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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) AND THE PLANNING, ZONING AND HISTORICAL APPROPRIATENESS  
COMMISSION (PZHAC)  
TOWN OF MESILLA  
JOINT WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021  
4:30 P.M.**

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

**TRUSTEES:** Nora Barraza, Mayor  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem (5:10 P.M.)  
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee  
Jesus Caro, Trustee (ABSENT)  
Veronica Garcia, Trustee

**PZHAC:** Yolanda Lucero, Chairperson (ABSENT)  
Daniel Jones, Commissioner  
Gerald Nevarez, Commissioner  
Davie Salas, Commissioner  
Eric Walkinshaw, Commissioner

**STAFF:** Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director  
Enrique Salas, Marshal  
Gloria Maya, Recorder

**PUBLIC:**

- 1. Discussion on draft ordinance 2021-02:** Establishing Zoning and Other Regulations for Cannabis as presented by Cannabis Ordinance Committee.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez reviewed the Zoning and Other regulations for Cannabis as presented by Cannabis Ordinance Committee.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez will send out a draft ordinance to P&Z and BOT and give them a week for comments.

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4 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)**  
5 **TOWN OF MESILLA**  
6 **REGULAR MEETING**  
7 **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021**  
8 **6:00 P.M.**

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

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12 **TRUSTEES:** Nora Barraza, Mayor  
13 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem  
14 Carlos Arzabal, Trustee  
15 Jesus Caro, Trustee (ABSENT)  
16 Veronica Garcia, Trustee  
17  
18 **STAFF:** Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
19 Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director  
20 Enrique Salas, Marshal  
21 Dorothy Sellers, Special Events Coordinator  
22 Gloria Maya, Recorder  
23  
24 **PUBLIC:** Adrianna Merrick Morgan Switzer  
25 Susan Krueger Crystal David-Whited  
26 Andy Embury Harry Evans  
27 R. Livingston  
28

29  
30 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

31 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
32

33 **2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

34 **Roll Call.**

35 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Caro, Trustee Garcia  
36

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

38 **Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Trustee Caro, Seconded by Trustee Arzabal.**  
39

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

41 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

42 Trustee Arzabal Yes

43 Trustee Caro Yes

44 Trustee Garcia Yes  
45

46  
47 **4. PRESENTATIONS:**

- 48 **a)** A Presentation to the Mesilla Fire Department from Spaceport America/FIORE Industries  
49 Command Team.

50 Representatives presented the Mesilla Fire Department from Spaceport American/FIORE Industries for  
51 stepping up, supporting, and teaming up with Spaceport America.  
52

1 Mayor Barraza thanked them for honoring our Fire Department. She tells everyone that all the volunteer  
2 firefighters are so dedicated and committed to the Town of Mesilla.

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

5 **Space is limited and may require persons giving public input IN PERSON to rotate if capacity of the**  
6 **room is exceeded.**

7 Ms. Merrick stated she feels decisions are made without listening or involving the businesses. Special  
8 Events Coordinator is giving last minute notices regarding events occurring in the town. We get in the  
9 back burner. We are having a hard time as we get out of COVID-19. Businesses are what help this  
10 town function.

11  
12 Mr. McClure stated his concern with the dust, portable potties and semis happening during the filming  
13 that is taking place in the town. There is a lack of respect.

14 Ms. Krueger stated the town needs to ask what the Architectural Style of Casa Blanca is. She  
15 recommends Mr. Cervantes speaks to the town regarding the Cannabis Ordinance before it is  
16 approved.

17  
18 Ms. Switzer stated little is discussed with Business Owners and any ratifications may occur. She  
19 would like to know how much money the town will receive from the movie that is being filmed in the  
20 town. We are finding out at the last minute what events are taking place. Many events do not bring  
21 businesses patrons. She is concerned with the Pop-up Markets. The blood is being drained out of the  
22 Brick/Mortar Businesses. The businesses need to be considered when making decisions that may hurt  
23 the businesses.

24  
25  
26 **6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: (The Board will be asked to approve by one motion the**  
27 **following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with an asterisk \*)**

28 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**  
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 a) **\*BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of a joint work session and regular meeting October 25, 2021.  
37 *Approved by consent agenda*

38  
39  
40 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 41 a) **For discussion:** Dona Ana County redistricting proposals. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**  
42

43 Mayor Barraza reviewed the proposal regarding redistricting.

44  
45 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she has not seen upon reviewing the meeting the redistricting of  
46 Mesilla which would give the town two county commissioners. She feels it is important to let the  
47 community know what is being proposed and to get everyone's thoughts. The deadline is in November.

48  
49 Trustee Arzabal asked what the reason for redistricting is.

50  
51 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick responded the redistricting is based on the census.

1  
2 Trustee Garcia stated we need to listen to the residents.

3  
4 Trustee Caro asked that the town invite Commissioner Reynolds to speak to the residents.

5  
6 Mayor Barraza stated we will schedule a Public Hearing with Commissioners Reynolds and Ellis and all  
7 interested residents.

8  
9 **b) Update:** on Small Business Saturday and upcoming Special Events. – **Dorothy Sellers,**  
10 **Community Programs Coordinator**

11 Ms. Sellers gave an update on Small Business Saturday and upcoming Town Events:

- 12 - November 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> - Netflix filming
- 13 - November 11<sup>th</sup> - Veteran's Day Ceremony
- 14 - November 13<sup>th</sup> – Gadsden Purchase Reenactment
- 15 - November 27<sup>th</sup> – Small Business Saturday
- 16 - Pop-up Market feedback
- 17 - December 3<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas Tree Lighting
- 18 - December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Luminarias

19  
20 Mayor Barraza stated we do not discuss personnel matters in open meetings. Personnel matters should be  
21 brought forth to her; go through the process.

22  
23 Trustee Garcia asked if the Pop-up Markets will be allowed on Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. She asked how  
24 businesses can get on the website.

25  
26 Ms. Sellers stated Mr. Schaefer has spoken to her regarding a Pop-up Market and what protocol will need to be  
27 followed. Businesses contact her regarding the website.

28  
29 Mayor Barraza stated as a government entity, the town cannot promote a single business. All the information  
30 is on the website.

31  
32 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked that the information be sent by email to the trustees and business  
33 owners.

34  
35 Mayor Barraza responded all the information is updated on the town's website.

36  
37 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated some information is missing.

38  
39 Ms. Sellers stated she will update the information and communicate more frequent with the businesses.

40  
41 Mayor Barraza stated some businesses are not getting e-blast; Ms. Sellers will be working on correcting that.  
42 Also, there was little or no activity during COVID. Thanked her for the good job done at the Halloween  
43 Carnival.

44  
45 Fire Chief Hoban stated having the haunted house outside made it safer.

46  
47 **c) For discussion:** repealing of MTC 10.15 Off-Highway Motor Vehicles. – **Nora L. Barraza,**  
48 **Mayor.**

49 Mayor Barraza stated they met with Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss Off-Highway Motor  
50 Vehicles. Off-highway motor vehicles are not allowed on state highways, Calle de Norte, Snow Road and  
51 Union. It is recommended to not allow the in the town.

1 Marshal Salas stated the issues are the noise, speeding, not abiding stop signs, or laws. They are currently  
2 tearing up the should and are riding on the new multi-path.  
3  
4 Fire Chief Hoban stated they are to be used to go to and from recreation areas, they are trespassing and causing  
5 more cost to the town.  
6  
7 Trustee Arzabal recommended revisiting the ordinance.  
8  
9 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she is concerned with speeding, pedestrian safety.  
10  
11 Trustee Caro asked about tractors, i.e., farm equipment.  
12  
13 Mayor Barraza responded farm equipment is not classified as off-highway vehicles.  
14  
15 Marshal Salas stated we are not talking about farm equipment.  
16  
17 Mayor Barraza stated the off-highway vehicles do not follow the rules.  
18  
19 Marshal Salas stated they receive constant complaints. This is a safety issue.  
20  
21 Mayor Barraza stated Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez will start the process.  
22  
23  
24 **d) For discussion/Approval: pay increases for Town staff. – Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**  
25  
26 Mayor Barraza stated the GRTs are excellent. She explained the process needed to be followed. The raises  
27 will come from the Operational Fund. We still need to be conservative.  
28  
29  
30 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked if there is money in the operating budget to give increases.  
31  
32 Mayor Barraza responded there is money due to the vacant positions.  
33  
34 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she recommends not giving one now and giving more next year. The  
35 county gave a 1.5% increase.  
36  
37 Trustee Caro stated he would look at a 2% and giving an increase next year.  
38  
39 Trustee Arzabal stated he supports a 2% increase.  
40  
41 Trustee Garcia stated in 2018 there was a .50 increase. Everything is going up; staff deserves a pay raise they  
42 worked during COVID.  
43  
44 **Motion: To approve pay increases for Town staff, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Mayor Pro**  
45 **Tem Johnson-Burick.**  
46  
47 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).  
48 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes  
49 Trustee Arzabal Yes  
50 Trustee Caro Yes  
51 Trustee Garcia Yes  
52  
53

1 e) **For discussion/Approval:** Town of Mesilla Fiscal Recovery Funds (federal funding for  
2 COVID-19 mitigation efforts) for pay enhancements and projects. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

3 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez explained the pay enhancement funds.

4  
5 Mayor Barraza stated department heads met and looked at ways to use the money.

6  
7 Trustee Garcia asked why we cannot give everyone \$1,500 straight across the board. She asked where will the  
8 \$2,000 come from.

9  
10 Mayor Barraza stated some staff was working from home. The funds will come from the Tourism Fund.

11  
12 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated some staff worked from home for one month and split shifts. We have  
13 received half now and will receive the remainder next year. Laptops and cell phones were issued to those  
14 employees.

15  
16 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated county employees were all paid the same.

17  
18 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated La Colonia funding will also be used for infrastructure.

19  
20 **Motion: To approve Town of Mesilla Fiscal Recovery Funds (federal funding for COVID-19 mitigation**  
21 **efforts) for pay enhancements and projects-amendment of making it \$1,500 straight across, Moved by**  
22 **Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

23  
24 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

25 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

26 Trustee Arzabal Yes

27 Trustee Caro Yes

28 Trustee Garcia Yes

29  
30  
31 f) **For discussion:** The Town of Mesilla film permit process. – **Stephanie Johnson-Burick,**  
32 **Mayor Pro-Tem.**

33 Mayor Barraza stated there is an application for review in the board packet and the article from Jeff Steinborn.

34  
35 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she has received questions and is concerned with transparency. She  
36 does not remember the permit coming to the board for approval. She wants the board to be informed on how  
37 much the revenue will be and where it will be put; wants it to go back into the community. Something that  
38 will benefit the residents.

39  
40 Mayor Barraza stated this is not the first movie filmed in Mesilla. There is a process that must be followed  
41 when applying for a movie permit. Recommends setting up a meeting to discuss the situation. They will be  
42 billed \$35,000. All buildings will be returned to their original state. We were told the residents were informed  
43 on what would be done.

44  
45 Ms. Sellers stated Netflix addressed the dust issue and concerns immediately.

46  
47 Mayor Barraza stated film permits are not approved by PZHAC or the Board of Trustees; department heads do  
48 need to sign off on the permit.

49  
50 Trustee Garcia asked who approves the amount. She would like to see the invoice. Asked when they notified  
51 the neighbors. Asked who approved the permit fees.

52

1 Ms. Sellers responded she was told by Netflix that neighbors within a two-block radius were notified two  
2 weeks ago.  
3  
4 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated the proposed fees were approved by the board at a prior meeting.  
5  
6 Trustee Arzabal asked if there were any fees for closing the roads. Businesses needed to be informed on what  
7 was happening.  
8  
9 Ms. Sellers responded we are asked not to share info and it then slipped her mind.  
10  
11 Trustee Caro asked what happened to the semi-truck restrictions.  
12  
13 Mayor Barraza asked Fire Chief Hoban if there are semis on the plaza.  
14  
15 Fire Chief Hoban stated they are delivery trucks not the movie company.  
16  
17 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked why Netflix was not required to go through the permit process since  
18 they were painting the buildings.  
19  
20 Fire Chief Hoban stated everything done will be undone. The town will have to address the issue if that is not  
21 done.  
22  
23 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated the Board of Trustees should have known in advance what would be  
24 going on.  
25  
26 Trustee Garcia stated she did ask at the last meeting when roads were going to be closed and about informing  
27 the businesses.  
28  
29 Mayor Barraza stated Trustee Garcia is contradicting herself; she previously stated she did not know anything  
30 about the it.  
31  
32 Trustee Garcia responded it was mentioned at the last meeting which was the first time and only time she had  
33 heard about it. She heard more about it on Facebook. She is not contradicting herself.  
34  
35 Mayor Barraza stated if anyone has questions all they need to do is call. We do a good job in communicating  
36 with each other here at the office. We are business friendly, but ordinances need to be followed. The  
37 businesses are happy Netflix is here as they frequent the restaurants and businesses. Ms. Sellers apologized  
38 for not communicating the information.  
39  
40 Ms. Switzer stated as mayor she is failing the community.  
41  
42 Mayor Barraza responded it is up to the businesses to draw people to their business. She is willing to meet on  
43 a one-to-one basis with anyone.  
44  
45  
46 g) **For Approval:** to enter into a contract with Molzen Corbin for design services for the Town of  
47 Mesilla Lighting Improvements Project. – **Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director.**  
48 Mr. McGillivray stated this is for the design project at \$125,000.  
49  
50 **Motion: To approve entering into a contract with Molzen-Corbin for design services for the Town of**  
51 **Mesilla Lighting Improvements Project, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**  
52  
53 **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

8 **8. \*STAFF REPORTS:**

9 Community Development  
10 Community Programs  
11 Finance Department  
12 Fire Department  
13 Marshal Department  
14 Public Works Department  
15

16 **9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

17 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: MPO Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. City of Las Cruces

18  
19 Trustee Garcia: MPO meeting  
20

21 Mayor Barraza: NMML Board of Directors Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup> Santa Fe; NMML Zone League (Virtual),  
22 NMML Cannabis Workshop (Virtual), RTD November 27<sup>th</sup>, Redistricting Public Hearing  
23  
24

25 **10. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

26 Mr. McGillivray stated Mesilla Water Booster Replacement has been placed on hold. Submitted a hardship  
27 letter and did receive a response.  
28

29 Trustee Garcia stated we need to take care of our residents, and businesses. We depend on GRTs to run the  
30 town. She is always hearing that we are not business friendly. We need to communicate with them better.  
31

32 Mayor Barraza responded do they feel there is a lack of communication. She has asked for Trustee Garcia to  
33 come in discuss any issues that have come up.  
34

35 Trustee Garcia stated she also hears that no one returns calls.  
36

37 Mayor Barraza stated she will ask Ms. Sellers to set up a meeting at the Community Center with all the  
38 business to discuss any issues they may have.  
39

40 Trustee Garcia stated let them talk.  
41

42 Trustee Arzabal stated he is glad that the board passed the 2% increase.  
43

44 Mayor Barraza stated the town cannot advertise an individual business by law.  
45

46 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she wants to use the money to benefit everyone. Recommended using  
47 it for playground equipment.  
48

49 Mayor Barraza responded playground equipment is very expensive. This will go into the General Fund and  
50 submit any suggestions they may have.  
51

52 Trustee Caro stated people need to be careful while driving on Calle de Sur as well as all the other roads. He  
53 will be unable to attend the Veteran's Ceremony this year.  
54



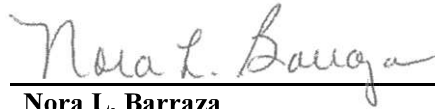
1 Mayor Barraza stated we will get the information out. Small Business Saturday will be held on November  
2 27<sup>th</sup>. The Native American Market was successful. We will meet with the businesses to discuss any  
3 suggestions and issues they may have. We need to work together to be successful and make Mesilla a better  
4 place. Historic preservation and keeping the ambiance is critical in attracting tourism.  
5  
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11 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

13  
14 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:58 P.M.**

15  
16 **APPROVED THIS 22nd DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2021.**

17  
18 

19  
20 **Nora L. Barraza**  
21 **Mayor**

22  
23  
24 **ATTEST:**

25  
26 

27  
28 **Cynthia Stoehner-Hernandez**  
29 **Town Clerk/Treasurer**

