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4 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

5 **TOWN OF MESILLA**

6 **WORK SESSION**

7 **MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M.**

8 **VIA TELECONFERENCE 1-346-248-7799, MEETING ID 983-7900-0389 PASSWORD 971704**

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12 **TRUSTEES:** Nora Barraza, Mayor
13 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
14 Carlos Arzabal, Trustee
15 Jesus Caro, Trustee
16 Veronica Garcia, Trustee

17
18 **STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
19 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
20 Edward Lerma, Marshal
21 Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
22 Gloria Maya, Recorder
23
24

25 **1. Discussion regarding Colonia's designation. – Jay Armijo, South Central Council of Governments.**

26 Mr. Armijo gave a presentation regarding Colonia's designation.

27
28 Mayor Barraza asked about the match amount.

29
30 Mr. Armijo responded it is a 90% Grant with different options for the 10% match amount, i.e., a 20 year no
31 interest loan, match waiver.

32
33 Trustee Arzabal asked how much the town is losing out in grant funding by not being designated as a Colonia.

34
35 Mr. Armijo responded in a 10 year cycle the town is looking at a loss of \$5 million dollars in funding.

36
37 Trustee Arzabal stated he understands the name of the town does not have to be changed.

38
39 Mr. Armijo stated it is not a requirement to change the name of the town, or to have an informational sign
40 during construction, etc.

41
42 Mayor Barraza stated she understands that this designation does not lower the property value.
43

1 Mr. Armijo responded he has not heard of property values going down with the designation.
2
3 Trustee Arzabal asked if Brazito got the Colonia status to get water and sewer service.
4
5 Mr. Armijo responded no; Brazito and San Pablo have been a designated Colonia since the inception of the HUD
6 program.
7
8 Mayor Barraza stated the Town of Mesilla was designated as a Colonia before it became a municipality.
9
10 Trustee Garcia asked if insurance rates will be affected with the designation. She asked if there is a timeline for
11 applying.
12
13 Mr. Armijo responded he has not heard of that happening. There is a timeline cycle and explained the process
14 needing to be followed.
15
16 Trustee Garcia stated she was against the designation when it was first brought forth but has since been
17 educated and agrees it is a good move. We need to allow the residents to bring forth their opinions so that we
18 can educate them as well in an open meeting.
19
20 Trustee Arzabal stated he does not know why we continue to have our meetings by Zoom. The residents need
21 to have the opportunity to speak directly to the board. He recommended a meeting be held at the Community
22 Center.
23
24 Mayor Barraza responded that can be arranged. There is currently a limit of 10 people in a gathering.
25
26 Trustee Caro asked if this funding would be ending anytime soon.
27
28 Mr. Armijo responded he does not see this going away anytime soon. These are state dollars shaved away
29 from Capital Outlay.
30
31 Trustee Arzabal asked if the money that is not used rolls over.
32
33 Mr. Armijo responded the money can be rolled over. Municipalities have reverted funding if a project cannot
34 be completed or started.
35
36 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she supports the designation.
37
38 Mr. McGillivray asked for reversion dates of duration.
39
40 Mr. Armijo responded they look at completing projects within 12 to 24 months. There is a mechanism in place

1 when extensions have been requested.

2

3 Mr. McGillivray asked if it is a 24-month diversion on the agreement and is there an opportunity for in-kind in
4 the match.

5

6 Mr. Armijo responded that is based on the project schedule and there is an opportunity for in-kind.

7

8 Mayor Barraza stated we will be scheduling community meetings to inform the residents and allow them to
9 voice their opinions. She is looking at moving on this within the next 2 weeks.

10

11 **2. Discussion regarding Town of Mesilla FY 22 budget. – Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez,**
12 **Clerk/Treasurer.**

13 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez gave a presentation on the preliminary Town of Mesilla FY 22 Budget.

14

15 Trustee Arzabal asked if the 2% increase was voted on in years past.

16

17 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded the increase is based on the CPI.

18

19 Trustee Caro asked if more needs to be budgeted for Public Works to continue the right of way project.

20

21 Mayor Barraza responded budget was not increased for Public Works, Mr. McGillivray will need to come up
22 with a plan to continue to address that. We are currently our GRT is down 17% compared to last year. She is
23 afraid to increase any department's budget at this time. She would like to revisit the budget in November to
24 see if we can give employees a Cost-of-Living increase. It has been helpful that Medical benefits did not
25 increase this year.

26

27 Trustee Garcia stated the employees are the ones that kept Mesilla alive during the past year while we were at
28 home being safe. She will remind the mayor to revisit the budget in November. Some of our employees who
29 have been here five years are barely over \$11.50, the new minimum wage, meaning new employees will be
30 coming in at that rate. Employees need to know that we appreciate them.

31 Mayor Barraza stated she agrees that employees need to be compensated. Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez is being
32 vigilante with regards to hourly wages. She will also be researching what the funding we will be receiving can
33 be used for. She wants to see if it can be used as a bonus instead of a salary increase just in case GRTs drop
34 again.

35

36 Trustee Garcia reiterated the employees are the ones that kept Mesilla afloat while we stayed home being safe.

37

38 Mayor Barraza stated she would like to finalize the budget by mid-May.

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

VIA TELECONFERENCE 1-346-248-7799, MEETING ID 983-7900-0389 PASSWORD 971704

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

STAFF: Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Edward Lerma, Marshal
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
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 Johnson-Burick, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Caro, Trustee Garcia.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL

Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Arzabal Yes

Trustee Caro Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

4. PRESENTATIONS:

- a) Presentations to Roman Prieto and Judy Houston for their dedicated service on the Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission. – **Board of Trustees.**

Mayor Barraza made a presentation to Roman Prieto and Judy Houston to thank them for their dedicated service on the Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission.

Ms. Houston thanked the town for the opportunity to serve on the Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez read letter from Mr. Prieto.

1 Mayor Barraza asked the board to reach out to the residents to be able to fill the vacancies.

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

3 **Public input in writing shall be received at cynthias-h@mesillanm.gov 24 hours in advance to the meeting**
4 **and will be read into the record. You will also be given an opportunity to speak during this time by pressing**
5 ***9 while in the teleconference. You will be prompted when to begin speaking.**

6 Mr. Wendler read a proclamation making Thursday, May 6, 2021 “National Day of Prayer” in the Town
7 of Mesilla.

8 **6. CLOSED SESSION** – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2): discussion limited to
9 personnel matters in the Public Works/Marshal’s Departments.

10 **Motion: To close Regular Meeting and enter Closed Session – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-**
11 **1(H)(2): discussion limited to personnel matters in the Public Works/Marshal’s Departments, Moved by**
12 **Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

13
14 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

15 Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

16 Trustee Arzabal Yes

17 Trustee Caro Yes

18 Trustee Garcia Yes

19

20 **Entered Closed Session at 6:15 p.m.**

21

22

23 **7. STATEMENT REGARDING CLOSED SESSION AND ROLL CALL VOTE** – discussion during the closed
24 session was limited to personnel matters in the Public Works/Marshals’ departments pursuant to
25 NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2). – **Board of Trustees.**

26 **Motion: To enter Regular Meeting – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2): after limited discussion**
27 **to personnel matters in the Public Works/Marshal’s Departments: no action taken, Moved by Trustee**
28 **Arzabal, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

29

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

31 Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

32 Trustee Arzabal Yes

33 Trustee Caro Yes

34 Trustee Garcia Yes

35

36 **Enter Regular Meeting at 6:25 p.m.**

37

38 **8. ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION** – the board may act on items discussed in closed session
39 limited to personnel matters in the Public Works pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2). –
40 **Board of Trustees.**

41 Mayor Barraza recommended Mr. Patrick Rodriguez for the position of Groundskeeper.

42

43 **Motion: To approve the hiring of Patrick Rodriguez as Groundskeeper in the Public Works Department,**
44 **Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

45

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

1 Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
2 Trustee Arzabal Yes
3 Trustee Caro Yes
4 Trustee Garcia Yes
5

6 **9. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** (The Board will be asked to approve by one motion the following
7 items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with an asterisk *)

8 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee**
9 **Garcia.**

10
11 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

12 Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
13 Trustee Arzabal Yes
14 Trustee Caro Yes
15 Trustee Garcia Yes

- 16
17 a) ***BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of a Regular Meeting on April 12, 2021. **Approved by consent**
18 **agenda**
19 b) ***PZHAC Case 061203** – 2149 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Andrea Schneider; a
20 request for a zoning permit to repair and repaint the stucco on a dwelling at this address.
21 **Zoned: Historic Residential (HR). Approved by consent agenda**
22 c) ***PZHAC Case 061204** – 2149 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Andrea Schneider; a
23 request for a zoning permit to install a fence around the rear and sides of a residential
24 property at this address. **Zoned: Historic Residential (HR). Approved by consent agenda**
25 d) ***PZHAC Case 061205** – 2593 Calle de Cura, submitted by Gary Ramsey; a request for a
26 zoning permit to re-stucco and repaint a secondary dwelling at this address. **Zoned:**
27 **Historic Residential (HR). Approved by consent agenda**
28

29 **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 30 a) **For Approval:** a contract with Edward Lerma for consultation services relating to administration
31 and procedures in the Marshal's Department. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

32 **Motion: To approve a contract with Edward Lerma for consultation services relating to administration and**
33 **procedures in the Marshal's Department, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

34
35 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez reviewed the contract.

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

38 Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
39 Trustee Arzabal Yes
40 Trustee Caro Yes
41 Trustee Garcia Yes
42

43 Mayor Barraza stated Lieutenant Salas is being promoted to Marshal Salas on May 1, 2021.

44
45 Lieutenant Salas thanked the board for their support.

46
47 Board of Trustees congratulated Lieutenant Salas on his promotion.
48

49 **11. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1 Trustee Arzabal: CEO regular meeting on Friday.
2
3 Trustee Garcia: MPO Meeting; District Meeting; Architecture Committee Meeting
4 Feels applicant should be in attendance
5
6 Mayor Barraza: Applicant should not be at the Architecture Committee Meeting
7 Packets should be completed prior to the Committee meeting
8
9 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: MPO April 14th; MPO May12th at 1:00 p.m.
10
11 Mayor Barraza: Trail meeting; District NMML meeting; RTD meeting; OEM meeting, Mayor Caucus, City of Las
12 Cruces meeting
13
14 **12. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**
15 Ms. Stoehner-Hernandez stated GRT down 17% and is beginning to rise.
16 Fire Chief Hoban stated International Firefighter Day is on Tuesday, May 4th.
17 Mayor Barraza stated she will do something to show her appreciation.
18 Marshal Lerma gave an update on the thefts.
19 Mr. McGillivray stated work will continue the plaza next week. Moving forward on preliminary design which
20 have been presented to the DPAC.
21 Trustee Garcia commended Public Works on fixing the water leak, Fire Chief Hoban for his assistance. Prayers
22 to the residents affected by the Three River Fire.
23 Trustee Arzabal reiterated having the Board of Trustee meetings at the Community Center so residents can
24 attend. He understands the gathering cannot be more than 10 individuals.
25 Mayor Barraza stated we will look into that.
26 Trustee Arzabal stated how can that be if teachers are forced to go into the classroom.
27 Mayor Barraza stated she cannot force employees into a group setting. She will get guidance from the
28 Governor's office.
29 Trustee Arzabal asked if there is anyway the Planning and Zoning can be paid, even just \$50 a month.
30 Mayor Barraza responded she will look into that.
31 Trustee Arzabal stated when he was on the Architecture Style Committee, applicants were allowed to attend
32 making it a smoother process.
33 Mayor Barraza stated that would require the applicants to attend several meetings. She will look at the Iguado
34 Plan.
35 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick thanked Marshal Lerma for his service to the town.

1 Mayor Barraza thanked Marshal Lerma for his leadership and experience he brought to the town. Lieutenant
2 Salas will do a fabulous job as Marshal. We will have elections in November which the county will be
3 overseeing. She will be in office until 2023 and is planning to run again. We need to focus on historic
4 preservation as new people move into the area. We will also continue to work on updating the ordinances.
5 Cinco de Mayo fiesta has been cancelled. There is more foot traffic on the plaza which is helping our GRT.
6 Preliminary budget will be sent to the state. She asked Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez about the audit report.

7 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated she received the okay to print; looking at next meeting to provide copy to the
8 board.

9

10 **13. ADJOURNMENT**

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

12

13 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:58 P.M.**

14

15 **APPROVED THIS 10th DAY OF May, 2021.**

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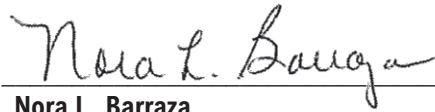
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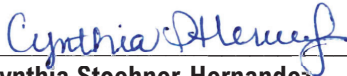
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Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:



Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez
Town Clerk/Treasurer

