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Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

TOWN OF MESILLA

REGULAR MEETING

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 – 6:00 PM

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MINUTES

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TRUSTEES: Nora Barraza, Mayor
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
Biviana Cadena, Trustee
Veronica Garcia, Trustee (left at 7:33 p.m.)
Adrianna Merrick, Trustee

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48

STAFF: Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
Enrique Salas, Marshal
Gloria Maya, Recorder
Ben Azcarate, Lieutenant

PUBLIC: Jacquie Porter Andrea Bryan
Greg Lester William McIlvaine
Stephan McIlvaine Teresa Tudury
Becky King Catherine Walkinshaw
Trina Witter Andrew Embury
Cecilia Quintana Pat Taylor
Crystal Davis-Whited Greg Whited
Mary H. Ratje 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

1 **Merrick.**

2
3 Trustee Garcia stated the Contractor number needs to be provided.

4
5 Mayor Barraza responded the permit will not be issued until that information is provided.

6
7 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated the divider between the two properties has already been added.

8
9 Mayor Barraza responded she will send Codes to follow up.

10
11 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

12 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

13 Trustee Cadena Yes

14 Trustee Garcia Yes

15 Trustee Merrick Yes

16
17 g) **PZHAC Case #061505** – 2840 Teresita, submitted by Jacquie Porter, to repair stucco, add
18 color coat, trim paint, replace windows on back porch, and rain gutters under canals. **Zoned:**
19 **Historical Residential (HR)**

20 **Motion:** To approve PZHAC Case #061505 – 2840 Teresita, submitted by Jacquie Porter, to repair
21 stucco, add color coat, trim paint, replace windows on back porch, and rain gutters under canals.

22 **Zoned:** Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.

23
24 Trustee Garcia asked if the rain gutters will direct the water on to their property.

25
26 Mayor Barraza responded that is correct.

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

29 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

30 Trustee Cadena Yes

31 Trustee Garcia Yes

32 Trustee Merrick Yes

33
34 h) **PZHAC Case #061509** – 2293 Calle de Santa Ana, submitted by Adam/Josephine Perez to
35 reroof house. **Zoned:** Historical Residential (HR)

36 **Motion:** To approve PZHAC Case #061509 – 2293 Calle de Santa Ana, submitted by Adam/Josephine
37 Perez to reroof house. **Zoned:** Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick,
38 **Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

39
40 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

41 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

42 Trustee Cadena Yes

43 Trustee Garcia Yes

44 Trustee Merrick Yes

45
46 i) **PZHAC Case #061510** – 2184 Calle de Arroyo, submitted by Cheryl Blevins to repair and
47 repaint soffit and fascia on house. **Zoned:** Historical Residential (HR)

48 **Motion:** To approve PZHAC Case #061510 – 2184 Calle de Arroyo, submitted by Cheryl Blevins to
49 repair and repaint soffit and fascia on house. **Zoned:** Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro
50 Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.

51
52 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).

53 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

1 Trustee Cadena Yes
2 Trustee Garcia Yes
3 Trustee Merrick Yes
4

5 j) **PZHAC Case #061511** – 2649 Calle Primera, submitted by Paul & Cheryll Blevins to repair
6 and replace fascia and repaint trim and windows. **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR)**
7 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061511 – 2649 Calle Primera, submitted by Paul & Cheryll Blevins**
8 **to repair and replace fascia and repaint trim and windows. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR), Moved**
9 **by Trustee Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

10
11 Trustee Garcia asked if the color would remain the same.
12
13 Mayor Barraza responded they will be matching the same color.
14

15 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).
16 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
17 Trustee Cadena Yes
18 Trustee Garcia Yes
19 Trustee Merrick Yes
20

21 k) **PZHAC Case #061512** – 2483 Calle de San Albino, submitted by Alicia Diaz to remove
22 exterior concrete collar and cement plaster, replace damaged adobe, lime plaster and lower
23 brick sidewalk. **Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC)**
24 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061512 – 2483 Calle de San Albino, submitted by Alicia Diaz to**
25 **remove exterior concrete collar and cement plaster, replace damaged adobe, lime plaster and lower brick**
26 **sidewalk. Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC), Moved by Trustee Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

27
28 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).
29 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
30 Trustee Cadena Yes
31 Trustee Garcia Yes
32 Trustee Merrick Yes
33

34 l) **PZHAC Case #061513** – 2261 Calle de Santiago, submitted by Dorothy Barclay to patch roof
35 parapet and touch up paint. **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR)**
36 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061513 – 2261 Calle de Santiago, submitted by Dorothy Barclay to**
37 **patch roof parapet and touch up paint. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem**
38 **Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Merrick.**

39
40 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4).
41 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
42 Trustee Cadena Yes
43 Trustee Garcia Yes
44 Trustee Merrick Yes
45

46 m) **PZHAC Case #061514** – 2865 Teresita, submitted by Shirley Hitson to paint exterior walls of
47 the house. **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR)**
48 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061514 – 2865 Teresita, submitted by Shirley Hitson to paint**
49 **exterior walls of the house. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Trustee Merrick, Seconded**
50 **by Trustee Garcia.**
51

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

2 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

3 Trustee Cadena Yes

4 Trustee Garcia Yes

5 Trustee Merrick Yes

7 n) **PZHAC Case #061515** – 2316 Calle de Colon, submitted by Steve Martinez to enclose garage,
8 install doors, construct no-load bearing wall/stucco. **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR)**

9 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061515 – 2316 Calle de Colon, submitted by Steve Martinez to**
10 **enclose garage, install doors, construct no-load bearing wall/stucco. Zoned: Historical Residential**
11 **(HR), Moved by Trustee Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

14 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

15 Trustee Cadena Yes

16 Trustee Garcia Yes

17 Trustee Merrick Yes

19 o) **For Approval:** Mayor Pro-Tem Election

20 Trustee Garcia nominated Trustee Merrick as Mayor Pro Tem.

22 **Motion: To approve nomination of Trustee Merrick for Mayor Pro Tem, Moved by Trustee Garcia,**
23 **Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

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

26 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

27 Trustee Cadena Yes

28 Trustee Garcia Yes

29 Trustee Merrick Yes

31 p) **For Approval:** PZHAC Commissioners Appointment

32 Mayor Barraza: we did get seven letters of interest in the P&Z position. We do have three open positions
33 on the P&Z at the time. We did extend them for a month due to the fact the Board of Trustees did not have
34 a meeting at the end of December due to some of the staff having COVID, I was out sick and we were not
35 able to proceed but we needed to clear all the cases. As you heard we had a lot of cases to move forth. So,
36 the Planning and Zoning will serve until January 31st. We did have seven applicants, Trustee Merrick and
37 myself visited with six of these applicants or letters of interest. One was a no show that's why we did not
38 talk to that person. We did have a form; we were consistent in asking the same questions. We used the
39 same form in asking all the applicants the same questions. We were very consistent on that. Based on the
40 way the ordinance is written, the mayor makes a recommendation to the Board of Trustees for appointments.
41 And Trustee Merrick and myself after talking to the candidates we did come up with three appointments.
42 At this time, I will present those three to the Board of Trustees. We will have a motion, a second, just like
43 we do everything else. So at this time the three that are being recommended are David Rockstraw, Davie
44 Salas and Yolanda Lucero. So those were the three top people we spoke to. So, I stand...need a motion
45 before we have a discussion.

47 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Commissioners Appointment, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick,**

48 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: I do have some comments. We

50 Mayor Barraza: you will have to wait. **Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

52 Mayor Barraza: we are open for discussion.

1
2 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: we did go through all these applications very diligently, there was a lot of back and
3 forth. There was a lot of discussion. And as I talk to the mayor these are the people that I that had the most
4 experience but I did encourage her to contact the other applicants to continue being a part of any other
5 committees we may have so they can gain the knowledge and the experience. That way we have, we do have
6 elections every two years, she would like to see them continue to be a part of the community, to learn more and
7 have that experience with us.

8
9 Mayor Barraza: thank you Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.

10
11 Trustee Johnson-Burick: I thought Commissioner Lucero was wanting to get off after all these years.

12
13 Mayor Barraza: she had thought of that, I guess she had received some calls encouraging her. That was a
14 discussion item we had.

15
16 Trustee Johnson-Burick: oh, so I'm just like ok.

17
18 Trustee Garcia: I have a question. So, Mayor Pro Tem and the mayor you both agreed to these three.

19
20 Mayor Barraza: yes.

21
22 Trustee Garcia: I'm gonna let the cat out of the bag, I know they were asking about the mayor's sister she's
23 on there. I'm gonna let it out so everybody will know. Yes, it is her sister on it. It was the mayor and
24 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick on the board, as you heard they both agreed to it. We are supported with the board,
25 with one another so it wasn't just the mayor recommend it, but she had support from another Board of
26 Trustees. So, I just letting that know, being aware of it. So, because I see you guys shaking your heads.

27
28 Mayor Barraza: she is my sister. That was a discussion we did have. About nepotism, this is a non-paid
29 position, so it is not considered nepotism. She is not an employee of the town. And that's in our ordinance
30 book, if they are employees and I would supervise, it would be nepotism.

31
32 Mayor Barraza: Gloria, oh I'm sorry. Trustee Cadena

33
34 Trustee Cadena: I did understand from Ms. Lucero that she was kind of tired of it. So, I'm just surprised that
35 she put her hat back in. And I just really feel like there is a lot of reason to put experience people in but the
36 only way to gain experience and the only way to get new blood into the system is to pick up other people. Can
37 you tell me how long Mr. Salas has been now?

38
39 Mayor Barraza: this is his second term.

40
41 Trustee Cadena: this is only his second term?

42
43 Trustee Garcia: it is his third.

44
45 Mayor Barraza: it would be his third. Thank you, Trustee Garcia.

46
47 Trustee Cadena: this is his third, starting his third consecutive term. I know there is a learning curve to all of
48 these positions more complicated than they seem. So, okay I think it is important that we have a lot of
49 transparency about the way this is done. Cause the ordinances could be cleaned up a little bit because it was
50 vague for everybody and when people don't hear that, I mean, I'm glad to hear, mayor, you know that I called
51 you about interviewing everybody that applied. Cause we wanted to ensure that that was done. She is happy
52 to hear that.

53
54 Mayor Barraza: Thank you, Trustee Cadena.

1
2 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

3 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

4 Trustee Cadena Yes

5 Trustee Garcia Yes

6 Trustee Merrick Yes

7
8 Mayor Barraza: Thank you, Mayor Pro Tem Merrick for taking that full day from your schedule to sit down
9 with me to do these, visit with these applicants. And I sincerely agree with you that we have Lodger's Tax
10 Committee that we're going to be appointing here soon, so we can include these other applicants or letters of
11 interest in those and we can see what other committees are coming up so we can most definitely start involving
12 community members to get involved. Thank you
13

14 **q) For Approval:** Resolution 2023-03 Adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code

15 **Motion: To approve Resolution 2023-03 Adoption of the 2021 International Fire Code, Moved by**
16 **Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.**

17
18 Mayor Barraza asked if there are deadlines to comply with if Resolution 2023-03 is approved.

19
20 Fire Marshal Whited responded the deadlines would be up to him. He will work with the businesses.

21
22 Mayor Barraza asked if Short-Term Rentals need to follow the same fire codes.

23
24 Fire Marshal responded yes as they are considered a business. All dwellings should have alarms and carbon
25 monoxide systems. Bars and restaurants will be required to have sprinkler systems.

26
27 Trustee Garcia asked how businesses will be notified.

28
29 Fire Marshal responded he will send out notifications as well as visiting the business.

30
31 Trustee Garcia recommended meeting with the Experience Mesilla committee. Now she understands why he
32 was pushing for sprinklers.

33
34 Fire Marshal Whited stated this will be coming forth by the state. We have \$1,000 left in the grant for smoke
35 alarms. Residents can call the station requesting a smoke alarm.

36
37 Mayor Barraza recommended posting the information at the normal places. Information can also be added to
38 the business renewal application. Numbers are available for the residents to post their house addresses on their
39 dwelling.

40
41 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated historical buildings that may have vigas will have an issue adding sprinkler
42 systems.

43
44 Fire Marshal Whited gave example of what is needed if a dwelling does not have a sprinkler system. This is
45 our way of preserving the town.

46
47 Trustee Cadena stated she feels it is an advantage to the town if he takes control of the situation before the
48 state. Asked what happens if we do not adopt a timeline.

49
50 Fire Marshal Whited responded we have control on fire safety in the Town of Mesilla. If not adopted the ISO
51 will go up. CID will ask about sprinkler systems when submitting a permit. He is available to answer
52 questions.

53
54 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =4).

1 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
2 Trustee Cadena Yes
3 Trustee Garcia Yes
4 Trustee Merrick Yes

5

6 **r) For Approval: SCADA System Project Award - Alterman, Inc.**

7 **Motion: To approve SCADA System Project Award – Alterman, Inc, Moved by Trustee Johnson-**
8 **Burick, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.**

9

10 Trustee Cadena asked what is causing the shortage.

11

12 Mr. McGillivray responded the original request was \$140,000; and received \$100,000. Project needed to be
13 scaled back without additional funding.

14

15 Mayor Barraza stated this is for \$72,900.

16

17 Mr. McGillivray stated \$72,900 plus \$13,500 for engineering, \$13,600 for construction and administration; not
18 including GRT. This will allow us to monitor the tank from here.

19

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

21 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

22 Trustee Cadena Yes

23 Trustee Garcia Yes

24 Trustee Merrick Yes

25

26 **s) For Approval: Calle de Cura Reconstruction Project Award - A-Mountain**

27 **Motion: To approve Calle de Cura Reconstruction Project Award – A-Mountain, Moved by Trustee**
28 **Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.**

29

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

31 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

32 Trustee Cadena Yes

33 Trustee Garcia Yes

34 Trustee Merrick Yes

35

36 7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

37 **a)** Discussion concerning attorney/client privilege matters pertaining to threatened or pending
38 litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section
39 10-15-1(H)(7)

40 **Motion: To approve entering Executive Session – discussion concerning attorney/client privilege matters**
41 **pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant**
42 **pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7), Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Mayor**
43 **Pro Tem Merrick.**

44

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

46 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

47 Trustee Cadena Yes

48 Trustee Garcia Yes

49 Trustee Merrick Yes

50

51 Entered Executive Session at 7:11 p.m.

52

53 **Motion: To approve enter Regular Meeting after limited discussion concerning attorney/client privilege**

1 matters pertaining to threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a
2 participant pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(7) – no action taken, Moved by Trustee
3 Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.
4

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

6 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes

7 Trustee Cadena Yes

8 Trustee Garcia Yes

9 Trustee Merrick Yes

10
11 Entered Regular Meeting at 7:33 p.m.
12

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

14 Trustee Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting January 11th; next meeting Wednesday, February 8th

15
16 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: MPO meeting January 11th; next meeting Wednesday, February 8th

17
18 Mayor Barraza: MPO meeting, STRD meeting. Thanked Acting Fire Chief Evans, Fire Marshal Whited, Ms.
19 Davis-Whited, Mr. Embry and Mr. Klebansky for all they are doing to keep the department running smoothly.
20

21 **9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

22 Trustee Cadena stated she always welcome the Public Input.
23

24 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated we are looking at PZHAC Administrative Approvals. Thanked the Department
25 Heads for their input on the ICIP. Thanked Mr. Taylor for his expertise. Her door is always open if anyone
26 has questions.
27

28 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked everyone for their thoughts on the loss of her loved one.
29

30 Mayor Barraza thanked Trustee Johnson-Burick for serving as Mayor Pro Tem. We will look into the Earth
31 Builders Built. We have the resources in the Town of Mesilla, i.e., Mr. Taylor, Mr. Limon and Mr. Leifeld.

32 We received the correspondence from Ms. Telgard. This case cannot be discussed at this time since it is going
33 through the PZHAC process. Ordinance is clear on the roles of the town staff and PZHAC of what can be by
34 Administrative Approval. She met with NMDOT regarding the University Ave. project which will begin in
35 2023-2024. This project, when first brought forward was at \$4 million, it is now at \$20 million. Ms. Bush is
36 working on the weekends finishing up certain projects. Fire Chief, Town Clerk/Treasurer, Public Works
37 Maintenance and Administrative Clerk are the positions that are open. Interviewing for the Administrative
38 Clerk next Friday. Staff, trustees, and she will be in Santa Fe from Monday through Wednesday speaking to
39 legislators looking at getting some of our projects funded and on February 17th which is Municipal Day.
40 Interviews will be set up for the Fire Chief and Town Clerk positions. The Codes Enforcement Officer is
41 addressing the sign situation. Read ordinance We will be looking at modifying the Sandwich Signs as well
42 as other ordinances. Thanked everyone for all their hard work.
43

44 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

45 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4).**
46

47 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:03 P.M.**
48

49 **APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2023.**
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Nora L. Barraza
Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:

Gloria Smaya

Town Clerk/Treasurer



To Mayor Braraza & Board of Trustees

Please include the following in the official record.

BOT Meeting 1/26, 6:00 pm

Attached are some additional petitions. They include 41 more individuals who do not want to see a mono pine cell tower in Town Hall Park.







For the record. There are many more individuals who do not want it in the park, but for various reason they don't want to sign their name.

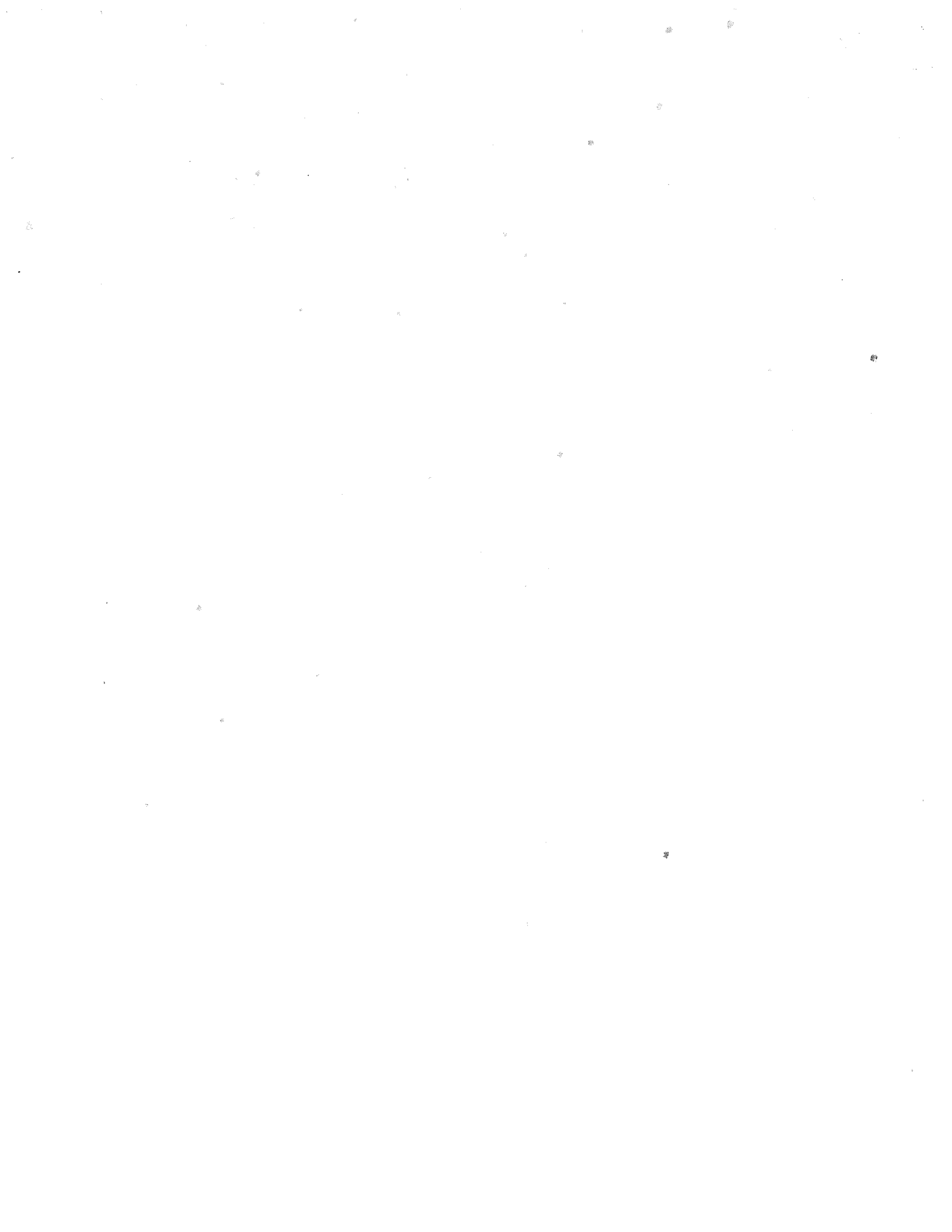
Thank you,
Andrea Bryan

STOP THE VERIZON CELL TOWER IN HISTORIC MESILLA!

We, the undersigned call upon the Mesilla Board of Trustees and the Mayor of Mesilla to reconsider the proposed location of the Verizon cell tower at the Town Hall Park and to research an alternate location. Studies have shown that cell towers will negatively affect property values up to 20% within 1500ft. Property within the line of site of a cell tower has a greater depreciation. Apart from this, safety concerns such as fall risk, lightning strikes, health risks such as cancer and neurological disorders, aesthetics, noise levels make this an unacceptable move for our thriving, healthy community.

Our town of Mesilla, that prides itself on its historic heritage and has become a successful tourist destination, should not be considering the addition of such on out of scale structure in the historic district.

Signature	Full Name	Email Address	Mailing Address	Telephone
	Catherine Lazorko	catlazorko@gmail.com	P.O. Box 1056 Mesilla, NM 88046	919-265-7516
	Nick Brewer	nicholaslbrewer@gmail.com	Po Box 1056 Mesilla, NM 88046	919-360-8576
	David Brazier	dbrazier2@gmail.com	Po Box 1056 Mesilla, NM	919-259-2758
	Jill Kern	jillsherenkern@gmail.com	Po Box 1220 Mesilla	919-360-3033
	William Melvaine	Wbmelvaine@gmail.com	Po Box 30 88046	310 990 9896
	STEPHAN MELVAINE	spmclvaine@gmail.com	Po Box 360 88046	310 614 5531



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We, the undersigned call upon the Mesilla Board of Trustees and the Mayor of Mesilla to reconsider the proposed location of the Verizon cell tower at the Town Hall Park and to research an alternate location. Studies have shown that cell towers will negatively affect property values up to 20% within 1500ft of the tower. Property within the line of site of a cell tower has a greater depreciation. Apart from this, safety concerns such as fall risk, lightning strikes, health risks such as cancer and neurological disorders. Aesthetics and noise levels also make this an unacceptable move for our thriving, healthy community.





Our town of Mesilla, that prides itself on its historic heritage and has become a successful tourist destination, should not be considering the addition of such on out of scale structure in the historic district.

Signature	Full Name	Email Address	Mailing Address	Telephone
	Gary Hornumel		P.O. Box 569 Mesilla	(575) 644-0572
	Susan Emery		2025 Ureata Ct 108 Curran St Mesilla, NM 88005	575 202-1002
	Roberta Kolp		P.O. Box 414 Mesilla, NM 88006	575 635-1504
	Paul W. Karp		P.O. Box 474 Mesilla, NM 88006	575 635-7524
	Janet Hampton		P.O. Box 1749 Mesilla, NM 88046	(202) 494-2174
	Connor Ratie		P.O. Box 707 Mesilla, NM 88046	(575) 694-0114
	Victor R. Savaris		5624 REED WOLF LAS CRUCES, NM 88007	508-596-6271
	Gail G. Taylor		2341 Calle de Arroyo	505-670-5648
	Edouard Luscher		637 N. Armiño Las Cruces, NM 88005	575 571 6956
	Eric S. Luscher		637 N. Armiño Las Cruces, NM 88005	571-7476

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Signature	Full Name	Email Address	Mailing Address	Telephone
	Lisa Perea	lisaperea.mn@gmail.com	P.O. Box 1042 Mesilla NM 88046	515.496.5042
	Elizabeth Pabore	avohareca@gmail.com	PO Box 146 Mesilla NM 88046	505-635-1801
	JIM RATIS	JIMRATIS@COMCAST.NET	PO Box 727 NM 88046	505-644-4601
	Sarah Lischer		637 Armiño LC, NM	505 571 6193

1. *Shirley Lopez*
 2. *Camelia Lopez*
STOP THE VERIZON CELL TOWER IN HISTORIC MESILLA!

Las Cruces and surrounding communities value historic Mesilla as a well know tourist attraction and a destination point want their voices to be heard.

We, the undersigned call upon the Mesilla Board of Trustees and the Mayor of Mesilla to reconsider the proposed location of the Verizon cell tower at the Town Hall Park and to research an alternate location. Studies have shown that cell towers will negatively affect property values up to 20% within 1500ft. Property within the line of site of a cell tower has a greater depreciation. Apart from this, safety concerns such as fall risk, lightning strikes, health risks such as cancer and neurological disorders, aesthetics, noise levels make this an unacceptable move for our thriving, healthy community.

The town of Mesilla, that prides itself on its historic heritage and has become a successful tourist destination, should not be considering the addition of such on out of scale structure in the historic district.

Signature	Full Name	Email Address	Mailing Address	Telephone
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Lucy Segura</i>	<i>lucysegura@yahoo.com</i>		<i>575-635-0298</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>MARK RUSHE</i>	<i>2880 Lake View</i>		
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Belinda Vicil</i>		<i>PO BOX 506 Mesilla NM</i>	<i>2050 Valencia Mesk 575-524-1261</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Barbara Staffer</i>	<i>2337 Calle de Guadalupe</i>	<i>bsstaffer849@gmail.com</i>	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>		<i>575-524-1261</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Frank Paul Bend</i>	<i>polo: the clown@gmail</i>		<i>575-222-6571</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Jane P. Hie</i>	<i>JaneHie@aol.com</i>	<i>4431 Trees Yucca</i>	<i>760-647-5545</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>B. Morrison</i>	<i>Bob Morrison</i>	<i>W/H</i>	<i>N/A</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Christy Atkins</i>	<i>christyatkins@gmail.com</i>	<i>PO Box 455 Mesilla, NM 88061</i>	<i>4855107003</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Max Restivo</i>	<i>maxwellr@aol.com</i>		<i>N/A</i>
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>Christine Lopez</i>	<i>christinefvergara@gmail.com</i>	<i>PO Box 208 Mesilla, NM 88046</i>	<i>575-210-5782</i>

(A) *Brandon Vergara* *[Signature]* *vergabrandv@gmail.com* *PO Box 208 Mesilla, NM 88046* *720-605-9169*

STOP THE VERIZON CELL TOWER IN HISTORIC MESILLA!

We, the undersigned call upon the Mesilla Board of Trustees and the Mayor of Mesilla to reconsider the proposed location of the Verizon cell tower at the Town Hall Park and to research an alternate location. Studies have shown that cell towers will negatively affect property values up to 20% within 1500ft. of the tower. Property within the line of site of a cell tower has a greater depreciation. Apart from this, safety concerns such as fall risk, lightning strikes, health risks such as cancer and neurological disorders. Aesthetics and noise levels also make this an unacceptable move for our thriving, healthy community.

Our town of Mesilla, that prides itself on its historic heritage and has become a successful tourist destination, should not be considering the addition of such on out of scale structure in the historic district.

Signature	Full Name	Email Address	Mailing Address	Telephone
<i>Sandra Wagon</i>	Sandra Wagon	SWagon70@gmail.com	PO Box 937 Mesilla, NM 88046	575-621-0039
<i>Milca Mizell</i>	Milca Mizell	MIZELL53@gmail.com	2200 W. WINDY AT LES GUES, NM 88005	505.206.7622
<i>Eric Mizell</i>	Eric Mizell		11	480 432 73
<i>Sarah E.F. Smith</i>	Sarah E.F. Smith		Box 337 Mesilla, NM	—
<i>Brian Nickerson</i>	Brian Nickerson	brennickerson@gmail.com	PO Box 1146	—
<i>Brian Nickerson</i>	Brian Nickerson	witch50na@yahoo.com	1425 Spruce Spilla LG, NM 88001	575-312-8349
<i>Elmer Nelson</i>	Elmer Nelson			575-694-9781
<i>John R. Nelson</i>	John R. Nelson	1215 W. 5th St 22950 W. Drive Hwy 66		975 644 5421
<i>Dylan Nelson</i>	Dylan Nelson		2950 W. Vanhook	503 349 7614
<i>Felicia Miraz</i>	Felicia Miraz	omera20@comcast.net	PO Box 313 Mesilla, NM 88046	575-496-8058

Good Day,

My name is Kathy Telgard. I live at 2310 Calle Del Oeste in Mesilla. I am writing concerning PZHAC case #61452 and the request by Mark Lara to place a temporary conex storage box next door to my home at 2261 Calle Del Oeste.

Mr. Lara has already had this container on the property since I arrived for the winter on 10/14/ 2021. He apparently started the permission process in September of 2022 and I feel the members of the P&Z Board need to clarify exactly how long that container has already been there. FIFTEEN MONTHS that I know of.. While we want to get along with our neighbors and have always done so with the Gallegos, Mr. Lara does not live there. No one lives there. The shipping container is used to store Mr. Laras ATV and now the yard has another smaller shipping container and a collection of 5 trailers. Are folks allowed that many?

I am afraid that giving Mr. Lara permission for this container will open floodgates for others to plop containers in their yards in the Historic District. I would like this letter to be submitted into the minutes and shared by all P&Z Board members as I will be unable to attend the next meeting.

Thank you,

Respectfully,

Kathy Telgard

William B. McIlvaine MD, CM
PO Box 360
2687 Calle de Parian
Mesilla NM 88046
320-990-9896

26 JAN 2023

Board of Trustees
Town of Mesilla NM
Regular Meeting
26 JAN 2023

Nora Barraza, Mayor
Stephanie Johnson-Burrick, Mayor Pro Tem
Biviana Cadena, Trustee
Veronica Garcia, Trustee
Adrianna Merrick, Trustee

Please include this letter in the minutes of this meeting (26 JAN 2023) of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Mesilla.

RE: Proposed cell tower for Town of Mesilla

Dear Madame Mayor & Trustees of Mesilla

I rise to ask questions and submit comments on the proposed cell tower.

What is the anticipated monthly revenue to the Town of Mesilla from the proposed cell tower lease?

What percentage of the annual income of the Town does this anticipated revenue represent?

Is this lease only for access to the Town's land or does the lease provide increased revenue to the Town from the tower and the companies using the tower?

Is there a limit to the number of transceivers on the tower and a limit to the associated radio frequency energy emitted?

Can the Town sell the lease to another agency or company?

What is the anticipated square footage of the site?

Does this include the building which will house the base band unit, equipment for the distribution of power and data signals to the transceivers, necessary fiberoptic cables and HVAC equipment ?

Will the fiberoptic cable be placed underground? If so, along what route?

Will this cable bring fiberoptic internet to the residents of the village?

What will be the source of the backup power for the tower - diesel generator or solar panels?

If diesel, how often will the generator be powered through a test cycle spreading noise and air pollution through the area?

If solar power, where will the panels be located and where will the batteries be placed?

Does the agreement include funding to return the park to its current configuration by removing the tower, its foundation and associated equipment at the anticipated end of life for the tower?

Is the primary issue driving this project determined by the anticipated revenue to the Town?

If the primary issue is public safety, what alternative technologies to a cell tower have been explored?

We all know that cell technology is rapidly changing. Alternatives to tall towers are operating today. In fact, LinkNYC already provides free, high speed, secure public Wi-Fi to millions of New Yorkers. I suggest the Board of Trustees review the system as described at the NYC Office of Technology LinkNYC web pages.


As this is a dying technology, it seems clear that this decision does not future proof our Village. We currently have free Wi-Fi from Comcast Xfinity available through out the plaza from broadband routers located in homes and businesses in Mesilla. Please review the Wi-Fi coverage map at Xfinity.com.

Can this system be spread at much lower cost to the entire town, thereby improving public safety?

It is not the citizens responsibility to find alternatives to a cell tower.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to do their required due diligence and to present the alternatives to the voters as the most responsible choice for our Town, its residents and its future needs.

Thank you.



William McLvaine

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Mesilla, New Mexico
26 JAN23
Stephan McIlvaine
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When I was at university in the '90's we studied a famous case of an ill-fated urban renewal program of the 1970's which created a pedestrian mall in what was once the historic center of Las Cruces, NM. This case is notorious and was recently highlighted at The Branigan Library in Las Cruces. Facts surrounding this program are easily accessible on line. Granted, creating a pedestrian mall is not under consideration here but erecting a cell tower in the center of Old Mesilla would degrade the historic ambiance here. To quote one article: "The people of Las Cruces have come together to restore much of what was lost in the 1970's." Let us take note of this fiasco in Las Cruces so long ago and take action to make sure it doesn't happen here.

I have been informed that concern for human health resulting from emissions from cell towers cannot be used as a basis for arguments against installation of a proposed cell tower adjacent to the Mesilla Police Department in Old Mesilla.

However, those who will make the final decision for the emplacement of this tower should be aware that facts regarding the deleterious effects of cell tower emissions on human health are legion and that:

"AT&T has dismissed concerns of resulting effects from the operation of [cell towers] based on its conclusion that the radio frequency emission will be much lower than the current standards of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

"Those standards, which have not been reviewed for many years, are grossly inadequate for protection of human health..."

The FCC admits that it has no health expertise, and it has been described by Harvard scientists as 'a captured agency' because its members all come from the telecommunication industry." Excerpt from a letter from Dr. David O. Carpenter, a public health physician, to The Greenfield Recorder newspaper. recorder.com ret'd 26JAN23

"A number of adverse health effects have been documented at levels below the FCC guidelines, which include altered white blood cells in children; childhood leukemia; impaired motor function, reaction time, and memory; headaches, dizziness, fatigue, weakness, and insomnia etc." Report: Environmental & Biological Effects of Cell Tower Radiation" by Gauran H. Tandon, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering; pdf printout available.

Consider please the negative aesthetic impact of cell towers in a residential neighborhood and the danger of potential tower crashes in the event of storms and gusty winds. In addition, please consider the deleterious effects of EMF emissions on Mesilla's farm crops and stock animals:

BEES:

—"In the US, an abrupt disappearance of bees was observed several years back and was associated with the rising electromagnetic pollution. **This is known as Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) where bees cannot find their way back to the hive as a result of consistent electromagnetic back ground (sic) noise that seems to disrupt intercellular communication within individual bees.** (emphasis in the original) CCD has since spread to

Comments to The Board of Trustees
Mesilla, New Mexico
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Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Scotland, Wales and north-west England. In England, the bee population fell by 54% between 1985 and 2005 compared to an average of 20 per cent across Europe.”

“Bees are estimated to pollinate 90 commercial crops worldwide. The current dying/ vanishing of honey bees can have serious consequences for human health. Scientists warn that the steady decline in bees and other pollinators could trigger crises bigger and more immediate than global warming.”

BIRDS

— “When birds are exposed to weak electromagnetic fields, they disorient and begin to fly in all directions, which explain(s) migratory birds undermining navigational abilities.” p89

— “Several million birds of 230 species die each year from collisions with telecommunications masts in the United States during migration.” p89

— Electromagnetic radiation from Cell (sic) phone and cell tower affects the birds, animals, plant and environment.... The reason is the surface area of a bird is relatively larger than their weight in comparison to human body, so they absorb more radiation (power = power density X area) Since fluid content is small due to less weight, it gets heated up very fast and also the magnetic field disturbs their navigational skills.”

MAMMALS AND AMPHIBIANS

— “The study in Germany showed that cows grazing near cell towers are more likely to experience still births, spontaneous abortions, birth deformities, behavioral problems and general declines in overall health. Moving cattle herds away from such towers has reportedly led to immediate health improvements. p93

— “Exposing dairy cows to magnetic fields can also result in reduction in milk yield, changed milk composition and fertility problems.” p93

— “...impaired immune system in sheep, reproductive and developmental problems in dogs and cats, anxiety and alarm in rabbits, frequent death of domestic animals such as, hamsters, and guinea pigs living near base stations or mobile telecommunication towers has been observed.” p95

— “Bat activity is significantly reduced in habitats exposed to electromagnetic field(s).” p95

PLANTS

— “Studies show definitive clues that cell phone EMF can choke seeds, inhibit germination and root growth, thereby affecting the overall growth of agricultural crops. A reduction in wheat and corn yield in the fields near high EMF lines has also been reported.” p97

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—Progressive deterioration of trees near phone masts has also been observed. Trees located inside the main lobe (beam), look sad and feeble, have dried tops, show slow growth and high susceptibility to illness and plagues.” p99

Report: Environmental & Biological Effects of Cell Tower Radiation” by Gauran H. Tandon, Assistant Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering; pdf printout available. Please note that Dr. Tandon’s first language is not English.

From: Teresa Tudury tet@sonic.net
Subject: Teresa Tudury Mesilla resident who does not want a
cell tower in historic Mesilla
Date: Jan 26, 2023 at 4:02:33 PM
To: Andrea Bryan andrea97212@yahoo.com

Madam Mayor,

I have riddled myself with this question...how does someone justify in their mind imposing an unwanted, behemoth, arguably toxic 60 ft. Cell tower on their neighbors and friends...which inevitably diminishes those friends property values, their health and the beauty of their neighborhood? I have struggled with this thought. I've wondered at what kind of a person you are. I saw you at the Christmas gathering in the plaza. You spoke movingly of the friends and family that had gone on in life and asked us to remember them in love and gratitude. I thought then, ah, " the woman does have a heart, she has love and she loves..." which makes this conflict with your neighbors and constituents so much more baffling. We have gathered a couple of hundred signatures. Of the many, many people I have spoken to, only one was in favor of the tower because she thought her Wi-Fi speed would improve. When I asked if she would be in favor of the tower being across the street from her home she demurred and signed the petition. If this tower were to go across the street from you, Madam Mayor, would you be happy about it? Would you be glad to see your property value plummet, your health challenged, your peace day and night interrupted by endless buzzing and fear during every lightning storm.? Yet, you ask us to be happy with a decision that is so unnecessary when other locations away from our historic town have been offered. If it is the financial gain you anticipate from a deal with Verizon, it will be completely offset by the losses we will experience on the down side. I'd like to continue to get to know the lovely person I saw at the plaza and wish that woman would represent the historic Mesilla we all love and wish to preserve.

Sent from my iPad

