



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

TOWN OF MESILLA

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022 AGENDA

WORK SESSION – 5:00 P.M.

TRUSTEES: Nora Barraza, Mayor
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
Biviana Cadena, Trustee
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
Anthony Lucero

1. Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget

Mayor Barraza: Ms. Bush needed to make corrections to line items and do some clean ups. There are changes that will be done during the year that need to be reflected in the budget. We are at a 32% increase in GRTs compared to last year. Current minimum wage is at \$11.50 and will go up January 1, 2023. The 5% increase will put the employees at \$12.00 an hour.

Ms. Bush: reviewed the preliminary Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

Trustee Merrick: asked which employees are salaried.

Mayor Barraza: Department Heads are salaried.

Trustee Merrick: asked about the Enterprise Fund line items; salaries and utility rates.

Mayor Barraza: solid waste expenditures and revenues are not balancing.

Ms. Bush: salaries are being charged to that line item.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: based the rates.....

Mayor Barraza: at one time there was not enough money in the General Fund to pay some of the Public Works employees' salaries, so they were moved to the Enterprise Fund.

Trustee Merrick: concerned with being able to meet the \$15.00 an hour minimum wage rate.

Trustee Garcia: other places are giving a .50 increase (annually) until the \$15.00 is met.

Trustee Merrick: asked if they can help break the budget down and help them get a better understanding.

Ms. Bush: broke it down by department for a better understanding.

Mayor Barraza: in the past there was a power point presentation which helped the board understand the budget.

Trustee Merrick: trying to understand why salaries are being charged to solid waste as fund is in the red.

Mayor Barraza: expenses are high so it may not be because of salaries; that was not anticipated in last year's budget.

Trustee Merrick: she wants to be able to know what we get and what we are spending when she goes to Santa Fe to ask for money.

Mayor Barraza: legislators look at Capital Outlay monies. We are fortunate that there is money in the budget to cover the unexpected increase in expenditures.

Fire Chief Hoban: we have been able to avoid furloughs as we had to do in the past.

Mayor Barraza: Solid waste RFT is not until next year.

Ms. Bush: Southwest Disposal bought out Mesilla Valley Disposal.

Mayor Barraza: CPI will go up in July so utility rates will increase.

Ms. Bush: she understands it is around 2%.

Mayor Barraza: we will be looking at increasing our utility rates as Mesilla's rates are not even close to rates around the area. Those increases will be done gradually and according to the CPI. Also, there is a need to increase property taxes.

Trustee Cadena: some fund line items are in the negative.

Mayor Barraza: Department Heads can transfer money from one line item to another in operating expenses to cover deficits; cannot touch salary line item. Transfers submitted to the state must come to the board for approval.

Trustee Cadena: budgeting higher than what was actually spent according to the printout.

Mayor Barraza: some of the expenses that were budgeted are not paid until the end of the fiscal year which makes the budget look like there is a balance. Also, someone made have dropped benefits, etc. which changes what was budgeted. Department Heads know they must stay within their budget. Unexpected emergencies need to come out of the budget.

Trustee Cadena: asked if the court comes to the board to hire personnel.

Mayor Barraza: court is judicial and is separate from executive legislative and administration. Judge can do what he wishes as long as he stays within his budget.

Trustee Garcia: asked about the Court Bailiff.

Mayor Barraza: the bailiff is paid through the other expenses line item. She was not aware of the hiring at the time it was done. Planning to meet with the judge once he comes back to see what he wants to do.

Trustee Merrick: asked about a creating a pay ladder.

Mayor Barraza: we will be looking at a pay chart for salaries.

Worksession ended at 5:56 p.m.

MEETING – 6:00 P.M.

TRUSTEES: Nora Barraza, Mayor
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
Biviana Cadena, Trustee
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 Anthony Lucero
Natalie Ogas S. McBoney
Crystal Davis-Whited Greg Whited

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 Cadena, Trustee Garcia, Trustee Merrick.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL

Trustee Cadena requested removing New Business item a and to be placed on the May 31, 2022, Special Meeting on agenda.

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena 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 inaudible

Mr. Lucero stated there was a good article in Sunday’s paper. His concern is being treated fairly.

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 *)

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Merrick Yes

a) ***BOT MINUTES - Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 9, 2022. *Approved by consent agenda***

6. PUBLIC HEARING

a) Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget

Motion: To close Regular Meeting and open Public Hearing, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Merrick Yes

Opened Public Hearing at 6:08 p.m.

Mayor Barraza reviewed the proposed budget.

Motion: To close Public Hearing and open Regular Meeting, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Merrick Yes

Opened Regular Meeting at 6:10 p.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) For Approval: Submission of Interim Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget *Removed from agenda*

b) Discussion: Process after an Appeal Denial

Mayor Barraza stated there still are questions regarding the appeal process. The process must be followed; starting with the PZHAC and if the applicant wants to take it further the final step is going to District Court. The Board of Trustees decision is final and conclusive. The applicant has the right to choose what he would like to do. The board must follow the ordinances when deciding on cases.

Trustee Garcia asked how long the wait is to reapply.

Mayor Barraza responded Mr. Cervantes was going to do research on the timeframe.

Trustee Garcia stated we do not have a timeline.

Mayor Barraza stated we will get clarification from Mr. Cervantes.

Trustee Garcia stated Mr. Cervantes had indicated that the board can waive a one year waiting period.

Mayor Barraza stated she is confused since the ordinance reads the Board of Trustees decision is final and conclusive.

Trustee Garcia asked when they will be able to get clarification.

Mayor Barraza stated she will reach out to Mr. Cervantes.

8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Merrick: Policy Board meeting Wednesday a.m.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting Wednesday, June 8th

Trustee Garcia: Architectural Style Meeting Tuesday, May 24th.

Mayor Barraza: MPO meeting, Ride of Silence, Judge Investment Ceremony

9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

Fire Chief Hoban stated Firefighter Javier Sanchez graduated. There are some restrictions around the state regarding fireworks, he will keep the board informed.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated as work continues on the budget, she wants them to keep in mind that they had discussed putting aside \$10,000.00 for the film industry.

Trustee Cadena stated she attended MOLI training. She appreciates hearing public comments.

Trustee Merrick stated the board has different ideas, but their primary goal is to preserve the history of Mesilla. She is available to help with the budget if needed. Feels they are doing a good job in following the ordinances. We need to move forward in seeing how we can help our residents.

Mayor Barraza stated she was not sure what the amount was for the film industry.

Trustee Merrick responded the board wanted to see the budget before deciding on the amount.

Mayor Barraza stated we will look at that closer.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated the board was not comfortable with the \$20,000.00.

Mayor Barraza stated the board received an email from Ms. Krueger regarding the zoning of a property. That property was zoned commercial in 1996; signed of by Mayor Aranda. We will be updating the information with the county. MOLI training was well attended. Offices will be closed on Monday in observance of Memorial Day. There is a Special Meeting regarding the budget scheduled for Tuesday, May 31st. Municipal League Board of Director’s Meeting on Saturday, June 4th. Next meeting will June 13th. The article in Sunday’s paper was well written. Agrees with Trustee Cadena that the board welcomes public comments.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:39 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 13th DAY OF JUNE, 2022.

Nora L. Barraza

Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:

Rani Bush

Rani Bush
Town Clerk/Treasurer

