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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

****FOR THE HEALTH & SAFETY OF ALL PUBLIC, MASKS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER****

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
Ben Azcarate, Lieutenant
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC: Pat Taylor Jim Ratje
Trina Witter Eric Liefeld
Cecilia Vigil Susan Krueger
Eric Walkinshaw Steven Cadena
Ralph L. Geck Jamie Cook
Jeanne Dolores Lara
Lori Miller Micaela L Cadena

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 removed items 5 and 6 from the agenda.

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Arzabal Yes

1 Trustee Caro Yes
2 Trustee Garcia Yes

3 **4. PUBLIC INPUT – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.**
4 **Space is limited and may require persons giving public input IN PERSON to rotate if capacity of the**
5 **room is exceeded.**

6 Mr. Cadena read a letter.

7 Ms. Lara acknowledged the work done on the ordinances by Mr. Alvillar and former Mayor Cadena.
8 This was brought forth during COVID when people were not attending meetings. She feels there
9 should be professional input.

10 Mr. Taylor stated there is a need for a professional to work on the ordinance. They need to look at the
11 big picture. The 1979 survey is outdated. Proposed changes are radical.

12 Ms. Krueger referred to 18.18.4500, fence is over allowed height per code due to the addition of dirt.
13 Also, the shaded area will be subject to parking.

14
15 **5. CLOSED SESSION – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2): discussion limited to**
16 **personnel matters in the Community Development Department. – Board of Trustees *Removed***
17 ***from agenda***
18

19 **6. ACTION ON ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION – the board may act on items discussed in**
20 **closed session limited to personnel matters in the Community Development Department pursuant to**
21 **NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2). – Board of Trustees. *Removed from agenda***
22

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

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

26
27 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

28 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

29 Trustee Arzabal Yes

30 Trustee Caro Yes

31 Trustee Garcia Yes

32 **a) *BOT MINUTES – BOT minutes of a Joint-Work Session June 25th, 2021. *Approved by consent***
33 ***agenda***

34 **b) *BOT MINUTES – BOT minutes of a Joint-Work Session and Regular Meeting August 9th, 2021.**
35 ***Approved by consent agenda***
36

37
38 **8. PUBLIC INPUT ON ORDINANCE REVISIONS: being considered for Chapters 18.35 Historic**
39 **Residential Zone and 18.60.180 Area Requirements Deemed Met. **A copy of this draft can be found on****
40 ***our website.***

41 Mr. Liefeld stated he has concerns and this ordinance is not ready to become law. The trustees and
42 commissioners have expressed regret for recent votes. Addressed transparency, population density,
43 open space requirements, right of entry, yards, and flood control. He feels this should not have been
44 brought forward during COVID.

45 Ms. Krueger stated feels the ordinances are capricious. The town attorney should be present, so the
46 trustees stay in compliance with the law. Many times, it looks like the trustees are wearing ear plugs.
47 They need to consider what their constituents want; we pay your salary.

1 Mr. Taylor stated he agrees we are putting restrictions and that this should not have come forward
2 during COVID. This should have involved everyone. Addressed the need for professional insight
3 regarding zero lot lines, restrictions, property rights.

4 Ms. Witter stated there was not enough input since people did not attend due to COVID. Addressed
5 the need for explanations, meetings held during working hours. She recommended getting help from
6 professionals.

7 Mr. Walkinshaw asked what is done with the 7 ft. requirement setback and would the setback be all
8 around the property.

9 Mr. Geck stated the Board of Trustees are not listening or doing right for the residents. People with
10 money get what they want. His neighborhood is no longer Historic Residential.

11 Ms. M Lara stated we need to put Mesilla first. Mesilla has always been a leader. The Board of
12 Trustees were making changes during the COVID pandemic. Development rights are being taken
13 away. She asked the trustees to slow down.

14

15 **9. FOR APPOINTMENT:**

- 16 a) Two members to serve on the Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission for
17 two years. – **Mayor Nora L. Barraza.**

18 Mayor Barraza recommended Mr. Eric Walkinshaw and Mr. Daniel Jones to serve on the Planning, Zoning
19 and Historical Appropriateness Commission for two years.

20

21 **Motion: To approve appointments for the Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness**
22 **Commission, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

23

24 Trustee Garcia asked who was on the committee.

25

26 Mayor Barraza responded Commissioner Nevarez, Commissioner Lucero, Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez, and
27 herself.

28

29 Trustee Caro stated he feels the trustees should have been included and allowed some input as that was what
30 was done in the past.

31

32 Mayor Barraza stated she doesn't recall all the trustees being on a committee since there cannot be a quorum
33 during interviews.

34

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

36 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

37 Trustee Arzabal Yes

38 Trustee Caro Yes

39 Trustee Garcia Yes

40

- 41 b) One member to serve on the Board of Adjustments for one year. – **Mayor Nora L. Barraza.**

42 Mayor Barraza recommended Ms. Page Coleman to serve on the Board of Adjustments for one year.

43

44 **Motion: To approve appointment for the Board of Adjustments, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded**
45 **by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

46

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

48 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

49 Trustee Arzabal Yes

1 Trustee Caro Yes
2 Trustee Garcia Yes

3

4 **10. NEW BUSINESS**

5 a) **Resolution 2021-22:** a resolution authorizing the assignment of authorized officers and agents
6 for an agreement with the NM State Environment Department SAP 21-E2322-STB for a
7 SCADA system. – **Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director.**

8 Mr. McGillivray reviewed Resolution 2021-22.

9

10 **Motion: To approve Resolution 2021-22: a resolution authorizing the assignment of authorized officers**
11 **and agents for an agreement with the NM State Environment Department SAP 21-E2322-STB for a**
12 **SCADA system, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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 b) **Resolution 2021-23:** a resolution adopting the FY 2023-2027 Infrastructure Capital
21 Improvements Plan (ICIP). – **Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director.**

22 Mr. McGillivray reviewed the ICIP top seven.

23

24 Mayor Barraza stated feedback was received from Department Heads.

25

26 Trustee Garcia stated she feels item 2 should be item 1.

27

28 Mayor Barraza responded we are not in dire need of a well at this time.

29

30 Trustee Garcia recommended inviting the legislators to a presentation before going to Santa Fe.

31

32 Mayor Barraza stated legislators have asked municipalities to coordinate their meetings since it is difficult for
33 them to attend the all the different meetings. She asked SCCOG to coordinate such a meeting last year and
34 only Representative Lara attended. By the time the legislators get to Santa Fe they already know what is in the
35 packets.

36

37 Mr. McGillivray stated once the ICIP is submitted the next step is to meet with the legislators as we have done
38 in the past.

39

40 **Motion: To approve Resolution 2021-23: a resolution adopting the FY 2023-2027 Infrastructure Capital**
41 **Improvements Plan (ICIP), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Arzabal.**

42

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

44 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

45 Trustee Arzabal Yes

46 Trustee Caro Yes

47 Trustee Garcia Yes

48

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

50 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick gave an update of the MPO meeting.

51

52 Trustee Arzabal: CEO meeting on September 14th

53

1 Mayor Barraza: RTD meeting on Wednesday.
2
3

4 **12. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

5 Trustee Garica stated this ordinance has been worked on for two years now; worksessions and meetings have
6 been held to work on the ordinance. The residents say we do not hear or listen to them, but we do. She takes
7 offense at the comment regarding money. Feels the residents should get a response from the trustees, but they
8 don't wait to hear us out.
9

10 Mayor Barraza stated tonight was Public Input; a Public Hearing, which is required by law, will be held in two
11 weeks.
12

13 Trustee Arzabal stated a committee was created to work on the ordinance. He also finds the comment
14 regarding money very offensive.
15

16 Trustee Caro stated the residents brought forth some good points. Thinks maybe we should have a
17 professional look at the ordinance to pacify everyone.
18

19 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she feels the same frustration as the other trustees and agrees with the
20 residents' concerns. This ordinance was brought back to avoid encountering the same issues we had with Mr.
21 Geck's concerns. She also takes offense with some of the comments made tonight. During the worksession
22 she brought up her home as an example. She is not looking to benefit herself.
23

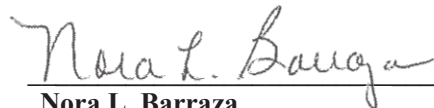
24 Mayor Barraza stated things needed to continue moving forward even during COVID. Residents do not attend
25 the work sessions or meetings. She is always getting complaints. There are 2,200+ opinions in the town; we
26 cannot please everyone. We have neighbors fighting regarding all kinds of issues. We are trying to address
27 concerns coming forth to the best of our ability. She takes offense when they say we do not listen to the
28 residents' concerns when we do listen. Also, feels there is a conflict of interest between SHPO and Mr. Taylor
29 since he works with SHPO on their property. Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez can research available companies to do
30 an analysis, but we are looking at around \$50,000 and up. Regarding transparency; we have been nothing but
31 transparent. Ordinances provide guidance to the commissioners and trustees. It would be difficult to have an
32 attorney present at all the meetings; would cost money. She is concerned when a trustee says to the public that
33 we are rushing into this when we have worked on this for two years holding several worksessions and
34 meetings. Candidacy filing day is Tuesday for two trustees and one judge. All calls regarding codes will be
35 sent to the Marshal's Department as they are dealing with codes.
36

37 **13. ADJOURNMENT**

38 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4).**
39


40 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:25 P.M.**

41
42 **APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.**
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46 **Nora L. Barraza**
47 **Mayor**

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49
50 **ATTEST:**

51 
52 _____
53 **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez**
54 **Town Clerk/Treasurer**

