



# Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

REVISED

## THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES PUBLIC HEARING

MESILLA TOWN HALL, 2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA.

WEDNESDAY - SEPTEMBER 6, 2023, AT 5:00 PM

### MINUTES

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

**STAFF:** Edward Salazar, Community Development Coordinator  
Gloria Maya, Town Clerk/Recorder

**PUBLIC:** Greg Lester                      Andrea Bryan  
Henry Gil                              Yolanda Lucero  
Susan Krueger                      Trina Witter  
Pricillana Sandoval              Lori Miller

#### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

**Roll Call.**

**Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Trustee Garcia, Trustee Johnson-Burick.

#### 3. SPECIAL USE PERMIT

- a. **CASE #061636-2060** Calle de Parian, submitted by The Cannabis Tropical LLC, has submitted a special use permit application requesting approval to allow a consumption lounge at their establishment.

Planning and Zoning Historical Appropriateness Commission has reviewed The Town of Mesilla municipal code and found all code requirements met. On July 3, 2023, PZHAC voted 5-0 In recommending approval to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Salazar gave a summary of Case #061636-2060 and read correspondence.

Ms. Maya administered the oath to Ms. Krueger

Ms. Krueger stated her concerns with the proposed consumption lounge.

#### 4. ADJOURNMENT

Public Hearing was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

1 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
2 SPECIAL MEETING  
3 MESILLA TOWN HALL, 2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA.  
4 WEDNESDAY- SEPTEMBER 6, 2023  
5 IMMEDIATELY AFTER PUBLIC HEARING  
6 MINUTES

7  
8 **TRUSTEES:** Nora Barraza, Mayor  
9 Adrianna Merrick, Mayor Pro Tem  
10 Biviana Cadena, Trustee (Absent)  
11 Veronica Garcia, Trustee  
12 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee  
13

14  
15 **STAFF:** Edward Salazar, Community Development Coordinator  
16 Gloria Maya, Town Clerk/Recorder  
17

18 **PUBLIC:** Greg Lester Andrea Bryan  
19 Henry Gil Yolanda Lucero  
20 Susan Krueger Trina Witter  
21 Pricillana Sandoval Lori Miller  
22 B Jouda  
23  
24  
25

26 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

27 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
28

29 **2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

30 **Roll Call.**

31 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Trustee Garcia, Trustee Johnson-Burick.  
32

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

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

37 a) **\*BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of Regular Meeting, August 17, 2023

38 b) **\*BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of Regular Meeting, August 28, 2023  
39

40 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =3).

41 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

42 Trustee Garcia Yes

43 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes  
44

45 **Public Input**

46 Ms. Krueger stated her concerns with the proposed consumption lounge.  
47

48 **4. ACTION AND CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL**

1 Mr. Salazar gave a brief summary of Case #061636.

2 a. **Case #061636** - 2060 Calle de Parian, submitted by The Cannabis Tropical LLC, a  
3 special use permit application requesting approval to allow a consumption lounge at their  
4 establishment.

5 **Motion: To approve Case #061636** – 2060 Calle Parian, submitted by the Cannabis Tropical, LLC, a Special  
6 Use Permit application requesting approval to allow a consumption lounge at their establishment, **Moved by**  
7 **Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

8  
9 **\*\*Mayor Barraza** stated that at the NMML training it was brought up that trustees should only be allowed to  
10 comment twice.

11  
12 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated it reads “speak” twice; asked if that applies to questions.

13  
14 Mayor Barraza responded yes.

15  
16 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked then how they are able to make a decision...

17  
18 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated this helps consolidate comments and prevents people from speaking over each  
19 other. It is not a rule, just a suggestion.

20  
21 Mayor Barraza stated this is to avoid repeating the same comments, concerns and to prevent speaking over  
22 each other.

23  
24 Trustee Johnson-Burick reviewed the PZHAC verbiage and what a municipality is allowed to approve or  
25 disapprove.

26  
27 Mr. Salazar reviewed the PZHAC comments.

28  
29 Trustee Johnson-Burick reviewed the difference between cannabis and alcohol; addressed her issues and  
30 concerns.

31  
32 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated she is concerned with public safety and lack of information.

33  
34 Trustee Garcia stated there are no answers for the questions everyone has. Recommended giving a probation  
35 period.

36  
37 Mr. Jouda stated he will do what is required of him as he is here to do business in the Mesilla, not here to break  
38 any rules.

39  
40 Mayor Barraza asked about the address on the plans and his association with other businesses.

41  
42 Mr. Jouda responded he missed that upon review of the plans. The correct address is 2060 Parian. He is not  
43 associated with any other company. His business is cash only.

44  
45 Mayor Barraza stated the cash only is controlled by the state. The public has been given the opportunity to  
46 speak. Addressed the issue with the sidewalk, safety, the difference between cannabis and alcohol.

47  
48 Mr. Jouda stated it is illegal to consume cannabis in public areas.

49  
50 Mr. Salazar stated the difference between cannabis and alcohol; there is also medicinal cannabis. He feels  
51 people need to prove themselves.

52  
53 Mayor Barraza stated there is a recommendation for a probation period.

1  
2 Trustee Garcia stated her frustration regarding the paperwork submitted.

3  
4 Mr. Jouda inaudible

5  
6 Mayor Barraza stated this was not caught by PZHAC and BOT.

7  
8 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded this was brought up at one of the meetings. Addressed her concerns with  
9 lack of due and the procedural process.

10  
11 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated applicant did things correctly.

12  
13 Mr. Jouda responded he understands the responsibility of a consumption lounge; he is trying.

14  
15 Trustee Garcia stated we failed to do our work.

16  
17 Mayor Barraza stated we need to make sure things are done right to not hinder your application.

18  
19 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated there are still a lot of questions that need to be addressed even at the state level.

20  
21  
22 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes =0, No=3).

23 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick No – maintaining our historical integrity and public safety; and lack of information.

24 Trustee Garcia No – due to the plans having the wrong address and it was not ... by the ordinance.

25 Trustee Johnson-Burick No - decision based on 18.1, 18.33, 18.25; the need to uphold the ordinances. Plans  
26 were not readable and the wrong address. It is a liability to the town. She needs to do what is best for the  
27 town.

28  
29 Mayor Barraza asked why the trustees the concern with the plans brought up earlier to prevent  
30 postponing applicants. Asked that concerns and/or questions be brought to staff's attention  
31 either by a phone call or email.

32  
33 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded she brought it up at the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

34 **5. ADJOURNMENT**

35 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: No-3).**

36  
37 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:43 P.M.**

38  
39 **APPROVED THIS 11th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.**

40  
41  
42  
43 \_\_\_\_\_  
44 **Nora L. Barraza**  
45 **Mayor**

46 **ATTEST:**

47  
48 \_\_\_\_\_  
49 **Gloria S. Maya**  
50 **Town Clerk/Treasurer**