



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014
6:00 P.M.**

TRUSTEES: Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem
Sam Bernal, Trustee (absent)
Linda L. Flores, Trustee
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee

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

PUBLIC: Jeannie Lucero Ashleigh Curry
Alexandra Hall Charles Bourger

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 Arzabal, Trustee Flores, Trustee Johnson-Burick.

3. PROCLAMATION:

- a.** A Proclamation designating October 8, 2014 as the Official International Walk to School Day in the Town of Mesilla – **Presentation by: Ashleigh Curry, Safe Routes to School Champion**

Ms. Ashleigh Curry read the proclamation designating October 8, 2014 as the Official International Walk to School Day in the Town of Mesilla. The event will begin at Commemorative Park at 7:15 a.m. with about 200-250 participants. The Marshal's Department escorts the group to allow for good traffic control. She invited everyone to participate and asked that they wear pink.

- b.** A Proclamation proclaiming October 5-11, 2014 as Fire Prevention Week in the Town of Mesilla. – **Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief.** (added 9/18/14)

1 Fire Chief Hoban read proclamation proclaiming October 5-11, 2014 as Fire Prevention Week in the Town
2 of Mesilla. There will be a Fire Pprevention demonstration at Home Depot on October 18th. There will be
3 ddemonstration for all class levels of Mesilla Elementary; material will be distributed. They have received
4 smoke alarms for distribution to residents who cannot afford to purchase alarms. A reminder that Smoke
5 Alarms more than 10 years old need to be replaced.

6
7 **4. PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

8 Ms. Hall stated she is working with Mr. Shannon on the Dark Sky Ordinance. Mr. Shannon found a copy of
9 the original proposal. She asked that the trustees review the copies to get the rational of what the ordinance
10 was based on.

11
12 Mr. Garcia stated he could not believe what he read in the paper and hopes it is not true. They would like
13 some answers, if it is true the town got into a mess. Our services have gone up to pay for the messes we get
14 in. He cannot believe it. He is concerned and is fed up paying taxes. He works hard making a living and
15 hopes the board can fix it.

16
17 **5. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

18 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal asked that items a and b under New Business be placed on the consent agenda.

19
20 **Motion:** To approve the agenda as amended, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee
21 Flores.

22
23 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

24 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

25 Trustee Flores Yes

26 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

27
28 **6. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one motion**
29 **the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with an**
30 **asterisk *:**

31 Trustee Johnson-Burick recused herself from voting on consent agenda item b, PZHAC Case #012309, to
32 avoid a perceive conflict of interest.

33
34 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he has no financial gain with regards to PZHAC Case #012309; applicant is
35 his godmother.

36

1 **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as amended, **Moved by** Trustee Flores, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro
2 Tem Arzabal.

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

5 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

6 Trustee Flores Yes

7 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

8
9 a. ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting of Monday, September 8, 2014 *Approved by consent*
10 *agenda*

11 b. ***PZHAC Case #012303** – 2488 Calle de Guadalupe; submitted by Art Fountain, a request for a
12 permit to repair a low concrete block yard wall at this address. Zoned: Historical Commercial
13 (HC). *Approved by consent agenda/Trustee Johnson-Burick recused herself.*

14 c. ***PZHAC CASE #012309**– 2009 Calle de Correo; submitted by Priscilla Perez, a request for a
15 permit to add a door /gate and partial archway to an existing low concrete block yard wall at the
16 front of this property. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR) *Approved by consent agenda*

17 d. ***PZHAC CASE #012313**– 2930 La Mesilla Circle; submitted by Dean Neff for Amy Abruzzi, a
18 request for a permit to build an addition onto an existing dwelling at this address. Zoned:
19 Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda*

20 e. ***PZHAC CASE #012315**– 1801 Avenida de Mesilla,; submitted by Rachel Reyes Floyd for
21 “Spa-ology Body Bar” and “polished Nail Bar”, a request for a permit to install a wall sign and a
22 freestanding sign for the two businesses located at this address. Zoned General Commercial (C)
23 *Approved by consent agenda*

24
25 **7. CLOSED SESSION** - pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1 (H) (7) for discussion related to threatened or
26 pending litigation. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.** (*added 9/19/14*)

27
28 **Motion:** To enter closed session pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1 (H)(7) for discussion related to threatened or
29 pending litigation, **Moved by** Trustee Flores, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal.

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

32 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

33 Trustee Flores Yes

34 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

1 **Entered Closed Session at 6:30 p.m.**

2

3 **Motion:** To enter regular session after discussion related to threatened or pending litigation, **Moved by**
4 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

5

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

7 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

8 Trustee Flores Yes

9 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

10

11 **Entered Regular Meeting at 8:04 p.m.**

12

13 **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

14 a. For Approval: appointment of a full time Custodial/Maintenance I Worker to the Public Works
15 Department. –**Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director. *Approved by consent agenda***

16

17 b. For Approval: appointment of a part-time Brick Paver/Maintenance I to the Public Works
18 Department. – **Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director. *Approved by consent agenda***

19

20 c. Discussion regarding community center policies – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**

21

22 Mayor Barraza stated there have been many requests and would like direction from the board. The
23 application reads no alcohol beverages are allowed unless a liquor license is obtained. We have not allowed
24 alcohol to be served. An applicant has stated that they would provide a liquor license. She asked the board if
25 they would like to prohibit alcohol beverages at the Community Center.

26

27 Trustee Flores asked if we request officers to be on duty. She had looked at the Community Center for an
28 event but due to the liquor license issue decided to change venues.

29

30 Mayor Barraza responded the proper rule is it has to be a liquor establishment in Mesilla that can provide a
31 liquor license.

32

33 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated the establishment must have a Picnic License and must be a full bar. The
34 license holder provides the liquor, bartender, plus security.

35

1 Mayor Barraza asked if this is something that we want to allow at the Community Center. Ms. Lujan has
2 indicated she has concerns.

3

4 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if a deposit is required upon renting the Community Center.

5

6 Mayor Barraza responded there is a refundable \$300 deposit for up to a six hour rental.

7

8 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she would like to raise the rental fees.

9

10 Mayor Barraza responded that is something that can be brought to the board at another meeting. She asked
11 what direction would the board like to take.

12

13 Ms. Lujan stated she is also concerned with the liability.

14

15 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal responded the liquor license holder is liable.

16

17 Marshal Mangusing asked do we know what the security requirement is for that.

18

19 Mayor Barraza responded she believes it is based on the number of attendees but it is normally 2.

20

21 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated that can be mandated on the application. She asked how often we get
22 applicants that want to serve alcohol beverages.

23

24 Mayor Barraza responded the request is usually made when there will be an adult party.

25

26 Ms. Stoenner-Hernandez stated it tends to come in sprints; one to two a month.

27

28 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal recommends having a liquor license holder come in to answer questions on these
29 concerns. That will help us make a more educated recommendation.

30

31 Fire Chief Hoban stated Meson de Mesilla has a full bar. There are plenty of opportunities for the town and
32 for the local businesses. We would get more inquiries if the public knows alcohol is allowed. He
33 recommends making sure all liabilities are covered. There could be a separate rental agreement when
34 alcohol is being served.

35

1 Mayor Barraza stated the CARE organization would like to have a black tie event at the Community Center.
2 They would like to be able to serve wine but would still hold the event even if that is not allowed. These are
3 the type of events we would like to have in our community. Mr. Ralph Lucero will make a presentation at
4 the next meeting.

5
6 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated this is a good start in addressing our concerns.

7
8 Fire Chief Hoban recommends reaching out to the NMML.

9
10 Trustee Flores asked that the all this be explained on the application.

11
12 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she feels the Community Center rental rates are low. There are no places in
13 Las Cruces at \$50 a day available to rent.

14
15 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated these fees were changed not too long ago; non-profit organizations had their
16 fees waived.

17
18 Trustee Flores responded we want non-profits to have a place to go where they do not use their money on
19 rentals. We do not want to make money off non-profits. The concern was the electricity bills so the \$50 was
20 brought to the board.

21
22 Mayor Barraza responded there were so many non-profit organizations coming to request rental fee waivers.

23
24 Trustee Flores stated she would like to keep the fees low so that people can have a place to hold a function.

25
26 **9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

27 Trustee Flores stated at the Community Center Viva Dona Ana is holding a worksession on Wednesday
28 (23rd) and Thursday (24th) from 5:00-6:00 p.m. following with a meeting from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to discuss
29 alternatives regarding growth.

30
31 Mayor Barraza asked if Trustee Flores has anything on the Comprehensive Plan.

32
33 Trustee Flores responded she will let Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez answer.

34
35 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded they are coordinating with New Mexico Economically Development to
36 see how to become a Local Economic Act (LEA) community.

1 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he will be getting together with Jerry during fall break.

2

3 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she will be meeting in October with Ms. Krueger to discuss the library
4 proposal; Ms. Parra will be included. Once the attorney gives the go ahead she will move forward on
5 meeting with the individual from the city regarding volunteers.

6

7 **10. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

8 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal no comments

9

10 Trustee Johnson-Burick reiterated Viva Dona Ana meeting will address the Unified Development Code. It
11 will be looking at all the communities. It is important that our citizens attend so they can have the
12 opportunity to be heard on how they want Mesilla to progress.

13

14 Trustee Flores no comments

15

16 Mayor Barraza stated the new water rates will reflect on the new water bills. Last week there were
17 disconnects and people were coming in making comments that we were targeting people, someone's
18 retirement is going up. We are consistent and are enforcing our ordinances. Staff is doing an excellent job.
19 She tells them we need to stay focused and not take it personally. We met with the union representatives and
20 will keep the board informed. Mariachi Sundays will begin September 28th. There will be Safety Counseling
21 meetings the first week in October for department heads, newbies and veterans. She asked that everyone try
22 to attend the International Walk to School Day.

23

24 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

25 **Motion:** To adjourn, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Flores.

26

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

28 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

29 Trustee Flores Yes

30 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

31

32 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:21 P.M.**

33

34 **APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2014.**

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Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Stohner-Hernandez
Town Clerk/Treasurer

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