

# Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) OF THE TOWN OF MESILLA WORKSESSION

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2023 – 4:00 P.M.

### MINUTES

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

**STAFF:** Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director  
Enrique Salas, Marshal  
Gloria Maya, Recorder

#### **Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget – Nora Barraza, Mayor**

Mayor Barraza reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget.

Trustee Johnson-Burick asked what the justification for the \$10,000 increase for the Special Events Coordinator is.

Mayor Barraza responded that this increase would make the coordinator positions comparable. Ms. Sellers has also increased the events and has assisted with IT.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated we should contract IT out.

Mayor Barraza asked why we would contract IT out if Ms. Sellers can do the work.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated that is not in her job description.

Mayor Barraza stated the job description can be revised.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated that is unfair to the employees. Sergeant Diaz should have filed a lawsuit for over eight months.

Mayor Barraza asked if she was encouraging Sergeant Diaz to file a lawsuit.

Trustee Johnson-Burick responded she is not encouraging anyone. You cannot pay someone more for less responsibilities. That position does not bring in revenue.

Mayor Barraza stated all employees are important and Ms. Sellers does bring the town revenue. Read job description revised 2007.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated she has a different one job description. Everyone is short staffed and doing their jobs. Ms. Sellers has been neglecting some of her duties.

Mayor Barraza stated the deputies are not doing all they need to do while hanging out at your restaurant. Every department can make improvements. The Marshal's Department is getting a \$3 increase while everyone else is getting a \$2.00 increase.

Trustee Cadena inaudible She feels it is important to... audible. Asked if there is another number the trustees would be comfortable with.

Mayor Barraza stated NMML is taking a salary survey around the state.

Trustee Johnson-Burick inaudible

Trustee Garcia recommended looking at the budget mid-year.

Mayor Barraza stated she is not comfortable doing that and hopes the town meets the projections.

Trustee Garcia inaudible

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated...treating everyone fairly. Redoing job descriptions and looking at salary schedules. Recommended a stipend for IT duties or change her to be the IT employee.

Ms. Maya stated Ms. Sellers is there is assist with IT issues as well as anything that arises; she is very knowledgeable. She has also been here longer than Mr. Salazar. The IT duties are not a full-time position.

Trustee Garcia stated she recommends a \$2.00 inaudible.

Trustee Johnson-Burick inaudible. Look at job descriptions and salary schedules from other entities before considering the \$10,000 increase.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick inaudible.

Mayor Barraza asked her not to make this personal.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated she just told her that the reason she fights for the Marshal's Department is inaudible.

Mayor Barraza stated she had told the board that her husband was going into law enforcement, so she had a personal interest.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick inaudible

Mayor Barraza stated she sees what Ms. Sellers does daily and now is being told that she is not doing her job.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick responded she is not doing her job. People cannot get a hold of her.

Mayor Barraza asked how she knew she was not doing her job.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick responded she was there, and they did not know who she was.

Mayor Barraza referred to the job description which does not say anything about the Las Cruces Visitor's Center.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated the job descriptions are different.

Inaudible

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated she is doing other things than what is in her job description.

Mayor Barraza responded that she disagrees, as she sees Ms. Sellers doing what is in her job description and beyond.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated they do not accept the \$10,000 increase for Ms. Sellers.

Inaudible

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she is doing her job; we are discussing the position and not the person.

McGillivray stated that salary should be comparable to other related positions.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick recommended an IT stipend.

Trustee Garcia inaudible

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated a stipend of \$2,080.

Ms. Maya stated the stipend could be set up as a separate job code to continue through the year.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked if an IT person is hired, Ms. Sellers stipend would end.

Ms. Maya responded yes since it will be set up as a separate job code. The stipends worked into the hourly has been done for a long time and must have been approved by the board.

Trustee Garcia stated it can be set up as a separate job code.

Mayor Barraza asked the board if they wanted to eliminate all certifications.

Trustee Johnson-Burick responded that the town should pay for their recertifications. We should not be paying for certifications that are required.

Lieutenant Azcarate reviewed the required certifications.

Mayor Barraza asked if they are compensated by the other entities.

Lieutenant Azcarate responded it is a tradeoff.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated moving forward stipends should be kept separate.

Inaudible

Trustee Garcia stated moving forward they get a one time check for they stipend/certification.

Ms. Maya reiterated that stipends/certifications should be a separate job code and paid throughout the year. A \$1.00 an hour for Ms. Sellers is not enough for all that she does.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated the stipend/certifications will not be tied into the hourly pay.

Inaudible

Trustee Cadena stated the stipend would be \$2,080 which attributes to \$1.00 for the 2080 hours worked a year.

Ms. Maya stated Ms. Sellers deserves more, IT is not an easy task.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated it should be stipend and not a salary. We are trying to justify the increase in the budget.

Ms. Maya stated the budget changes were Deputy Hernandez 25% town portion and 5% longevity increases for Mr. Hernandez and Mr. McGillivray.

Mayor Barraza reviewed the changes to the budget, Special Event.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the court uses their discretion regarding the budget.

Trustee Cadena stated the actuals are reflected through April.

Mayor Barraza reviewed the Municipal Court's budget.

Inaudible

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated vacancies need to be kept in the budget.

Trustee Cadena stated the fire department has money for the ambulance in his budget.

Mayor Barraza read Judge Toomey's letter.

Trustee Garcia asked what the town's responsibility regarding the court bailiff is.

Mayor Barraza stated the Executive budget covers the courts deficiencies.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated the court needs to stay within its budget.

Mayor Barraza stated the officers are issuing citations.

Lieutenant Azcarate stated at the last project there should have been around \$10,000 collected in fines and there was only around \$3,000 collected.

Trustee Garcia asked if the American Rescue monies have been spent.

Mayor Barraza responded we are waiting for equipment to come in. There will be a worksession on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. with a BOT meeting immediately afterwards.

**Worksession ended at 5:48 p.m.**

**REGULAR MEETING AT THE MESILLA TOWN HALL,  
2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA.**

**MONDAY, MAY 22, 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:** Rod McGillivray, Public Works Director  
Enrique Salas, Marshal  
Greg Whited, Fire Chief  
Gloria Maya, Recorder

**PUBLIC:** Mary F. Lucero  
Catharine Walkinshaw  
Trina Witter  
Susan Krueger  
Karena & Stewart Oberman  
Jasha Zapien  
Andrea Bryan  
Yolanda Lucero  
Lori Miller  
D. Salas  
Guillermo Acosta  
Mary H. Ratje

**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**

Mayor Barraza requested moving item #10 to #7c. *Withdrew the request.*

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

**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.**

Ms. Witter thanked the Marshal's Department for their assistance during the Ride of Silence.

Ms. Krueger reviewed Chapter 13 and asked that Mr. Salazar work with Mr. Foster.

Ms. Walkinshaw reviewed the email sent.

Ms. Lucero stated there are many people complaining during the BOT meetings. We need to get along and the board has been running very well.

## 5. PRESENTATION

### a) Centennial of the American Association of University Women

Mayor Barraza read the Proclamation declaring June 25, 2023 Centennial of the American Association of University Women.

## 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 \*)

### a) \*BOT MINUTES - Minutes of Regular Meeting, May 8, 2023

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

Inaudible

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### a) \*BOT MINUTES - Minutes of Regular Meeting, April 24, 2023 *Approved by consent agenda*

### b) NMZLO: Semi Annual Conference Update – Trustee Garcia

Trustee Garcia gave an update on NMZLO Semi Annual Conference.

Mayor Barraza stated they knew that the Cannabis ordinance would change due to changes at the state level. Chapter 18 will be revised to include the Comprehensive Plan. An entity can set stricter restrictions.

Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if the voting procedure applies to both PZHAC and BOT.

Mayor Barraza responded it was geared to the PZHAC since it was PZHAC training. Communicating with anyone regarding cases would affect the way you can vote.

Trustee Garcia stated they need to be directed to the mayor or a department head.

Trustee Cadena read section of rules of order.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### a) **PZHAC CASE #061470** – 2691 Calle Principal, submitted by Joseph W. Foster requesting approval to build an addition to his primary residence. Zone: Historical Residential

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061470 – 2691 Calle Principal, submitted Joseph W. Foster requesting approval to build an addition to his primary residence, w/conditions. Zone: Historical Residential, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked about the drainage plan.

Ms. Lucero stated Mr. Maese will be overseeing the work and the resident knows it cannot drain into the street.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated there is no drainage plan in the packet.

Mr. Salas stated an incomplete plan was submitted.

Mayor Barraza responded that Mr. Salazar found the original plans that included the drainage. This case can be approved on condition that the drainage plan is approved by Mr. Salazar.

Trustee Johnson-Burick read conditions placed on Case #061470.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- b) **Approval:** hire Melissa Padilla as part-time temporary Recreation Supervisor (Lead) and Kathryn Newberry and Andrea Regmi as part-time temporary Recreation Supervisors for Mesilla Summer Recreation Program (June 12<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>).

**Motion: To approve Melissa Padilla as part-time temporary Recreation Supervisor (Lead) and Kathryn Newberry and Andrea Regmi as part-time temporary Recreation Supervisors for Mesilla Summer Recreation Program (June 12<sup>th</sup> through July 7<sup>th</sup>), 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

## **8. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) **Discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2) – Public Works and Finance Department**

**Motion: To enter Closed Executive Session: discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2)-Public Works and Finance Department, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, 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

**Entered Closed Session at 6:38 p.m.**

**Motion: To enter Regular Meeting: after discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2)-Public Works and Finance Department, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, 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

**Entered Regular Meeting at 6:47 p.m.**

**9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Trustee Johnson-Burick: MPO Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: MPO Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup>

Mayor Barraza: MPO Meeting June 14<sup>th</sup>; NMDOT Annual Meeting

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

Trustee Garcia stated the PZHAC and BOT need to work as a team. We need to respect each other and not talk over each other.

Trustee Cadena stated she appreciates everyone's emails and Public Input. The fiesta was a successful event as well as the Ride of Silence. Appreciates the staff's hard work.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated everything is connected from ordinances to permitting. Recommends a worksession so that everyone is on the same page; some of the ordinances contradict each other. The Open Meetings Act Resolution is adopted each June. We need to work together and look at bringing more revenue into the town, re-evaluating the Cannabis Ordinance, doing a Class and Comp study. Lodger's Tax committee needs to move forward; there have been some volunteers offering to serve. We need to change with the times to make the town and businesses more successful.

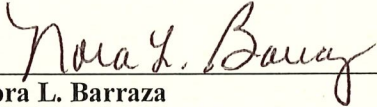
Mayor Barraza stated offices will be closed on Memorial Day. She will bring forth the members she appoints to the Lodger's Tax Committee once they are confirmed. From here forward she is to be contacted when a trustee wants to meet with a staff member; she will schedule an appointment and sit in as well. She will address the email sent by Ms. Walkinshaw, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Bryan individually. To address the items in the email sent by Ms. Walkinshaw, Ms. Bryan, and Ms. Miller: 1) read section 18.06.020 (PZHAC appointments), 2) read section 15.15.030 regarding Administrative Approvals, 3) concerned with placing administrative approved items on agenda as an action item when permit has been issued and work has begun. Recommends residents call MVRDA if they see something that does not look right, 4) Open Meeting Act is approved in June. Posting of minutes is not required per the Open Meetings Act. Call her with any questions or concerns. The NMML Policy Committee will meet on June 24<sup>th</sup> in Albuquerque. MOLI training June 5-7 in Santa Fe. Budget Worksession Thursday at 3:00; BOT meeting

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

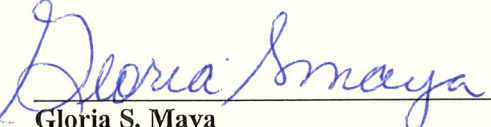
**The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4).**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:09 P.M.**

**APPROVED THIS 12TH DAY OF JUNE, 2023.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nora L. Barraza  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gloria S. Maya  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

