



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

TOWN OF MESILLA

REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023 – 6:00 PM

MINUTES

TRUSTEES: Nora Barraza, Mayor (Absent)
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

PUBLIC:

Richard Moreno	Ruben Quintana
Jessie Herrera-Sainz	Adam Sainz
J. Zapien	T. Scott
D. Thurnhorst	I. Thurnhorst
Alayna Hallford	Crystal Davis-Whited
Greg Whited	Kathy Telgard
Sue Ann Davis	Joanie Demchok
Andrew Whited	Sam McBurney
Catharine Walkinshaw	Russell Hernandez
Paul Germani	Jeannette Frieze
Mary H Ratje	Guillermo Acosta
Trina Witter	Karena Oberman
Stewart Oberman	Susan Krueger
Pat Taylor	Marcy Toomey
Diego	Janice & Bill Cook

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Roll Call.

Present: 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.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated comments regarding the cell tower should be directed to the town attorney.

Ms. Telgard read editorial (attached). She has not filed a lawsuit against the Town of Mesilla and asked why her freedom of speech has been curtailed.

Ms. Wittern stated the docket 2:21 CB-00259 list three parties, Verizon, Town of Mesilla and Board of Trustees. There are not residents listed. Comments related to the cell tower should be allowed.

Mr. Acosta stated he found it disturbing that comments regarding the cell tower would not be allowed. Feels the mayor's comments were an overreach and does not allow for transparency. Encouraged everyone to contact the New Mexico Municipal League.

Ms. Walkinshaw stated the Fountain Theatre will be having free showings of Chupa on April 6th and 8th. There will be a showing on April 7th at the Rio Grande Theatre. She is not in a law suit against the town. Residents have attempted to contact Mr. Cervantes through phone calls and emails with no response.

Ms. Sainz stated she feels permit fees are too high. She asked Mr. Salazar what the fees are for, and he did not have an answer. She asked that they take their concerns into account. They have met many obstacles in trying to add to their home.

Mr. Embury thanked everyone for their prayers, food and support. He truly felt the love from our Mesilla community.

Ms. Ratje stated she visited with Ms. Sellers regarding the Lodger's Tax. She has volunteered to be on the Lodger's Tax Committee.

Mr. Taylor stated anyone interested in registering for a workshop may do so on the website-pattaylor,inc. We have a sponsor that will be paying registration fees for local residents.

5. PRESENTATION

- a) Motorcycle Awareness Month Proclamation

Ms. Maya read proclamation making May Motorcycle Awareness Month.

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, March 13, 2023

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

7. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2)-Fire Department –

Motion: To enter Closed Executive Session: discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2)-Fire Department, 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

Entered Closed Executive Session at 6:20 p.m.

Motion: To enter Regular Meeting: discussion of limited personnel matters pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2)-Fire Department – no action taken, 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

Entered Regular Meeting at 6:40 p.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Approval:** Of Fire Chief – Trustee Johnson-Burick

Motion: To approve the hiring of Fire Chief, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the committee recommends Mr. Greg Whited as Town of Mesilla Fire Chief.

Trustee Garcia asked what the starting pay would be.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick responded the pay will start at \$55,000.

Amended Motion: To approve the hiring of Fire Chief at \$55,000 pay rate, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

Mr. Whited thanked everyone for their trust. All that we do is for the safety of our town and the firefighters.

9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Garcia: Workforce Solutions Meeting cancelled

Trustee Johnson-Burick: MPO Meeting April 12th

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: MPO Meeting April 12th

10. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

Trustee Cadena state she appreciates the public attendance. Residents want transparency and to be ensured that the board is working for them. They are looking at a meeting where things can be discussed more in depth. Residents rely on us to govern, the obligation we took on as elected officials. Keeping writing, keep talking as much as you can.

Trustee Garcia stated she had asked at the last meeting about updating the minutes on our website, we are violating the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Johnson-Burick and herself have spoken about the fees; she will talk to Mr. Salazar about helping the family.

Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked everyone for their comments.


Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated she appreciates the interest in residents serving on the Lodger's Tax Committee. Apologized to Ms. Sainz for the issues she has had regarding permit fees. There will be a budget worksession at 5:00 p.m. on April 10th.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

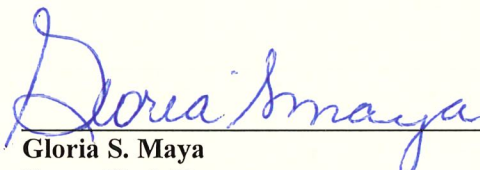
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:49 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 24th DAY OF APRIL, 2023.



Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria S. Maya
Town Clerk/Treasurer

