



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
TOWN OF MESILLA  
REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020  
6:00 P.M.**

**VIA TELECONFERENCE**

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

**STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk  
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
Eddie Lerma, Marshal  
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director  
Dorothy Seller, Special Events Coordinator  
Larry Shannon, Community Development Coordinator  
Gloria Maya, Recorder

**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.

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

Trustee Garcia requested the removal of new business item #6 from the agenda based on procedure roll. She read the rule.

Mayor Barraza responded two trustees submitted a request to bring the item back prior to the last meeting but since she is not in the office, the requests were in her box. Since no action was taken at the last meeting it could be brought back.

Trustee Garcia responded it should have been at the last meeting.

Mayor Barraza reiterated it was requested prior to last meeting.

Trustee Garcia responded it was on the agenda but was pulled.

Mayor Barraza reiterated there was no action taken so there was no prevailing side.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez confirmed since no action was taken and there was not a second on the item at

1 the meeting, it could be brought per the request of two trustees.

2  
3 Mayor Barraza stated the request were in her box, but she had not come in.

4  
5 **Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-**  
6 **Burick.**

7  
8 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =3, No=1).**

9 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

10 Trustee Caro Yes

11 Trustee Garcia No

12 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

13  
14 **4. PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

15 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez read public input submitted; see the attached.

16  
17 **5. \*APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA –**  
18 **(The Board will be asked to approve by one motion the following items of recurring or**  
19 **routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with an asterisk \*):**

20  
21 Trustee Garcia stated the minutes do not reflect where she asked at the last meeting if court staff had been  
22 invited to the board meeting and the response was yes.

23  
24 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she remembers the minutes reflecting Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responding  
25 they had been notified but had not heard back from them.

26  
27 Trustee Garcia responded that was regarding the budget; she asked if they had been invited to the  
28 meeting.

29  
30 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**  
31 **Johnson-Burick.**

32  
33 Trustee Johnson-Burick addressed the interwind of the Planning and Zoning information in the packet.

34  
35 Mayor Barraza asked Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez to ensure everything is in order.

36  
37 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).**

38 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

39 Trustee Caro Yes

40 Trustee Garcia Yes

41 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

42  
43 a) **\*BOT Minutes** – Minutes of a Regular Meeting on May 26, 2020. *Approved by consent*  
44 *agenda*

45 b) **\*PZHAC Case 061021** - 1922 Calle de Cura, submitted by Nia Rucker; a request for a  
46 zoning permit to replace windows on a dwelling at this address. **Zoned: Historical**  
47 **Residential (HR).** *Approved by consent agenda*

48 c) **\*PZHAC Case 061032** - 2305 Calle de Colon, submitted by Gerard Nevarez, a request for  
49 a zoning permit to enclose an existing covered patio and install a new covered patio at the  
50 rear of a dwelling at this address. **Zoned: Historic Residential (HR).** *Approved by consent*  
51 *agenda*

52 d) **\*PZHAC Case 061034** - 2230 Calle del Sur, submitted by Stephen Cadena; a request for a  
53 zoning permit to construct a porch around a dwelling at this address. **Zoned: Historic**

1           **Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda***

- 2           e) **\*PZHAC Case 061054** – 2581 Calle de Cura, submitted by Gary and Laura Ramsey; a  
3           request for a zoning permit to allow renovations to the interior as well as the replacement of  
4           windows and repair and repainting of the exterior of a dwelling at this address. **Zoned:**  
5           **Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda***

6  
7           **6. FOR RECONSIDERATION:**

8  
9           a) **Ordinance 2020-02** – Revising Chapter 18.35 Historic Residential Zone. – ***Requested by***  
10          ***Trustee Johnson-Burick & Trustee Caro.***

11          Mayor Barraza stated there a motion made but there was not a second for this item so it could not move  
12          forward. The minutes read where she said that two trustees could request to bring the item back to the  
13          board. Trustee Caro and Trustee Johnson-Burick made the request to bring the item back.

14  
15          **Motion: To suspend the rules of order, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Second by Trustee**  
16          **Johnson-Burick.**

17  
18          **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

19          Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal   Yes  
20          Trustee Caro            Yes  
21          Trustee Garcia         Yes  
22          Trustee Johnson-Burick   Yes

23  
24          Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the board’s obligation is to do what is best for the Town of Mesilla and to  
25          follow the Yguado Plan to keep Mesilla as it is. As Representative Cadena stated we cannot pick and  
26          choose who we are going to benefit. This ordinance does not prohibit the landowner from building but  
27          will help preserve the integrity of Mesilla. The ordinance will prohibit apartments or similar buildings  
28          from being built.

29  
30          Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated we need to listen to the constituents. The public was asking for a face to  
31          face meeting which unfortunately could not take place. A lot of work was done on this ordinance; we  
32          need to move forward.

33  
34          Trustee Garcia stated we just wanted a meeting with the residents. She reiterated that she feels that it was  
35          too late to bring this back to the board. Wants to make sure we are not breaking any rules.

36  
37          Trustee Caro stated we are trying to find a way to work with the public which is hard during this  
38          pandemic. The Yguado Plan has everything we need. He wants to leave it as is.

39  
40          Trustee Garcia asked if the request were submitted before the previous meeting.

41  
42          Mayor Barraza responded that information is in your packet.

43  
44          Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated we need to consider the letter received from Mr. Cervantes which is in the  
45          packet.

46  
47          Mayor Barraza responded everything received has been made available to the trustees since she was last  
48          in the office.

49  
50          **Motion: To reinstate the rules of order and approve Ordinance 2020-02 – Revising Chapter 18.35**  
51          **Historic Residential Zone, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem**  
52          **Arzabal.**

1 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =3, No=2).

2 \*Mayor Barraza Yes

3 \*\*Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

4 Trustee Caro No

5 Trustee Garcia No

6 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

7

8 Mayor Barraza commented that her Vote was based on the input received from the residents and the  
9 Comprehensive Plan.

10

11 Mayor Pro-Tem Arzabal commented that his Vote was based on the correspondence received from  
12 attorney.

13

14 Mayor Barraza stated she is confident the residents feel they are being heard and that we are preserving  
15 the history of Mesilla.

16

17 **7. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

18 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal – Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> CEO via zoom at 10:00 a.m.

19

20 Trustee Johnson-Burick – Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting via zoom at 1:00 p.m.

21

22 Trustee Garcia – Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting via zoom at 1:00 p.m.

23

24 Mayor Barraza – RTD meeting last week; Mayor’s weekly meeting; Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> MAC meeting;  
25 Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting; Friday NMML Board of Directors meeting.

26

27 **8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

28 Marshal Lerma stated arrangements were made for events that were expected to take place in Mesilla, but  
29 they were moved to Las Cruces last minute. The LCPD requested for our assistance during the  
30 demonstrations and protest that also took place in Las Cruces. The county also requested the assistance of  
31 our department.

32

33 Mayor Barraza thanked Marshal Lerma and his officers for supporting our fellow officers as well as the  
34 Fire Department for their support.

35

36 Fire Chief Hoban stated the Fire Department is prepared to support the other departments.

37

38 Ms. Sellers stated Summer Recreation will have two sessions. We are closely following the CDC and  
39 New Mexico Guidelines.

40

41 Trustee Caro stated he is concerned that the person buying and building in Mesilla has been appointed to  
42 the Planning and Zoning Commission; feels it is a conflict of interest and should be reconsidered.

43

44 Trustee Garcia asked if anyone responded to Representative Cadena. Mesilla property has history so do  
45 not sell, keep it in your family.

46

47 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked staff for everything they are doing during this pandemic. The parks look  
48 wonderful. Encourages the Public Safety staff to participate in social distancing parades.

49

50 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated we do not like duplexes around town; a letter received from attorney  
51 stated they were legal.

52

53 Trustee Garcia stated she has provided meals, anonymously, to the Fire and Marshal Department and

1 drinks to staff when she sees them working. She further stated that Mr. Salas knows the rules with  
2 regards to Planning and Zoning.

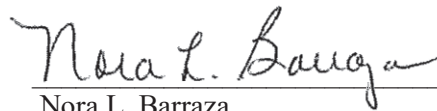
3  
4 Mayor Barraza stated they are working on getting a testing site set up in Mesilla, tentatively at the  
5 Mercado area. A restaurant owner who had an employee test positive took the right step in protecting his  
6 employees and his customers. Discourages everyone from going to El Paso. She commends Governor  
7 Lujan-Grisham for her work in keeps New Mexico's number low. Continue social distancing, stay home  
8 to stay healthy. A lot of work and thought went into the Historic Residential Ordinance. The trustee's,  
9 commissioner's and resident's input were taken into consideration for this ordinance. If it is not working  
10 out it can come back for amendments. Ours prayers for the families who have lost family members.  
11

12 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:57 P.M.**

**APPROVED THIS 29TH DAY OF JUNE, 2020.**



Nora L. Barraza  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Cynthia Stohner-Hernandez  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

