



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014
6:00 P.M.**

MESILLA COMMUNITY CENTER, 2251 CALLE DE SANTIAGO.

TRUSTEES: Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Sam Bernal, Mayor Pro Tem
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee
Jesus Caro, Trustee
Linda L. Flores, Trustee
Stephanie A. Johnson-Burick, Newly Elected Trustee

STAFF: Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC:

Jeannie Lucero	Ralph Lucero
Mary Lucero	Rebecca Segovia
Ron Burick	Mike Johnson
Karen Johnson	Frank Zuniga
John Prathe	Raymond Madson
Annette Grandado	Mike Rosales
Dora Caro	Chad Zecha
Max Gillis	Armando Gomez
Chris Alexander	Jaime Trujillo
Jon Gonzales	Richard Lucero
Mike Bell	Yolanda Lucero
Doreen Mendiola	Karen Luell
Abel Villalobos	Amanda Murillo
Crystal Murillo	Tamra McLeod
Alexandra Hall	Rebecca King
Suzanne Fore	Artie Fountain
Charles Bourger	

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

**ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE BY THE HONORABLE PRO-TEM
MAGISTRATE JUDGE OSCAR C. FRIETZE**

Honorable Pro-Tem Magistrate Judge Oscar C. Frietze administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected board members.

- Linda L. Flores – Trustee

- 1 • Stephanie A. Johnson-Burick – Trustee
- 2 • Nora L. Barraza – Mayor
- 3 • Recognition of Jesus M. Caro, Jr.

4
5 Mayor Barraza thanked Mr. Jesus M. Caro for his 21+ years for service to the Town of Mesilla.
6 In 1993 he was appointed to fill the seat vacated by Trustee Carlos Garza. He ran for the board in 1994
7 where he continued serving until present. During his tenure he served for 10 years on the South Central
8 Council of Government and received his certification from the New Mexico Municipal League
9 Leadership Institute. He has been committed and advocated in preserving the Town of Mesilla’s history,
10 culture, and tradition. Mr. Caro has been a value asset to the residents of Mesilla and the Board of
11 Trustees. She hopes he will continue to participate in the town’s events, tradition and town business. On
12 behalf of the Town of Mesilla and herself she would like to present him with a small gift and thanked him
13 again for his commitment, dedication and loyalty to the Town of Mesilla.

14
15 Mr. Caro thanked everyone for their support and for allowing him to be the eyes and ears of the residents
16 for the 21+ years. He feels the position of trustee is important since they oversee and act on what is in the
17 best interest of the residents. Thanked everyone again for their support.

18
19 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked the residents who have entrusted their confidence, trust and faith in me
20 to do what is right for the Town of Mesilla. She does not take lightly what has been bestowed upon her.
21 She will always remember she is here for the Town of Mesilla and her people. She will work to protect
22 our history and preserve our future. She will always have an open door and encourages residents to
23 attend meetings to voice concerns so the board can make the best decision.

24
25 Trustee Flores thanked everyone for their vote; thank you for their confidence in her judgment. She
26 hopes she will use her judgment wisely for the betterment of the community. She asked the residents to
27 participate in our government when they have the opportunity because that is what makes it a better
28 community.

29
30 Mayor Barraza agreed with the trustees. The Town of Mesilla is continuing to make progress; renovation
31 of the Gazebo and Phase 1 of the Public Safety Building. Once the Governor signs the Capital Outlay
32 Bill we will begin work on Phase 2 of the Public Safety Building completing the renovation. Streets are
33 continuing to be addressed as funds become available as well as water and sewer lines. The Johnny
34 Trujillo Park which is next to the Public Safety Building is moving along. The Trujillo family will be
35 holding a fund raising event to redo the park. The playground equipment will be upgraded; will begin
36 with the park across the street. Things will be happening very fast and very soon. She is excited to begin
37 working with the board. We will begin working on the budget; Gross Receipts are higher than a year ago.
38 We are on the right track and moving forward. She congratulated the incoming trustees and stated next
39 meeting will be work time.

- 40
41 • Pledge of Allegiance - Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance

42 43 **2. PRESENTATION**

44 Presentation by Chad Zecha to the Mesilla Firefighters Association for the donation of funds
45 which went to the purchase 2 multi-gas detectors, 2 refurbished laptop computers, and traffic
46 warning/landing zone equipment. Additionally, a 32 gallon air compressor and large format
47 television was donated to the Mesilla Fire Department.

1 Mr. Chad Zecha made a presentation of the Mesilla Firefighters Association and equipment purchased
2 through fund donations and equipment donated to the Mesilla Fire Department

3
4 Mayor Barraza stated she is very proud of these firefighters which she feels is the best in the state.

5
6 **3. ROLL CALL OF TRUSTEE MEMBERS PRESENT AND DETERMINATION OF**
7 **QUORUM**

8
9 **Roll Call.**

10 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Bernal, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Flores, Trustee Johnson-
11 Burick.

12
13 **4. PUBLIC INPUT** – There is a 3 minute limit per person.

14
15 Mr. John Paul Taylor stated he has great faith in the board and Mayor. He thanked Mr. Caro for his 21
16 years of service. These are difficult times for some people which have worked very hard in the election.
17 The election is over and it is time to be cohesive; not only for the trustees but for the audience to work
18 together. The trustees speak for the town. It is important to be a cohesive group that works to make this
19 town what it is; it is a beautiful town. We moved here because of the tradition and the people. As you
20 move through making decisions, keep in mind the traditions, trustee and goodwill that come from having
21 the logic. He is no longer a State Representative but that does not mean he will not be objective in terms
22 of audits, what the board and community does and have one little say. It is the people that count and
23 depend on the board to make the right decision. The election is over so he pledges his support to the town
24 and he is sure these attendees pledge their support as well. Thanked the board for taking on this job. He
25 knows it is not easy because he has been there. He wished them good luck and God Bless.

26
27 Mayor Barraza responded Mr. Taylor was very instrumental in obtaining funding for the Town Hall,
28 streets and roads. Our visitor's center is named after Mr. Taylor who has done so much for our
29 community. Thanked Mr. Taylor for his words. She pledges to do the best of her ability and she knows
30 the other board members do as well. There will be a reception after the meeting where the audience will
31 have a chance to visit with the new board members as well as with Mayor Pro Tem Bernal and Trustee
32 Arzabal.

33
34 **5. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL**

35
36 **Motion:** To approve the agenda, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Flores.

37
38 **Vote:** Motion passed, (summary: Yes = 4).

39 Mayor Pro Tem Bernal Yes

40 Trustee Arzabal Yes

41 Trustee Flores Yes

42 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

43
44 **6. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** – The Board will be asked to approve by one motion
45 the following items of recurring or routine business. **The Consent Agenda is marked with an**
46 **asterisk *:**

1
2 **Motion:** To approve the agenda, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Bernal.

3
4 **Vote:** Motion passed, (summary: Yes = 3, Abstain=1).

5 Mayor Pro Tem Bernal Yes

6 Trustee Arzabal Yes

7 Trustee Flores Yes

8 Trustee Johnson-Burick - abstained since she was not on the board at the last meeting.

9
10 ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting of February 24, 2014 *Approved by consent agenda*

11
12 ***PZHAC CASE 012253** – 2875 Boldt Street, by Robert Weaver, a request for a permit to
13 enclose an existing patio at this location. Zone: Historical Residential (HR) *Approved by*
14 *consent agenda*

15
16 **7. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

17
18 Trustee Flores thanked Trustee Caro for all his years of service. She has the most respect for him and is
19 going to be missed.

20
21 Mayor Pro Tem Bernal stated Mr. Caro will always be Trustee Caro. He has learned a lot from him. It
22 has been honor to serve with him. He respects him for his honesty and trust; he admires him for that. We
23 are here to work as a team and we know we have a lot to accomplish. Words of wisdom and advice are
24 open to Trustee Johnson-Burick and looks forward to working with her. Thanked Mayor Barraza for all
25 she had done. The board makes decision with guidance of the Mayor. He feels this board will work
26 together and make it work.

27
28 Trustee Arzabal stated Mr. Caro is a man of service and character from coaching him in little league to
29 serving our country to serving on the board. He thanks him for being honest and for his dedicated
30 service. He has often spoken regarding the respect this board has for each other regardless of which way
31 the vote goes and he feels we will continue working together for the roots and culture of Mesilla.

32
33 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked everyone and looks forward to working with my fellow board members
34 in doing the best that we can for our community. She thanked Mr. Caro for everything and asked that he
35 continue to share his knowledge and to be involved in the community. She is going to need a lot of
36 guidance. Thanked Mr. Taylor and stated that one of her platforms she ran on was to bring the
37 community together. She is committed to that and to the community.

38
39 Mayor Barraza thanked everyone for the support and the commitment of the Board of Trustees. Hard
40 decisions are made that affect the residents of the Town of Mesilla. It takes being prepared for the
41 meetings, work with town staff and working as a team to do what is right. She does not expect or hopes
42 that the board will not always agree but will respect decisions made. We are a small community and
43 many of us have known each other our whole lives. It takes everyone working together to make it a
44 successful community. She loves tonight's large attendance. She stated that the town is in need of
45 volunteers for the visitor's center; participation is so important for the community. Thanked Mr. Caro for
46 his loyalty and dedication to the Town of Mesilla and hope he continues participating in the town events.

