



# Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)  
TOWN OF MESILLA REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022, 6:00 P.M.**

**REVISED MINUTES**

**TRUSTEES:** Nora Barraza, Mayor  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem  
Bivian Cadena, Trustee (Absent)  
Veronica Garcia, Trustee  
Adrianna Merrick, Trustee

**STAFF:** Rani Bush, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director  
Enrique Salas, Marshal  
Gloria Maya, Recorder

**PUBLIC:** Susan Krueger                      Veronica Alvarez  
Crystal Davis-Whited              Greg Whited  
Anthony Lucero                      George Klebansky  
Andy Embury

**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 Garcia, Trustee Merrick

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

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick    Yes

Trustee Garcia    Yes

Trustee Merrick    Yes

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

Ms. Krueger stated the property, Case #061336-2001 Avenida de Mesilla, which abuts her property is zoned RF not C. She believes she would have been notified had zoning been changed.

**5. PRESENTATION**

**a) Athletic Training Month Proclamation**

Ms. Bush read the Athletic Training Month Proclamation.

**6. 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 \*)

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick requested removing Case #061336 from the consent agenda.

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

- a) **\*BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of regular meeting, February 28, 2022. *Approved by consent agenda*
- b) **\*PZHAC Case #061336 – 2001 Avenida de Mesilla**, submitted by Charlie Rogers to build a commercial building. Construction of the building will be a metal building, with exterior walls completed in stucco and wood framing interior walls. **Zoned: General Commercial (C).**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked for clarification regarding the zoning.

Mayor Barraza stated this property is zoned C on the official map.

Trustee Garcia asked if all requirements were met, i.e., sprinklers. He was asked to bring forward a map.

Mayor Barraza stated that can be made a condition of approval. Mr. Padilla will inform Mr. Nevarez and the contractor that no permit will be issued until all is submitted.

Trustee Garcia asked about parking and wanted assurance that the building will not come down.

Mayor Barraza stated there is parking and the building will not come down.

Mr. Whited stated the conditions need to include the sprinkler system and fire alarm system prior to issuing permit.

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061336 – 2001 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Charlie Rogers to build a commercial building. Construction of the building will be a metal building, with exterior walls completed in stucco and wood framing interior walls. Zoned: General Commercial(C) – w/conditions, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

- c) **\*PZHAC Case #060959 - 1900 Calle de Pecana**, submitted by Ray Carlson for Lago Development Inc. a request to renew a building permit to finish construction of house, **Zoned: Historic Residential (HR).** *Approved by consent agenda*

**7. NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) **For Approval: Appeal on PZHAC Case #061333 - Ralph Lucero, Applicant – Mayor Barraza**

Mayor Barraza: this is an appeal on PZHAC Case #061333 for Ralph Lucero the applicant. I think his son Anthony is here to represent him. We have Jerry Nevarez representing the Planning and Zoning

commissioners. Before you and in your packet, we have – this case was denied by the Planning and Zoning. Planning and Zoning did deny this case on February 9, 2022. Mr. Lucero did submit on February 16, 2022, a letter to appeal this case and this is the case we have before us. We have included documentation as to why Planning and Zoning denied this case. And per our ordinance 18.06.160 an appeal from a zoning decision of the Planning and Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission. Under C – it is up to the Board of Trustees to determine that the order or determination or any part thereof of the Planning and Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission is unlawful or unreasonable. The Board of Trustees may make an appropriate change in any such order or determination. The Board of Trustees shall act on the appeal within 40 days after the Notice of Appeal was filed. We have met that deadline. In the letter – when an appeal alleges that there is an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination by the Planning and Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission or an official or committee thereof, in the exercise of its power and duties the Board of Trustees by a two-thirds vote of all of its members may authorize in appropriate cases and subject to appropriate conditions and safeguards, special exceptions to the terms of the zoning ordinance or resolution which are not contrary to the public interest. Where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the zoning ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship and so that the spirit of the zoning ordinance is observed, and substantial justice done or in conformity with Sections 3.21.1 through 3.21.14 NMSA 1978. Reverse any order, requirement, decision or determination of the planning, zoning and historical appropriateness commission, or determination of the planning, zoning, and historical appropriateness commission, or official or committee thereof. In reviewing Mr. Lucero's letter, we did meet the deadline of the 40 days for us to hear the appeal. In the letter there is no, he did not state the reason why he wanted to appeal the case other than he wanted to appeal the case. And we have attached Mr. Lucero's letter probably in the minutes. This case had come before the planning and zoning back in June, 2021. It was denied by planning and zoning; it went to the Board of Trustees on July 12, 2021. It was denied by the Board of Trustees. In the discussion of the planning and zoning as it came forth to P&Z they mentioned the Comprehension Plan. We did include in your packet the Comprehensive Plan where it talks about community comments. It states there let's keep commercial development to its existing zones. Other areas as residential but no apartments or condos. Achieving the preferred land use vision. And again, it does not support much growth in term of rentals. I hope everyone has had an opportunity to review read your packets, so I don't have to read the whole thing. And the other is, I received, actually Friday, a copy of the petition that was sent by residents and signed by residents and she can read that. Through our petition, our families are requesting that something be done to keep our town from turning into the new Santa Fe of southern New Mexico. We are not talking about the art culture or Indian influence, but about local family who have inherited their homes from parents and grandparents only to be unable to keep them due to the changes brought about by the building of apartments or rentals in our historic neighborhoods. We do not want to have to leave our homes because of the transient culture that will soon be taking over our town. We love Mesilla and our families have lived here for generations, but these transient properties such as apartments and rentals have started to change the face of Mesilla which is historic and small town and where we know and talk to our neighbors. We welcome permanent residents who want to become a part of our neighborhoods and join in our culture and history without changing it. Please look into the ordinances allowing apartments and other rentals to be built in our neighborhoods before it is too late. Let us stop the building of these apartments and rentals before we lose the ambience of our town. So I have included all this information for you hopefully to make a decision and basically in the past we have allowed the applicant and planning and zoning to defend their stance but as I was reading in the ordinance basically the Board of Trustees are to get the documentation to make their decision and I would like to hear from board how you would like to proceed.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: I just have a couple of questions. So this case came in front of us on June 10, 2021, for special meeting, we had a Public Hearing regarding the same situation. The Public Hearing back then, the permit put in, for two detached dwelling units. Detached dwelling units the applicant made it very clear that it was for rental properties, duplex, apartments. Planning and Zoning denied this case 4-0. So they appealed it to us, we denied it, I think it was 2-1, just us three here. So why is it coming, so then the permit last time when they, sorry struggling everybody it's been a long Monday. When they redid the permit, they had it that two single story family dwellings.

Mayor Barraza: it was the same

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: So now they are changing the permit-ok, so going back to that, Commissioner Salas isn't here; that he voted yes, this time around, whereas last time he stated in the minutes that he felt it would affect the development zone. And questioned did not meet, wait, felt this construction would affect the development zone. So all the commissioners did not support it back then so then they bring it back, the applicant brings it back again, two commissioners, one is new, supports it and the other one that was here last year does not support it. So I guess without Salas being here Commissioner Nevarez can answer, that is why the vote changed and so, I guess we're just bring it back again. Are we going to do this every year?

Mayor Barraza: Okay, So I can answer part of your questions on this. You are correct on the timeline as to what was presented. The only difference that I can see what was presented this time was there was an architectural style designated to the building. Other than that it was identical, same plans and the same use for two rentals. I understand, I did sit in on that Planning and Zoning meeting since at that time we did not have a Community Development Coordinator and so therefore I was doing that. Basically Mr. Salas feels this is something the board needs to address, not necessarily the Planning and Zoning. Unless Mr. Nevarez you can add to that.

Commissioner Nevarez: Do you want an overall?

Mayor Barraza: Just that part of it.

Commissioner Nevarez: Mr. Salas.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: Isn't it that Planning and Zoning job to address this before it comes to us?

Mayor Barraza: Correct

Commissioner Nevarez: It is the responsibility of the Planning and Zoning to review these items before they come to the trustees, and make a good faith effort, to vote on that. I was kinda taken by surprise by Commissioner Salas changing the vote because he had voted no the last time. There was a contradicted zoning development around there. You go out there, many times you're told at these meetings, they're expanding in that vicinity, and you can see. We are talking about the historical district, the core where our heart is, actually. Last time Commissioner Salas voted no because of the zoning. This time around he, I was there, and you were there, the reason he gave, actually he stated this could go either way, quote unquote.

Mayor Barraza: right

Commissioner Nevarez: before he voted yes. Because he felt, he still kinda believed, yea, this is a zoning development contradiction, sort of a contradicting the zoning. I could not understand that it could go either way. So that is what I am here to report as I witnessed that.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: Thank you for that insight. Because I, obviously I wasn't there as I was just curious as to how that came about, and his decision changed. Thank you, Mr. Nevarez. I do not have anymore questions at this time.

Trustee Merrick: So, is it in the correct zone or is it not?

Commissioner Nevarez: It is in the Historic District, if you look, I use the guidance of the Yguado Plan and the Comprehensive Plan.

Trustee Merrick: I looked at both

Commissioner Nevarez: Because the language in the Yguado Plan .... Constitutes the development zone. And so, the plan, Comprehensive Plan calls for appropriate .... land use development in Mesilla. So you are talking about historic district. I look at the responsibility very seriously. Do we want preserve Mesilla? It talks about preservation that you have to follow.

Trustee Merrick: Okay, and around it there is nothing like it, there are only single-family homes, is that the issue?

Commissioner Nevarez: There are single-family homes, there are some apartments. If there were bad judgements in the past, we want to perpetuate. That's the decision the trustees have to make. This is where we are now, this is the second time around. Both times it has not made through Planning and Zoning. I stand for further questions.

Mayor Barraza: Thank you. Any more questions, Trustee Merrick? Trustee Garcia

Trustee Garcia: I actually have several. One, we all have to vote, correct Mayor?

Mayor Barraza: I may have to recuse myself, probably recuse myself just because I sat at the Planning and Zoning and heard the information prior to you all.

Trustee Garcia: So, we have to have three yes's or four yes's or three no's, whatever it is.

Mayor Barraza: Rani? Two-thirds of what is present or the entire board?

Ms. Bush: I is not sure.

Mayor Barraza: Okay because it says two-third of all its members.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: That is what we did the last time, it is in the minutes.

Trustee Garcia: Okay I understand that we had this, but I understand we addressed as well too. The ordinance got changed, because the previous ordinance stated how many dwellings can they have before we changed the ordinance. So have many dwellings could each person have before the ordinance got changed.

Mayor Barraza: State that again.

Trustee Garcia: So, before we changed the ordinance how many dwellings can each...

Mayor Barraza: Before we changed the ordinance it was for every 6,000 square feet, one unit.

Trustee Garcia: Okay, one unit. So, we changed it, expanded to 8,000 so we did address this and allowing two. So, we did what the Comprehensive Plan stated we have to minimize it, so we did. The ordinance got changed, we updated everything. We did address this, and we did address the Comprehensive Plan. Am I right to say that or did I read this wrong? I'm just curious. Am I right or wrong? How many square footage is this anyway?

Mayor Barraza: 16,000 square feet

Trustee Garcia: The ordinance says 8,000 square feet, so he can have two. And Commissioner Nevarez said there is apartments in that area, correct Commissioner Nevarez?

Commissioner Nevarez: That's correct

Trustee Garcia: So, you did quite answer Trustee Merrick's question, is this in the development zone or not.

Mayor Barraza: I think Trustee Nevarez did answer her.

Commissioner Nevarez: If you look at the historic zone surrounded by Calle de Sur, Calle de Norte, Calle de Oeste, Highway 28. There are apartments but was it in best judgement at that time, I do not know when they were built. But you want to perpetuate that as we move forward. Do we want to preserve Mesilla and the ambiance it has created or do you want to change it as that is the decision before us.

Trustee Garcia: We preserved it by expanding the square footage by moving it up to 8,000 square feet.

Commissioner Nevarez: Not referring to the apartments beyond....

Mayor Barraza: Trustee Garcia, you need to address that to me.

Trustee Garcia: The Green Belt says we should build out toward that way, out University. It should be University on the Comprehensive Plan. That is Calle de Sur. So, we are building out. It is the same thing.

Mayor Barraza: The Green Belt is RF.

Trustee Garcia: So, that's basically what I have to say.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: So, I'm thinking the same purpose, I guess I should address this to Mr. Lucero. It is still going to rentals and duplexes everything we voted against in the past and it's the same plan that makes it look like apartments and duplexes. The wording has just changed.

Mayor Barraza: The wording has not changed; it has always been two single dwellings. It is not a duplex, in her opinion a duplex is attached, these are two dwellings on their own. Correct, Mr. Lucero.

Mr. Lucero: He never really attached them; I do not know how the apartment came about maybe Larry. We always put them as single-family dwellings.

Mayor Barraza: For rent

Mr. Lucero: yes. Single-family units, I don't know how the apartments came into play. I think he just assumed; my family owns several apartments in that area. But there are single family homes but there are also apartments whether they're duplexes or single units that are detached. It is a mix; almost 50/50.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: I am familiar with the area, and I do realize there are duplexes around but as Commissioner stated these were all done prior to the ordinance changing when we changed it. And again, I look at the Comprehensive Plan and Yguado Plan which we changed to address this issue. Listening to the residents in the development zone, I don't know if this is going to mix in with the area, I believe its to the west of the property.

Mr. Lucero: So being that there is not a full board, I would like to pull it again. So, every time I've come out here there's never been a full board. I've never had that fair opportunity.

Mayor Barraza: So unfortunately, I didn't expect a person to not be here, so we are here to hear an appeal. If you pull it is revoked; you withdraw your appeal. This board is here to hear your appeal so that is what we are going to do.

Mr. Lucero: Being that your brought up the Comprehensive Plan, and I tried to familiarize myself with what is stated in there and I created a short list of some of those things. Some of the things my family is trying to do is provide affordable housing which is greatly outlined throughout the plan. Another thing that was pointed out was the town's population was aging, no offense. Some of these whether you call them single-family dwellings, apartments, houses, whatever – a lot of those family interact with each other. They are a part of the community, they send their children to Mesilla Elementary, Mesilla Park, RGPI, local schools. We are trying to address that concern, the aging population, by providing housing which could bring in new families whether they are renters or they own the property; it doesn't really matter. I know that small amount of the land is available for new residential development, farmers what to hold on to their property. But you know, like I mentioned at the last meeting it is not very viable. That lot only has 16 trees, it is not like we are making really much off them, we are actually losing money. We are paying more in water rates than what we are getting from the pecans. The fact that my father had to drill a well, a substantial amount of money that we had to invest, and we really did not get anything. In there, you guys talked about land percentages, single-family

dwellings, primarily are residential. The next two are higher are the orchards and the farmland. In the Comprehensive Plan you talk about the need for building more houses to attract people that are either not from out of state or local whether it's the family that own the land and they passed it on to their family. That is what we are trying to do, whether my brother or his son lives in them, we are trying to pass it on. No offense to anybody out of state wanting to come into Mesilla. We are trying to keep it in the family. One of the goals that was outlined in the Comprehensive Plan was to ensure that all current and future residents of all income level have access to durable quality housing. That is what we are trying to provide. We are not building \$500/\$600-million-dollar homes on that lot. We are trying to build single-family dwellings units that are affordable. We do meet the open space requirements, you talked about the 8,000 being reduced to 6,000. We would be able to put two units on that lot which we followed. We are trying to enhance the mobility of the areas so more homeowners can purchase these. I know another thing that was brought up, what is your name?

Ms. Maya: Gloria

Mr. Lucero: At the last time, the traffic that could be caused by two units being built there. Calle de Sur is a feeder street so obviously I don't think there is going a whole lot of impact by adding two additional more units. That is really it, I am trying to plead my case because the last couple of times I've been out here there wasn't a full board and I felt that part was unfair. I know sometimes, and I see it a lot especially in the construction industry. Sometimes our own feelings or judgements play into some of these things. All I'm asking is a fair yes or no rule, that's it. Put your feelings aside whatever it maybe, allow us that fair rule and that is why I was asking for it to be postponed.

Mayor Barraza: Mr. Lucero, I have a quick question. I remember Cynthia mention to me that you were going to provide us documentation about the pervious, about the space, because I think our ordinance is 60/40.

Mr. Lucero: I did

Mayor Barraza: What was it? She did not receive it.

Mr. Lucero: It was hand delivered; a full set of plans.

Mayor Barraza: She did not receive it; do you remember what it was off the top of your head.

Mr. Lucero: It showed the calculations. It exceeded almost 80%. The two units are only 1,200 square feet. There is 1,600 square feet total on the lot.

Mayor Barraza: And with the parking and all

Mr. Lucero: Yes, ma'am

Mayor Barraza: Thank you. Any questions, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick?

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: Just a couple of questions. I certainly appreciate Mr. Lucero taking the time to read the Comprehensive Plan. And I certainly empathize and understand the situation but again just referring back, and in fact you just called them units, and you know that brought to mind my concerns with the traffic in that area. Going back to the reason I had decline to support it last time based on those same decisions that I made and things I said ultimately, I am going to have to continue, you know, to not support it this time because of those concerns. Thank you, Madam Mayor.

Mayor Barraza: Thank you, Mayor Pro Tem. Any more questions? Trustee Garcia.

Trustee Garcia: I know it's an appeal, can we get legal opinion on it.

Mayor Barraza: No.

Trustee Garcia: Why not?

Mayor Barraza: Why do you wait until the appeal to get legal opinion?

Trustee Garcia: Because we just got it in front of us. We have to see every case as if its brand new. So, why can't we get legal opinion on it, you guys did it before.

Mayor Barraza: On an appeal?

Trustee Garcia: I don't know if it was an appeal, that's why she's asking why can't we get legal opinion on it. I'm just pissed.

Mayor Barraza: I would rather we just move... I feel we've held up Mr. Lucero up quite a long time. Is it going to change anybody's mind, the legal opinion?

Trustee Garcia: We could of put it on the last, to be fair to him. He emailed us February 16<sup>th</sup>, we had a meeting February twenty-something and it wasn't on there.

Mayor Barraza: That is correct. We had up to 40-days

Trustee Garcia: Right. We're pushing it up to the last minute, just to be fair to him too.

Mayor Barraza: You received your packet on Thursday evening.

Trustee Garcia: Thursday evening. Right, Right- But he sent it on the 15<sup>th</sup> so we had plenty of time to put it on the 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mayor Barraza: We didn't because we are short staffed as you are aware. And we had to get, we were trying to get caught up on all the cases. We heard this case on February 9<sup>th</sup>, and I think we had like 20 cases at that time. We had to make sure we had all our documentation to the Board of Trustees to make decisions.

Trustee Garcia: We've done this before, that's why I'm just curious why we can't get legal opinion, that's why I'm asking. Why can't we?

Mayor Barraza: What would be your questions?

Trustee Garcia: Ask him is he in the right or is he in the wrong.

Mayor Barraza: I think that is what the Planning and Zoning decided on and that's....So are we questioning the decision of the Planning and Zoning? Is that what you want me to take to the attorney, that... the decision of the Planning and Zoning.

Trustee Garcia: Yea. It was a 2/2 vote and Davie, Commissioner Salas changed his opinion. I know, I understand Commissioner Nevarez spoke for him on his behalf. I would take it to legal, to see is he in the right or is he in the wrong, legal opinion.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: Madam Mayor...Trustee Garcia, I appreciate that thought, you know, if we had more time, I think at this point we just need to take a vote because I don't know that in my case, my vote is going to change based on what Mr. Cervantes says.

Inaudible

Mayor Barraza: Yea, let me just read this. I would say no, I think we need to move forward with this appeal. I agree with Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick that Mr. Lucero heard this on February 9<sup>th</sup> with the Planning and Zoning, and we had gone through the process. With that being said....



Trustee Garcia: I make a motion to approve appeal on PZHAC Case #061333 for Ralph Lucero, he does meet the Comprehensive Plan and he does meet the ordinance.

**Motion: To approve appeal on PZHAC Case #061333 – Ralph Lucero, Applicant, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Motion denied (summary: Yes =2; No=1).

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick No

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

Ms. Maya: Mayor is it...two-thirds, correct

Mayor Barraza: Yes

Ms. Maya: Motion passed

Mayor Barraza: Motion denied

**b) For Approval: Amended Contract for Danny Garcia – Mayor Barraza**

Marshal Salas reviewed amendment to Danny Garcia's contract which includes the use of a town vehicle.

**Motion: To approve amended contract for Danny Garcia, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

**c) For Approval: Proposal from Molzen Corbin for Engineering Services for the Plaza Sidewalk Improvement Project (Capital Outlay Fund 89200 – Control Number 21-F2741 for \$117,000) – Rod McGillivray**

Mr. McGillivray gave an overview of the Plaza Sidewalk Improvement Project.

**Motion: To approve proposal from Molzen-Corbin for Engineering Services for the Plaza Sidewalk improvement Project (Capital Outlay Fund 89200 – Control Number 21-F2741 for \$117,000), Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.**

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Merrick Yes

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

Trustee Garcia: New Mexico Workforce "Zoom" meeting on Friday.

Trustee Merrick: MPO meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of April

Mayor Barraza: Staff Meeting/Defensive Driving Course was held March 1<sup>st</sup>; Business Owner meeting March 9<sup>th</sup>; Mercado Vendors meeting March 10<sup>th</sup>. Architectural Style Committee meeting (Mr. Padilla) March 7<sup>th</sup>. Met with Trustee Merrick to review budget process.

## **9. STAFF REPORTS**

- a) Community Development
- b) Community Programs
- c) Finance Department
- d) Fire Department
- e) Marshal Department
- f) Public Works Department

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

Ms. Bush stated she is excited to be here and will be meeting with the Department Heads.

Mr. McGillivary stated Colonia application has been submitted

Mr. Klebansky stated he is available when needed.

Ms. Bush thanked Ms. Maya for holding up the fort, she really needs recognition for that.

Trustee Merrick read letter regarding comments made at Business Owners meeting. Mr. Lucero is trying to keep his family together and that is why she made the decision she made. Her grandparents also have rentals which sustains their family. She moved to Mesilla and is investing in Mesilla. She wants to ensure that they are protecting Mesilla's history. We need to figure out a way to work together. She felt she was ramrodded at the Business Owner meeting. Many cannot sustain a life in Mesilla, so they are not coming back.

Trustee Garcia stated she did not know about the meeting, would appreciate being notified. She thanked Ms. Maya for holding up the fort. She stated that Ms. Stoeher-Hernandez lost her father and to keep her in their prayers.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick thanked Ms. Maya for all her hard work not just in times when we are short staffed but constantly and endlessly. She is so devoted to the town. Everyone is appreciated. Thanked the Mayor for juggling all those hats. Thanked Trustee Merrick for her passion for the town that we all share. She welcomed Ms. Bush and Mr. Padilla to the Town of Mesilla.

Trustee Merrick stated she listened but when they talk about her family that is a different ballgame.

Mayor Barraza stated she has served the town since 1995 and decisions are never easy to make. She has learned so much while serving these 20 years. People are very vocal during meetings. We do what is right for the town which may not be popular decisions. The board respects each other's decisions which is the key to working together. I may not agree but I listen to the residents. Asked everyone to keep Ms. Stoeher-Hernandez in their prayers. We will be meeting with the Business Owners on a quarterly basis. She was disappointed with the outcome of the legislative session. Senators had \$3.5 million dollars in Capital Outlay, Representatives had \$2 million dollars to distribute. Mesilla received \$50,000 from Senator Cervantes for the Public Safety Building, \$40,000 from Senator Diamond for admin vehicles, \$300,000 from Senator Hamlen; \$50,000 for Mesilla fire hydrants and \$250,000 for the Public Safety Building, \$50,000 from Representative Cadena for fire hydrants. All paperwork was submitted to the legislators, next year we are going to take a stronger approach.

Trustee Merrick stated she had spoken to Senator Diamond who stated no one reached out to her.

Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Armijo could not get our legislators on the same page. Due to redistricting, there will be new legislators.

Trustee Garcia recommended reaching out and inviting them to meetings and town events.

Mayor Barraza stated Ms. Bush will coordinate with Ms. Sellers in making information available. Recommends starting earlier on ICIP. She will be out of town until March 27<sup>th</sup> but will be available by phone.

Mr. Whited reviewed status.

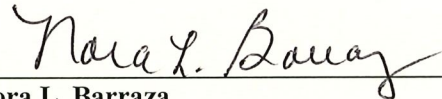
Trustee Garcia thanked Mr. Whited for attending the Architectural Style Committee meetings and Mr. McGillivray for his work with Las Colonias.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:26 P.M.**

**APPROVED THIS 11th DAY OF APRIL 2022.**



Nora L. Barraza  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**



Rani Bush  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

