



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

TOWN OF MESILLA

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2023 – 6:00 PM

MINUTES

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

STAFF: Harry Evans, Interim Fire Chief
Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director
Enrique Salas, Marshal
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC:

Crystal Davis-Whited	Greg Whited
Russell Hernandez	Trina Witter
Natalie B Ogaz	Valentino Puentes
Bertha Flores	Catharine Walkinshaw
Mary H Ratje	Paul Germani
Susan Krueger	Janice & Bill Cook
Teresa Tudury	Guillermo Acosta
Nancy Dunn	Doug Welby
William McIlvaine	Stephan McIlvaine
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 Merrick, Trustee Cadena, Trustee Garcia, Trustee Johnson-Burick.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

4. PUBLIC INPUT – The public is invited to address the Board as allowed by the chair.

1 Mayor Barraza stated due to the lawsuit, the board will not be taking any public input regarding the Verizon
2 tower. Questions or comments should be directed through the attorneys. If you do not have an attorney,
3 questions or comments are to be submitted to the town attorney.

4
5 Ms. Walkinshaw asked that the minutes be updated on the town's website.

6
7 Mr. Cook stated the bricks on the plaza need attention.

8
9 Ms. Krueger stated there was misinformation on the February 27th minutes. She could not find 2021 W. Boutz
10 on the map. The property being suggested for the cell tower and is one of the most historic locations. The code
11 does cover the information for a cell tower within a historic zone. She does not care if there is a lawsuit, it
12 may be very frivolous.

13
14 Ms. Witter asked when the worksession recommended by Trustee Cadena will be held to review procedures.

15
16 Ms. Ogas reviewed the timeframe of her journey with the town which started January, 2017 and is still going
17 on. She was confronted by a trustee that the mayor did not like her house and she was going to make it a
18 living hell for her. She did not need sympathy upon the death of her husband.

19
20 Mr. Puentes stated their unfinished house has been sitting there and they do not have the funds right now to
21 proceed. Mesilla needs to come together as a community.

22
23 Ms. Davis-Whited stated she wants to express her gratitude for all the overwhelming support given to Mr.
24 Embury, a volunteer firefighter and a resident of Mesilla, who's house burned down.

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

28 a) *BOT MINUTES - Minutes of Regular Meeting, February 27, 2023

29 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee**
30 **Johnson-Burick.**

31
32 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).

33 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

34 Trustee Cadena Yes

35 Trustee Garcia Yes

36 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

37

38 **6. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

39 a) Discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2)-Public
40 Works Department

41 **Motion: To enter Executive Session: discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978,**
42 **Section 10-15-1(H)(2)-Public Works Department, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by**
43 **Trustee Garcia.**

44

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

46 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

47 Trustee Cadena Yes

48 Trustee Garcia Yes

49 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

50 **Entered Executive Session at 6:14 p.m.**

51

1 **Motion: To enter Regular Meeting: discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978,**
2 **Section 10-15-1(H)(2)-Public Works Department – no action taken, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick,**
3 **Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

6 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

7 Trustee Cadena Yes

8 Trustee Garcia Yes

9 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

10
11 **Entered Regular Meeting at 6:22 p.m.**

12
13 **7. PRESENTATION**

14 a) Town of Mesilla Audit FY 2022 – Carmen Jimenez, Beasley, Mitchell & Co.

15 Ms. Jimenez reviewed the Town of Mesilla Audit FY 2022.

16
17
18 **8. STAFF REPORTS**

19 a) Fire Replacement Project proposal from Molzen/Corbin for design services – Rod McGillivray

20 Mr. McGillivray reviewed the Fire Hydrant Replacement Project.

21
22 **9. NEW BUSINESS**

23 a) **Approval: Resolution 2023-04:** Acceptance of the Town of Mesilla FY 2021-2022 Audit

24 **Motion: To approve Resolution 2023-04: Acceptance of the Town of Mesilla FY 2021-2022 Audit.**
25 **Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

26
27 Mayor Barraza stated regarding the 1st finding, the town discovered the issue and brought it to the auditor's
28 attention. The town has put forth a practice for better accountability. She questioned why that finding was still
29 in the audit and was ensured that the finding will go away once the auditor determines that the control system
30 put in place is working. Changing town clerks in mid year did cause some issues that resulted in the other two
31 findings. We are working on preventing this from happening again.

32
33 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked for clarification on the discrepancies.

34
35 Ms. Jimenez responded the finding needs to be brought forth until it is cleared.

36
37 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she is concerned that departments were overspent.

38
39 Ms. Jimenez stated the DFA report was not updated. Internally the budget was correct; BARs may not have
40 been done. She explained the budget process.

41
42 Mayor Barraza stated we will continue to correct the budget to avoid further findings.

43
44 Ms. Jimenez stated only major funds are tested. DFA covers all funds.

45
46 Trustee Garcia asked if we should be having worksessions to review the budget.

47 Ms. Jimenez responded maybe quarterly, when reports are due to DFA.

1 Trustee Garcia asked for the DFA report be included in their packets. She asked how many people work on the
2 budget.

3

4 Mayor Barraza responded Ms. Maya, department heads and herself. Department heads do BARS; never increase
5 their budget without the board's approval.

6

7 Trustee Garcia recommended a quarterly budget worksession. She stated her concerns with the budget reports
8 she was given.

9

10 Mayor Barraza stated the turnover has caused some issues.

11

12 Trustee Cadena stated she agrees with Trustee Garcia.

13

14 Mayor Barraza stated each clerk/treasurer has their own style.

15

16 Trustee Garcia asked how often we need to change auditors.

17

18 Ms. Jimenez responded it is every eight years.

19

20 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated we get a report every month. This is a baseline of what we have and where the
21 funds are.

22

23 Mayor Barraza stated this is about accountability and transparency.

24

25 Trustee Garcia asked about the worksession.

26

27 Mayor Barraza responded the worksessions will be in April.

28

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

30 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

31 Trustee Cadena Yes

32 Trustee Garcia Yes

33 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

34

35 **b) PZHAC Case #061525** – 2835 Teresita Pl, submitted by Jackie Scholten, requesting approval to
36 remove existing windows and replace with new windows from Infinity, w/conditions. ZONED:
37 **Historical Residential (HR)**

38 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061525 – 2835 Teresita Pl, submitted by Jackie Scholten, requesting**
39 **approval to remove existing windows and replace with new windows from Infinity – w/conditions.**

40 **ZONED: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee**
41 **Garcia.**

42

43 Mayor Barraza stated the PZHAC wants pictures showing the windows are like for like before issuing the
44 permit.

45

46 Trustee Johnson-Burik stated she wants to ensure that Mr. Salazar states that on the permit.

47

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

1 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
2 Trustee Cadena Yes
3 Trustee Garcia Yes
4 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
5

6 c) **PZHAC Case #061540** – 2890 Teresita Pl, submitted by Donald Murphy for a re-roof and
7 repairs, to include stucco cap. ZONED: **Historical Residential (HR)**

8 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061540 – 2890 Teresita PL, submitted by Donald Murphy for a re-**
9 **roof and repairs, to include stucco cap. ZONED: Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro**
10 **Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

13 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
14 Trustee Cadena Yes
15 Trustee Garcia Yes
16 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
17

18 d) **Approval:** Proposal from Molzen/Corbin for design services for Fire Hydrant Replacement project

19 **Motion: To approve Proposal from Molzen/Corbin for design services for Fire Hydrant Replacement**
20 **project, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

21
22 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).

23 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
24 Trustee Cadena Yes
25 Trustee Garcia Yes
26 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
27

28 e) **Approval:** Of Maintenance Grounds/Facility Worker

29 Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Cypress Lucero is recommended for the position of Maintenance Grounds/Facility
30 Worker. She stated Mr. Lucero is not related to her.

31
32 **Motion: To approve hiring of Maintenance Grounds/Facility Worker, Moved by Trustee Garcia,**
33 **Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.**

34
35 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).

36 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
37 Trustee Cadena Yes
38 Trustee Garcia Yes
39 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
40

41 **10. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

42 Trustee Garcia: Workforce Solutions meeting March 17th - Silver City

43
44 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: MPO Special Meeting; CPF deadline March 31st; MPO Meeting April 12th

45
46 Trustee Johnson-Burick: MPO Special Meeting; MPO Meeting April 12th - DAC

47
48 Mayor Barraza: Senior Program Meeting – February 28th with no attendees; Mercado Vendors Meetings are
49 being held

50 51 **11. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

52 Interim Fire Chief Evans stated the community came together in support of Mr. Embury.

53

1 Marshal Salas stated they held a project in the school zones and issued 44 citations in a two hour period.
2 These projects will be held throughout the year.

3 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she is heartbroken and sends her love and support to Mr. Embury.

4 Trustee Garcia asked that the minutes be updated as it is a violation of the Open Meetings Act. Thanked
5 everyone for supporting Mr. Embury. She recommended that Ms. Ogas meet with Mr. Salazar to see what can
6 be done.

7 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated we will start working together on the budget. Inaudible

8 Trustee Cadena thanked everyone for their input. Her heart goes out to Mr. Embury.

9 Mayor Barraza stated she feels it is a good audit report, we just need to fine tune it. She has never felt so
10 helpless as when she went to Mr. Embury's home. Thanked everyone for their support. We will do whatever
11 is needed to help.

12 Mr. Klebansky stated the dynamics change when it involves one of your own.

13 Mayor Barraza stated the fire department is a family, always there to help each other. To Ms. Ogas, she never
14 once said that she wanted you to go through a living hell. Who every said that lied. She would never say
15 something like that. That is not her character to do that. She is a stronger Christian than that. She would not
16 wish that on anybody.

17 Trustee Garcia asked when we are hiring a Fire Chief.

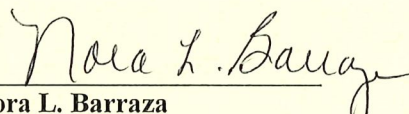
18 Mayor Barraza responded interviews will be held on Thursday. The committee will consist of Trustee
19 Johnson-Burick, Ms. Maya, and three Fire Chiefs from around the state. She will be out of town for the next
20 board meeting.

22 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

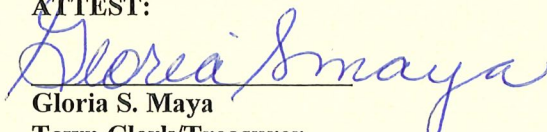
23 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4).**

25 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:25 P.M.**

27 **APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF MARCH, 2023.**

28
29
30 
31 **Nora L. Barraza**
32 **Mayor**

35 **ATTEST:**

36 
37
38 **Gloria S. Maya**
39 **Town Clerk/Treasurer**



47 **BOT MINUTES 03.13.2023 APPROVED**

48

TOWN OF MESILLA
SIGN IN SHEET
BOARD OF TRUSTEE
MARCH 13, 2023

NAME	ADDRESS	COMMENTS
Crystal Davis-Whited	203 Capri Arc	
Greg Whited	" "	
HARRY A EVANS	INTERM FIRE chief	
Russen Hernandez	2808 Snow rd	
Tina Witter	3200 Estrada Rd	yes
Mark B. Dyer	2729 Calle de San Albino	yes
Valentino Hedges	" "	yes
Dorothy Flores	2550 Calle Principal	
Charlene Walkins	2134 Calle de Principal	yes
Mary H. Kelly	5231 Calle Santiago	
Paul German	2630 Calle Segunda	
Mrs. Susan MUEBA	Mesilla	
JANICE & BILL COOK	2740 CALLE PRINCIPAL	YES
TERESA VIDUY	2586 Calle Principal	NO
Guillermo Acosta	2194 Calle de los Huertos	
Nancy Dunn	Las Paces	
DAVID WELBY		
WILLIAM McILWANE	2685 CALLE DE ADRIAN	
STEPHAN McILWANE	2687 CALLE DE ADRIAN	
Rose Stermen		
Jasha Zapier	MFD	