



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TOWN OF MESILLA  
REGULAR MEETING (RESCHEDULED)  
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020  
6:00 P.M.  
VIA TELECONFERENCE 1-346-248-7799**

**TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jesus Caro, Trustee  
Veronica Garcia, Trustee  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee

**STAFF:** Cynthia Stoenner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
Eddie Lerma, Marshal  
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director  
Dorothy Sellers, Special Events Coordinator

**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 Caro, Trustee Garcia, Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Mayor Barraza held a Moment of Silence for residents that have died.

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL**

**Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

Trustee Caro Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

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

**Public input in writing shall be received at [cynthias-h@mesillanm.gov](mailto:cynthias-h@mesillanm.gov) by 5:00 p.m., the day of the meeting and will be read into the record. You will also be given an opportunity to speak during this time by pressing \*9 while in the teleconference. You will be prompted when to begin speaking.**

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez read public input submitted by Ms. Krueger; see attached.

Mr. Taylor read correspondence submitted to trustees.

- 5. CLOSED SESSION** – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2): discussion limited to personnel matters in the Finance Department & the Marshal’s Department. – *Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.*

**All members of the public/staff not included in the closed session will be placed in the waiting room until the closed session is concluded. All members not included in closed session will be allowed back into the regular meeting once it reconvenes.**

**Motion: To enter Closed Session – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2): discussion limited to personnel matters in the Finance Department & the Marshal’s Department, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes  
Trustee Caro Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

Entered Closed Session at 6:20 p.m.

**Motion: To enter Regular Meeting after limited discussion to personnel matters in the Finance Department & the Marshal’s Department pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2); no action taken, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes  
Trustee Caro Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

Entered Regular Meeting at 6:52 p.m.

**6. \*APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

(The Board will be asked to approve by one motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with an asterisk \*):

**Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes  
Trustee Caro Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- a) **\*BOT Minutes** – Minutes of a Regular Meeting on June 8, 2020. *Approved by consent agenda*
- b) **\*BOT Minutes** – Minutes of a Special Meeting on June 12, 2020. *Approved by consent agenda*
- c) **\*PZHAC Case 061047** – Calle Tercera, submitted by Frankie Torres, a request for a zoning permit to allow a rock wall to be constructed at this address. **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR).** *Approved by consent agenda*

- d) **\*PZHAC Case 061052** - 2445 Calle de Santa Ana, submitted by ViCa One Inc. for Jack and Lisa Kirby; a request for a zoning permit to allow the construction of a new dwelling at this address. **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda***
- e) **\*PZHAC Case 060153** – Calle Pacana, Lot 2 of the Sommer Grove Subdivision, submitted by ViCa One Inc. for Charles and Marilyn McMurray; a request for a zoning permit to allow the construction of a new dwelling at this address. **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda***
- f) **\*PZHAC Case 061056** – 1680 Calle de Alvarez Suite C, submitted by Stefan Schaefer for Christopher Schaefer; a request to expand an existing 161 square foot patio service area by 290 square feet. **Zoned: General Commercial (C). *Approved by consent agenda***

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **For consideration:** approval of a replacement appointee to the Mesilla Valley MPO Bicycle Committee. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

Mayor Barraza recommended Mr. McGillivray to serve on the Mesilla Valley MPO Bicycle Committee upon Sergeant Shepan’s retirement.

**Motion: To approve replacement appointee to the Mesilla Valley MPO Bicycle Committee, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes  
 Trustee Caro Yes  
 Trustee Garcia Yes  
 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting held on June 10<sup>th</sup> where they had resolutions for amendment of 2020-2026 Transportation Improvement Program and adopted new fiscal year budget. Mobility Plan was also discussed. MPO meeting scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m.

Trustee Garcia: Participated in June 10<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal: Participated in June 12<sup>th</sup> CEO meeting; joint meeting tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. for Workforce and CEO.

Mayor Barraza: SRTD meeting cancelled; NMML meeting reviewed Special Session. HB8 passed making Body Cams mandatory; Marshal Lerma is looking for funding since it will be up to the municipality to fund the Body Cams. NMML is also checking with New Mexico Self-Insurers for reimbursement as the Body Cams could eliminate tort claims. She understands they are looking at selling bonds so funds may not be available till the later part of the year. Encouraged social distancing and wearing a mask.

Fire Chief Hoban stated there is currently a COVID19 case in the 88046-area code; area codes 88011 and 88012 are hotspots. We need to be vigilant; reiterated practice social distancing, washing hands often and wearing masks.

**9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

Fire Chief Hoban stated that COVID is real. Practicing good hygiene, practice social distancing and wearing masks needs to continue. We need to feel comfortable around other people.

Marshal Lerma gave an update on the protest held on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Sellers gave a report on Summer Recreation and the opening of the Mercado on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Garcia asked that someone address Mr. Taylor's public input.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated there is a need to address the concerns of property owners. She saw no social distancing and no masks being worn while she was in Cloudcroft. She asked for clarification of social distancing during the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Trustee Caro stated he supports Mr. Taylor's concern and we should be thankful for what he is trying to do.

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he is concerned with plaza closures. He understands it is a safety issue, but the businesses are hurting currently.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated during the protest businesses were afraid of what could have happened, but safety needs to take precedence.

Trustee Garcia stated we needed to be proactive as we did not know what to expect. If this would have gone the other way people would have reacted differently; Marshal Lerma did what he had to do.

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he feels streets are being closed more often than before.

Mayor Barraza stated the shops could have remained open, parking was available at the parking lots and other streets. We were expecting the worst scenario, so we prepared for it. The streets were reopened at 12:30 p.m. She thanked the law enforcement agencies for a job well done. Thanked La Posta, Josefina's, and Trustee Garcia for providing refreshments. Mesilla is having more events with a lot of foot traffic as well as an increase in tourism. If the recommendation is to close the plaza streets due to safety, then there will be closures. We are recommending spectators remain in their vehicles and there is no entertainment on the plaza this year.

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal recommended educating the residents and business owners, with the help of the Fire Chief and Marshal, as to why the plaza and streets are being closed.

Mayor Barraza reiterated there is always parking at the lots, surrounding streets, and town hall. People want to park right in front of the business.

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal responded people need to be educated to understand that the board does not close the streets just to close them; it is a safety issue.

Trustee Garcia stated businesses were notified of the street closures.

Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Nevarez is once again sponsoring the Fireworks Show. Additional officers will be on duty as well. The state approved our budget with a few adjustments. She will make a presentation at the next meeting regarding the GRT shortfall which we will see in July and August. She gave a summary of what transpired between Mr. Taylor and the town. She has decided the trees will be removed and the yuccas will remain where they are. Codes will be asking residents who have plants on town easement to remove them. She wants to start enforcing the ordinance that address these items; these things also block visibility to oncoming traffic and signs and the maintenance of these plants is not done.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she is concerned with the legal aspect.

Mayor Barraza responded we have an ordinance that supports this action.

Trustee Caro stated he brought this up to the board before; there is an issue with vegetation on our easement and sideways leaving no where for people to walk. He agrees it needs to be addressed as this is a growing problem.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated this needs to be enforce on everyone there will be no picking and choosing.

Mayor Barraza stated there are times where Public Works staff needs to do the trimming since landowners are not doing the maintenance.

Trustee Garcia asked for the information to be put on the bills with a date as to when it will start.

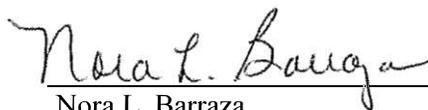
Mayor Barraza stated this will be enforced on everyone. The offices will be closed July 3<sup>rd</sup> in observance of July 4<sup>th</sup>. The vacant Sergeant position in the Marshal's Department was posted internally with Deputy Azcarate as the only applicant. The interview committee recommended him for the position, and she appointed him per 3.7.1 and 3.7.2 of the Personnel Handbook. She is accepting applications for the Architecture Style Committee.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:35 P.M.**

**APPROVED THIS 13<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2020.**



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Nora L. Barraza  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**



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Cynthia Stoeher-Hernandez  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

