



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021
5:00 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 (arrived at 5:16 p.m.)
Jesus Caro, Trustee
Veronica Garcia, Trustee

STAFF: Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
Enrique Salas, Marshal
Gloria Maya, Recorder

1. Discussion regarding Town of Mesilla FY 22 budget. – **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.**
Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez gave a presentation on the Town of Mesilla FY 22 budget.

Trustee Arzabal stated he was told SROs will be brought back in August.

Mayor Barraza stated we are on track with LCPS regarding SROs.

Trustee Garcia asked about the Biden funding.

Mayor Barraza responded we received the guidelines today.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated the information was forwarded to the trustees. The final budget will reflect the funding once it is received.

Trustees thanked staff for doing a great and staying within budget during this hard year.

Trustee Arzabal asked if they have thought about having a little fiesta since we were not able to have the September 16th or the Cinco de Mayo fiestas. Recommends have a fiesta in July or a Food Truck night.

1 Mayor Barraza responded she is waiting to see what Governor Lujan Grisham is going to do if we stay on track
2 to do some transitions. Ms. Sellers will be opening the plaza and Community Center to rentals. There is
3 usually an event on July 4th but that will depend on funding. GRTs are down 17% and restaurants do not have
4 to pay GRT for 4 months so we are hoping we receive from the state will cover what we would have received in
5 GRTs from the restaurants. The recovering funding may have to be used to balance the budget. We are being
6 cautious in our spending; we do not want to start the new year in a deficit. There are things that can be
7 looked at.

8

9 Trustee Garcia asked about another Experience Mesilla event which will not be an expense to the town.

10

11 Mayor Barraza recommends waiting until the end of May or June to see where we are at. The board will look
12 at the GRT at mid-year to see if we can give employees a COLA and increase expenditures. She would like to
13 hold a work session next week for further budget discussion.

14

15 Trustee Arzabal stated if the trustees bring forth their questions or concerns prior to the next Board of Trustees
16 meeting the worksession could be held at 5:00 p.m. on the night of the regular meeting.

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18 Mayor Barraza reviewed the process that will be followed.

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 10, 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
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
Enrique Salas, Marshal
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

Mayor Barraza requested removing PZHAC Case #061212 from the consent agenda.

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

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Arzabal Yes

Trustee Caro Yes

Trustee Garcia 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 24 hours in advance to 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 correspondence from Ms. Krueger and Mr. Taylor.

5. 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 *)

1 **Motion: To approve consent agenda as amended, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

2
3 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

4 Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

5 Trustee Arzabal Yes

6 Trustee Caro Yes

7 Trustee Garcia Yes

8 a) ***Work Session MINUTES** – Minutes of Work Session on April 26, 2021. **Approved by**
9 **consent agenda**

10 b) ***BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of a Regular Meeting on April 26, 2021. **Approved by consent**
11 **agenda**

12 c) ***PZHAC Case 061208** – 2685 Calle de Parian, submitted by William B. McIlvaine, a request for a
13 zoning permit to repair and repaint the stucco and roof on a secondary dwelling to match the
14 primary dwelling at this address. Zoned: Historic Residential (HR) (**This case was heard during**
15 **the PZHAC Work Session.**) **Approved by consent agenda**

16 d) ***PZHAC Case 061212**– 1755 Tierra de Mesilla, submitted by Blanca Huisar for Casa Blanca; a
17 request for approval of a site plan and elevations for a commercial development on this property.
18 Zoned: General Commercial (C)

19 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061212 – 1755 Tierra de Mesilla, submitted by Blanca Huisar for Casa**
20 **Blanca; a request for approval of a site plan and elevations for a commercial development on this property.**
21 **Zoned: General Commercial (C), Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Arzabal.**

22
23 **No Roll Call Vote taken**

24
25 Mayor Barraza asked for clarification on conditions placed by PZHAC.

26
27 Mr. Shannon responded the Board Action Form was incorrect; there were no conditions placed by the PZHAC.

28
29 Mayor Barraza stated it has been brought to her attention that the fence is 6.8 ft high; the board approved the
30 fence to be 6 ft. high.

31
32 Mr. Shannon responded he spoke to the applicant who told him they still need to grade the property which will
33 close the gaps along the south edge and Avenida de Mesilla. He informed them they would need to give CID a
34 grading plan. Another concern that was brought forth with regards to the grading is the drainage adversary
35 which could affect the adjacent farmland; applicant has been made aware of this.

36
37 Mr. Maese stated until CID gets a set of site plans and drawings to get the proper elevations of the grading it
38 would be premature to assess a penalty. Recommends allowing the applicant to proceed further in developing
39 the business and the structures to address the drainage and allowing him and designer to finish the
40 engineering. The board may wish to place a condition that the elevation must meet the prescribed height as
41 per ordinance. He recommends allowing the applicant to move forward.

42
43 Mayor Barraza asked why the engineering elevation plan not included in the packet. She feels the right thing
44 to have done was to have leveled the property before moving forward.

45
46 Mr. Shannon responded the applicant did not want to spend a lot of money on the grading plan since it may
47 change as they move forward. The applicant first came forward last October and stated it would be done in
48 phases as to not be delayed. The security fence was installed first as to protect future construction.

1 Mayor Barraza stated the elevation should have been part of the application process.
2
3 Mr. Shannon responded this is the third and final set of elevation plans the applicant will submit. If this case is
4 approved the applicant will come forward with plans and once the site plan is approved, he will come forward
5 with grading and the structure plans.
6
7 Trustee Arzabal asked if the PZHAC approved the case without a complete set of plans.
8
9 Mr. Shannon responded no; the case is being approved in phases.
10
11 Trustee Arzabal stated the fence which was approved at 6 ft. is at 6.8 ft.; asked if the applicant is going to
12 comply to what was approved.
13
14 Mr. Shannon reiterated the gaps will be filled in once the site plan is completed and approved. The elevation of
15 the fence is taken from the ground level and the ground level has not been established.
16
17 Trustee Arzabal stated he feels things are being done backwards.
18
19 Mayor Barraza stated she is concerned with ponding.
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21 Trustee Arzabal asked if the plans include a ponding area.
22
23 Mr. Shannon responded the ponding area will be shown on the final site plans. The PZHAC is taking one thing
24 at a time.
25
26 Trustee Arzabal stated phasing out the project causes delays.
27
28 Trustee Caro stated things should be finalized prior to coming to PZHAC and Board of Trustees and not
29 piecemealing things.
30
31 Trustee Garcia recommends waiting for the grading plan.
32
33 Mayor Barraza stated that would be up to the board who may also wish to place conditions. Agrees that when
34 there is piecemealing it becomes a domino effect as one item affects how other items are done.
35
36 Trustee Garcia stated she knew about these issues two meetings ago and spoke to Mr. Shannon regarding this.
37 She spoke to Mayor Barraza today as well expressing her concerns. She does not believe it is legal to add dirt
38 to make the fence 6 ft.; recommends postponing case.
39
40 Mr. Shannon recommended postponing case approval until there is a complete set of drawings which at that
41 time it will go to the Architectural Committee, then to PZHAC and finally to the Board of Trustees for approval.
42
43 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated when an applicant begins the process, staff should inform them as to
44 what and how things can be done and built, as per ordinance, in the Town of Mesilla. An applicant must
45 concur with what is approved and not change anything to that. Complete plans must be submitted when
46 applications are first submitted. Reiterated piecemealing causes delays and issues. She recommends that
47 staff not cut and paste information from one case to another, as it was done with this case, since it causes
48 misinformation being presented.
49
50 Trustee Arzabal stated that when he was on the PZHAC piecemealing was not allowed, why are we allowing it

1 now.

2

3 Mr. Huisar stated he agrees and will comply with the board's requests.

4

5 **Amended Motion: To postpone PZHAC Case #061212 – 1755 Tierra de Mesilla, submitted by Blanca Huisar**
6 **for Casa Blanka; a request for approval of a site plan and elevations for a commercial development on this**
7 **property. Zoned: General Commercial (C), Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

8

9 Mayor Barraza stated a complete construction packet must be completed and submitted.

10

11 **Amended 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 **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

18 a) **For Approval:** a contract to approve Molzen Corbin as the engineer of record for the Calle del Norte
19 Multi-Use Path Phase II Project – **Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director.**

20

21 Mr. McGillivray reviewed the new routing trail and what this contract will encompass.

22

23 **Motion: To approve a contract to approve Molzen/Corbin as the engineer of record for the Calle del Norte**
24 **Multi-Use Path Phase II Project, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

25

26 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked what the cost for the engineering services were for the original routing.

27

28 Mr. McGillivray responded the cost was \$62,000.00.

29

30 Mayor Barraza stated this project is 100% funded, at no cost to the Town of Mesilla.

31

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

33 Mayor Pro-Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

34 Trustee Arzabal Yes

35 Trustee Caro Yes

36 Trustee Garcia Yes

37

38 **7. *STAFF REPORTS**

39 Community Development

40 Community Programs

41 Finance Department

42 Fire Department

43 Marshal Department

44 Public Works Department

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46 **8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

47

48 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting Wednesday, May 12th at 1:00 p.m. via Webex

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50 Trustee Garcia: MPO meeting Wednesday, May 12th at 1:00 p.m. via Webex

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2 Trustee Arzabal: CEO meeting June 15th
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4 Mayor Barraza: STRD meeting, EO meeting, CEO meeting, Mayor Round Table meeting, NM Zoning Conference,
5 El Paso Electric presented awards (Gloria Garza Summer Recreation Program)
6

7 **9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS** 8

9 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated she will be bringing forth a resolution to submit to Dona Ana County to inform
10 them what seats are up for reelection in November at our next meeting.
11

12 Mr. Shannon congratulated Marshal Salas on his promotion.
13

14 Mr. McGillivray stated work is continuing on the plaza lighting. He will forward information regarding the tree
15 planting by El Paso Electric on Earth Day.
16

17 Fire Chief Hoban stated we received a \$18,000 Local Systems Improvement Grant from NM EMS Bureau for
18 education. The money will be used to pay tuition and books for eligible firefighters to attend EMT training at
19 Dona Ana Community College. Thanked Mayor Barraza for the meal she provided on National Firefighter Day.
20

21 Marshal Salas stated we picked one of the units today and are looking forward to getting the other units once
22 they are available. We got positive responses regarding the auxiliary on the plaza.
23

24 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked if the board can do something for Ms. Garza; recommended passing a
25 resolution or planting a tree for everything she done for our children and the community.
26

27 Trustee Garcia asked if there is anything being done for National Prayer Day.
28

29 Mayor Barraza responded they were given a proclamation.
30

31 Trustee Arzabal stated he is honored with what they are doing for Ms. Garza. He does not like postponing cases
32 but when people do not do their job that is what happens.
33

34 Trustee Caro wished everyone a belated Happy Mother's Day.
35

36 Mayor Barraza stated there are plans to plant a tree in honor of Ms. Garza during summer rec as well. Colonias
37 Public Hearings will be held 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 13th at the Community Center. The next
38 Board of Trustee meeting will be held at the Town Hall and via Zoom.
39

40 Ms. Stoechner reviewed the guidelines that will be followed.
41

42 Trustee Arzabal asked for an update on lawsuits.
43

44 Mayor Barraza responded there are no updates at this time. We are planning to have an audit review at the next
45 meeting. She is reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and encourages the trustees and PZHAC to do the same as
46 a refresher.
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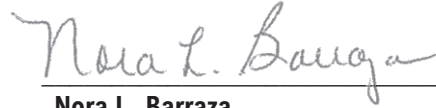
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10. ADJOURNMENT

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

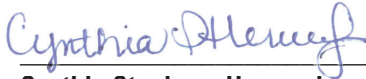
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:05 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF MAY, 2021.



Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:



Cynthia Stoeher-Hernandez
Town Clerk/Treasurer

