



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

TOWN OF MESILLA

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022 – 6:00 PM

MINUTES

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
Enrique Salas, Marshal
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC:

Crystal Davis-Whited	Greg Whited
Andy Embury	G. Klebansky
Robert Reynolds	Laurie Findley
Susan Krueger	Rose Sherman
Jasha Zapien	

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

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

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

No Public Input

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 consent 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, September 26, 2022 *Approved by consent agenda*

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: To close Regular Meeting and enter Executive Session for discussion:

- a) Concerning purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property or water rights pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8)
- b) Concerning attorney/client privilege matters pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7)

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

Entered Executive Session at 6:04 p.m.

Motion: To enter Regular Meeting after discussion:

- a) Concerning purchase, acquisition, or disposal of real property or water rights pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(8)
- b) Concerning attorney/client privilege matters pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7),

No Action Taken, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Entered Regular Meeting at 7:22 p.m.

7. STAFF REPORTS

- a) PA System Update for Boardroom & Budget Adjustments – Rani Bush, Clerk-Treasurer

Ms. Bush gave an update on the PA System for boardroom, quote came in at \$45,182.00 to be paid with ARC funds and the budget adjustments.

Mayor Barraza stated there is a delay on the shipping of materials.

Mayor Barraza stated that Ms. Bush has done a great job cleaning up the budget. They met with the Department Heads to review the adjustments.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **For Approval: PZHAC Case#061457** – 2415 Calle de Parian submitted by Robert Reynolds to install solar project. **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR).**

Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061457 – 2415 Calle de Parian submitted by Robert Reynolds to install solar project. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.

Mayor Barraza stated the panels will not be visible from the street; will need to go to CID.

Mr. Padilla stated PZHAC vote was 4-0; they assured that it would not be visible from the street.

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

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

- b) **For Approval: PZHAC Case #061461** – 2190 Avenida de Mesilla submitted by Emily Cano to replace three windows. **Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC)**

Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061461 – 2190 Avenida de Mesilla submitted by Emily Cano to replace three windows. Zoned Historical Commercial (HC), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Trustee Garcia stated Mr. Maese was going to go to see if the current windows were commercial or residential.

Mr. Padilla stated the PZHAC condition was that the windows would have tempered glass since it is a commercial building, and if possible, the presence of old wood frame. Mr. Maese stated the current windows are very old, so he asked that the windows replacements be aesthetic wood type.

Amended Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061461 – 2190 Avenida de Mesilla submitted by Emily Cano to replace three windows with the PZHAC conditions, Moved by Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Second by Trustee Garcia.

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

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

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

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

- c) **For Approval: NMED Capital Appropriation Project Agreement for SAP 22-G2334-STB Mesilla Fire Hydrants**

Mayor Barraza stated we will be utilizing Capital Outlay funds for this project approved by the legislators.

Motion: To approve NMED Capital Appropriation Project Agreement for SAP-22-G2334-STB Mesilla Fire Hydrants, 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

d) For Approval: Resolution 2022-18 NMED SAP 22-G2334-STB Mesilla Fire Hydrants Authorized Officer(s) and Agent(s)

Mayor Barraza stated the authorized officer(s) and agent(s) would be herself, Mr. McGillivray, and Ms. Bush.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2022-18 NMED SAP 22-G2334-STB Mesilla Fire Hydrants Authorized Officers(s) and Agent(s), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, 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

e) For Approval: Resolution 2022-19 Budget Adjustment #1 FY23

Motion: To approve Resolution 2022-19 Budget Adjustments #1 FY23, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Trustee Garcia stated this increase is only for the Public Works staff. She understands that Mr. Astorga will not be receiving the increase.

Ms. Bush stated Mr. McGillivray recommended the increase be for the crew.

Trustee Garcia asked what needs to be done so Mr. Astorga can receive the increase.

Mayor Barraza responded an amendment to the motion can be made to include Mr. Astorga.

Trustee Garcia asked if the increase would put all employees to at least \$15 an hour.

Ms. Bush responded the lowest paid would be at \$13.50.

Trustee Garcia stated looking at the numbers would we be able to give the Marshal's Department an increase.

Mayor Barraza responded that would not be her recommendation. Everyone got a 5% a COLA this year. If you look at one department then you need to look at the entire staff.

Trustee Garcia stated everything is going up and we should look at giving everyone an increase. She understands the Marshal's Department is union.

Mayor Barraza stated the Marshal's Department is not a union.

Trustee Garcia stated then now is a good time to give an increase because if they do become union then we have to open up our books. It would show that we did give them an increase.

Mayor Barraza stated if it opens up for negotiations that means more money. Reiterated that would not be her recommendation at this time. This is the budget adjustment that we are proposing currently.

Trustee Merrick asked how employees are hourly.

Ms. Bush responded seventeen are hourly and four salaried.

Trustee Garcia stated we need to take care of our staff and be competitive. A COLA is not a raise. The employees had their hours cut; was that ever made up. This board always says we will look at it in the future but "mañana never comes." We need to look at giving everyone an increase in a month, not a percentage but a dollar amount. She understood employees would be at \$15 an hour and that is not what happened.

Trustee Merrick stated we are cautious regarding spending, but hourly employees need to be revisited. It will help us keep employees and creates a better environment. She would like to see the cost for including all the hourly employees and then also look at the Department Heads.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she supports the passion and beliefs of the trustees. We looked at employees making under \$15. She cautioned the trustees that raises cannot be give to only some employees. We need to ensure we are fair with the compensation and job responsibilities but does support looking at this down the road.

Trustee Cadena stated she supports giving everyone an increase; asked about the costs.

Mayor Barraza stated there is different funding sources for employees. An increase needs to include benefits (if applicable), PERA and taxes.

Trustee Cadena stated we would like to get that number.

Mayor Barraza stated another thing is we would need to see if the increase would be from the operational fund or the cushion that we currently have. Ms. Bush would need to do the calculation. She would like to open a position to help Ms. Bush. The board requested that there be a range scheduled step for each updated job description which she has asked Department Heads to look at. We need to be fair by including all employees as well as the Department Heads.

Trustee Garcia asked for the numbers and also recommended leaving the vacant positions at the current rate which would allow a cushion for negotiating.

Mayor Barraza stated the goal is to get everyone to minimum wage, does not feel that would work.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated that could become a liability challenge.

Trustee Garcia asked how long it will take to get the numbers.

Mayor Barraza stated we will work at getting these numbers for the next meeting. Due to Mr. Padilla leaving Ms. Bush and herself will have added responsibilities.

Trustee Garcia asked about compensation for the added duties being placed on Ms. Bush.

Mayor Barraza responded we can discuss that at the next meeting.

Trustee Garcia stated amended the original motion to include the Public Works Foreman and to begin at the start of the next pay period.

Amended Motion: To approve Resolution 2022-19 Budget Adjustments #1 FY23 with a \$1.00 increase

for all Public Works staff starting on next pay period; to include Mr. Astorga and to begin at the next pay period start date, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.

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

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

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

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

9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Merrick: (did not attend) MPO meeting

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting, next MPO meeting November 9th

Trustee Garcia: did not attend the meeting, Architectural Style Committee Tuesday

Trustee Cadena: Committee Meeting via Zoom October 27th

Mayor Barraza: (did not attend) MPO meeting, US/Mexico Summit, Legal Conference; NMIFA, RTD meeting (will not attend), NMDOT virtual meeting

10. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

(Written staff reports included in packet)

Marshal Salas stated Halloween Carnival, DEA medicine disposal program this week.

Ms. Bush stated the summit was highly informative. Early voting taking place at town hall and Halloween Carnival on Saturday.

Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Padilla's last day is Friday; thanked him for all he did for the town.

Ms. Bush thanked Mr. Padilla for all he did.

Mr. Padilla thanked everyone, and it was a pleasure working with everyone.

Trustee Cadena stated it is nice to know that we will be updating our system. She asked if the attorney is on a retainer.

Mayor Barraza responded he is in 15-minute increments.

Trustee Cadena stated she had asked about the PZHAC terms. We need to move forward in following the ordinances.

Trustee Merrick thanked Mr. Padilla for everything he did. He will be missed. Thanked Ms. Bush for doing a great job on the budget. She is available to help where needed. She has looked at the budget and it is possible

to give everyone an increase. We want to address salaries to be competitive. It is of utmost importance to have a joint worksession. She understands there are three PZHAC vacancies; believes there was appointments without board approval. Zoom is new reality; people should not be excluded. It is not in the ordinances that there is Zoom participation is not allowed. Dia de Los Muertos is a great event. She is always willing to help where it is needed.

Trustee Garcia thanked Mr. Padilla for the great job he did. Ms. Bush did a great job on the budget and appreciates the open-door policy. She needs guidance with the Workforce Solution meetings. She supports the staff because without them things would not get done.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick thanked Mr. Padilla and Ms. Bush for all their hard work.

Mayor Barraza stated tomorrow will be the last Architectural Style Meeting. We will be doing our best to move cases forward. The Board of Trustees and PZHAC worksession is crucial.

Ms. Bush stated we are looking at November 14th for the worksession.

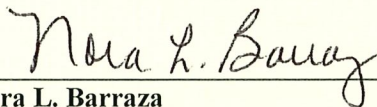
Mayor Barraza stated she researched the PZHAC appointments and could not find the information. We are looking at getting positions on schedule. Appointments will be staggered and be two-year terms, January to December. Voting taking place at Town Hall and Dia de Los Muertos will be this weekend. The mayor puts the agenda together and can choose to allow Zoom or Teleconference. Issues that arise with Zoom and Teleconference is the difficulty to hear or to see presentations which is not fair to the applicant. She is bothered with comments being made by the Board of Trustees. Staff has been offended by comments being made by this board as well. There are trustees contacting former employees and offering them a position that is not even available. If you want to campaign for a candidate that is your choice but please do not contact former employees regarding filling positions. She is the current mayor and will be till the end of next year. Also, at this point she will be running again. Also does not appreciate members of this board offering former employees or current employee's positions. Cautioned the board on their interaction with the employees. She is the CEO/boss of the town; that is what she was elected to be. It is her responsibility and not the trustees to oversee the staff. If trustees have any questions or concerns, they are to call her not the department heads or staff. If need be, she will direct staff to not respond to the board's phone calls. A reminder this is not an election year. She respects the board and their decisions but do not undermine her. Everything gets back to her. It saddens her because she felt the board had a good working relationship and does not like the staff being put in that kind of position.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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


MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:34 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 14TH TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022.



Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:



Rani Bush
Town Clerk-Treasurer

