTC 2.10.060 and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978, **Moved by** Trustee Johnson-Burick, **Seconded by**  
16 Mayor Pro Tem Flores.

17  
18 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).

19 Mayor Pro Tem Flores Yes  
20 Trustee Caro Yes

1 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

2

3 **8. \*STAFF REPORTS**

4 Community Programs

5 Finance Department

6 Fire Department

7 Marshal's Department

8 Public Works Department

9

10 **9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

11 Trustee Caro stated it was brought to his attention that a Mesilla Marshal Department cruiser was  
12 involved in an accident on Snow Road. He asked why it was not reported, is there a police report, who  
13 was the officer, is it on his record and was he reprimanded. He is bringing this up because it has  
14 happened before and nothing was done or reported. We are not only Trustees but members of the Board  
15 of Finance and should be notified of anything that could involve liability to the town.

16

17 He was also notified by a resident that's there is a fire hydrant belonging to the town being used to irrigate  
18 the Harris farm. He went to investigate and found workers filling up large containers. He spoke to Ms.  
19 Moreno who was the subcontractor in charge of the pecan trees. He asked her by who's authorization  
20 was she using the hydrant. She responded that the Mesilla Marshal has given her the okay to use it. He  
21 asked her if she had anything in writing, she responded that she did not but she had the Marshal's name.  
22 She gave the name Sean Lucero and that he sent workers to show the how to use it.

23

24 A resident indicated he is concerned with the trees around the town. We may not have money to fix roads  
25 but if we have a fire hydrant to water trees outside of our town we can water our trees. Easter is coming  
26 up and we need to water our parks now and not the night before. The trustees approved to have night  
27 accommodations at the Public Safety Building and for an investigator dog; he is not in agreement. He  
28 believes this is a waste of taxpayer's money. We are not a training facility for all of the southwest. If the  
29 county cannot afford this then how can Mesilla. Every time we go out of the town we are putting Mesilla  
30 in a liability.

31

32 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she saw the hydrant being used and is concerned with the water usage.

33

34 Mayor Pro Tem Flores stated she is also concerned and wants it investigated. If there is an accident it  
35 should be noted on record. She believes the more training done with the fire department is crucial;

1 training is crucial. Other entities help us and we need to help them. Personnel matters should not be  
2 discussed in public.

3  
4 Mayor Barraza stated next Trustee meeting will be on March 28<sup>th</sup> the Trustees will need to select a Mayor  
5 Pro Tem. Saturday at Hotel Encanto there will be training for newly elected officials. She agrees that  
6 personnel matters need to be discussed in closed session. The incident is being investigated and  
7 information will be sent once a report is complete. She asked that when they get a call or are confronted  
8 by a resident with an issue please have them report it to the office. If it is not reported, we are not aware  
9 of the problem; we will do an investigation. Staff is working on the plaza on a daily basis. Notify the  
10 office so that we can investigate concerns.

11  
12 Ms. Parra stated the Easter Egg on the plaza will be on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9 a.m. on the plaza.

13  
14 Mayor Barraza stated there is a mandatory staff training from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; offices will be  
15 closed. March 25th offices will be closed for Good Friday,

16  
17 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

18  
19 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4)**

20  
21 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 P.M.**

22  
23  
24 **APPROVED THIS 28th DAY OF MARCH, 2016.**

25  
26  
27  
28 \_\_\_\_\_  
29 Nora L. Barraza  
30 Mayor

31 **ATTEST:**

32  
33  
34 \_\_\_\_\_  
35 Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez  
36 Town Clerk/Treasurerp