

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)
TOWN OF MESILLA
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2023 AT 6:00 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
Greg Whited, Fire Chief
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC:

Andrea Byran	Greg Lester
Ricardo Gonzalez	Ruben Smith
Andrew Limon	Gerado Nevarez
Judy Houston	Natalie Goldberg
Crystal Davis-Whited	Marcy Toomey
Barb DeLaurin	Maggi Davidson
William	Catharine Walkinshaw
Eric Walkinshaw	Trina Witter
Blanca Huizar	Cesar Huizar
Mark Salazar	Richard Moreno
Susan Krueger	Lupe Garcia
Mary H Ratje	Rosemary Stoltenberg
Rudy Bueno	Russell Hernandez

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 the agenda, 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

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

Ms. Walkinshaw stated she recommends looking for funding for the playground equipment. Supports putting an electric car charging station at town hall.

Mr. Gonzalez addressed the outages that occurred in the Town of Mesilla.

Ms. Ratje thanked the community and the town for their support in the celebration. Expressed her concerns with the mosquitos.

Ms. Krueger stated her concerns with Case #061693 Board Action Form. Read ordinance sections regarding a wall. It is not clear if this is a subdivision and if so, the owners need to be notified.

5. PRESENTATIONS

a) Proclamation: Walk to School September 20, 2023 *change date to reflect August 28, 2023*

Mr. Embury read Walk to School September 20, 2023 Proclamation

b) El Paso Electric: Smart Meters, Presented by Grisel E. Ramirez

Ms. Ramirez gave a presentation on the El Paso: Electric Smart Meters

Trustees:

Making residents aware of the fees being assessed

Opting out of the program

Additional charges

\$100 charge for meter being passed on to residents

Residents without access to Computers and/or phones

Community meetings to making residents aware of what will be happening

c) Update on University Avenue Corridor Project, Presented by NMDOT

Mr. Salazar gave an update on the University Avenue Corridor Project.

d) Certificate of Recognition – Detective Danny Garcia

Marshal Ordenez presented a Certificate of Recognition to Detective Garcia.

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 *)

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

Trustee Garcia noted corrections to the July 27, 2023 minutes. Amount should be reflected as \$511,663.00. We should have a presentation on what we are going to do with stipends, it is not on the minutes.

Amended Motion: To approve the consent agenda as corrected, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick noted a correction to the June 26, 2023 minutes; should read “some” of those animals will be euthanized.

Second Amended Motion: To approve the consent agenda as corrected, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- a) ***BOT MINUTES** - Minutes of Regular Meeting, June 26, 2023 *Approved by consent agenda*
- b) ***BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of Regular Meeting, July 24, 2023 *Approved by consent agenda*
- c) ***BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of Worksession/Special Meeting, July 27, 2023 *Approved by consent agenda*

7. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **PZHAC CASE #061687** - 2729 Calle de San Albino, submitted by Ruben & Elizabeth Smith, requesting approval to continue construction of the unfinished home on the property. Zone: Historical Residential (HR)

Motion: To approve PZHAC Case#061687 – 2729 Calle de San Albino, submitted by Ruben & Elizabeth Smith, requesting approval to continue construction of the unfinished home on the property. Zone Historical Residential (HR), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she appreciates the packet that was submitted.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- b) **PZHAC CASE #061693** – submitted by Casa Blanka Imports, 1705 Tierra de Mesilla, requesting approval to construct an 8,500 square feet commercial building next to his existing commercial building. Building will be used for future rental space. Zone: Commercial (C).
Postponed

Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #061693 – submitted by Casa Blanka Imports, 1705 Tierra de

Mesilla, requesting approval to construct an 8,500 square feet commercial building next to his existing commercial building. Building will be used for future rental space. Zone: Commercial (C), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Johnson-Burick.

Trustee Cadena stated the board should address Ms. Krueger's concerns regarding this case.

Mayor Barraza stated the board can place a condition.

Trustee Cadena stated she wants to see this done correctly and there is a question from the public.

Mayor Barraza stated the board can choose to postpone the case or make a decision based on what has been presented to them.

Trustee Cadena stated she would like to postpone it until there is more clarification.

Amended Motion: To postpone PZHAC Case #061693 – submitted by Casa Blanka Imports, 1705 Tierra de Mesilla, requesting approval to construct an 8,500 square fee commercial building next to his existing commercial building. Building will be used for future rental space. Zone: Commercial (C), Moved by Trustee Cadena, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

Mayor Barraza stated trustees were given the packets a week ago, questions should be submitted in plenty of time, so the applicants are not being pushed back. It's up to the trustees to do their homework prior to the meetings.

c) **APPROVAL:** Resolution 2023-15 – A Resolution by the Board of Trustees for FY23 Year-End Budget Adjustments – Gloria Maya

Ms. Maya reviewed the budget adjustments.

Motion: To approve Resolution 2023-15 – A Resolution by the Board of Trustees for FY23 Year-End Budget Adjustments, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Johnson-Burick.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick reviewed discrepancy concerns on various line items; needs clarification.

Mayor Barraza stated after researching the budget some of the numbers changed.

Mr. Fuentes stated these numbers are based on the Treasurer's Report created by the system.

Mayor Barraza stated expenses are paid upfront through the General Fund and once paperwork is submitted, we are reimbursed.

Mr. Fuentes stated he would like a copy of what she is looking at so he can see the numbers.

Mayor Barraza stated those are questions that can be answered at the worksession so everyone is on the same page. Asked the board to submit questions, in writing, to Ms. Maya and Mr. Fuentes

Trustee Cadena stated she understands this is done to correct the line items.

Mr. Fuentes explained the process and why the BARs are needed at the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Barraza stated cash balance is what is in the bank.

Trustee Cadena stated the budget is being padded, actuals are less than what is being budgeted. We just want to know where the money is being spent.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

d) Board of Adjustments Appointments – Nora L Barraza, Mayor

Mayor Barraza recommended Ms. Cole and Mr. Salas to serve on the Board of Adjustments; term ending December, 2025.

Motion: To approve the recommended appointments to the Board of Adjustments, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

e) Discussion – LCPS MOA

Mayor Barraza stated LCPS is proposing eliminating the .75 SRO. It will be taken to the LCPS board on September 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The one SRO will be split between Zia Middle School and Rio Grande Prep.

Marshal Salas stated the district feels there is only a need for one (1) SRO.

Mayor Barraza stated the MOA does reflect the dollar amount submitted for the 1.75 SRO but since they are only approving one (1) SRO we cannot pay the other officer out of those monies.

Inaudible

Mayor Barraza stated the board will need to see if the .75 SRO will be paid by the General Fund.

Trustee Garcia asked how much is needed for the .75.

Mayor Barraza responded around \$45,000.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated we also need to look at safety.

Mayor Barraza stated we cannot put the officer at the school.

Marshal Salas stated the school board is trying to eliminate SROs at the schools. Currently there are security guards at the schools.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked if the officers will still need to respond to the calls.

Marshal Salas responded yes.

Mayor Barraza stated it will be discussed at their meeting on September 5th and vote at their September 19th meeting. It would be helpful for trustees and parents to attend the meetings and to contact their board.

Trustee Garcia stated she does not want to lose any deputies.

Mayor Barraza responded that will not happen. The approved vacant position has not been filled; the deputy would fill that position. The MOA will be brought forth.

Trustee Cadena asked if it is based on the new program.

Marshal Salas responded it is not based on the new program.

f) Discussion – El Paso Electric Grant Request

Mayor Barraza stated this year the town did not receive funding for the Summer Recreation program. The board will need to decide if they would like to continue the program.

Trustee Johnson-Burick asked what the grant amount is.

Mayor Barraza responded it is \$5,000.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the town can come up with the money to keep this program moving forward.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated we can seek donations.

Mayor Barraza stated this is more to pay the salaries as the town does have funds to pay for supplies.

Trustee Garcia stated we can bring this to the businesses as well.

Mayor Barraza stated businesses are always willing to help.

8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting 1:00 p.m. September 13th – CLC

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: MPO meeting 1:00 p.m. September 13th – CLC

Mayor Barraza: MPO subcommittee meeting, RTD meeting, LCPS meeting

9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS

Fire Chief Whited stated Academy Graduation on Saturday at 3:00 p.m.

Marshal Salas stated he is glad the trustees are stepping up to keep the Summer Recreation Program; this is a great program for the kids.

Trustee Cadena stated the Taylor Celebration does so much for the town; it deserves that recognition. She asked how the fiesta is coming along.

Trustee Garcia stated she was not told that the Architectural Styles Committee had been done away with. She understands there is a review committee; asked who is on that committee.

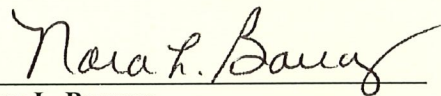
Mayor Barraza stated a sticker will be on the water bills asking residents to do their part to help control the mosquito issues. The Review Committee members are Mr. Salazar, Mr. Maese, PZHAC Chairperson. Trustees need to do their homework prior to the meeting. Bring any questions to Mr. Salazar prior to the meetings. We cannot continue to delay cases. There is no state statute that says packets need to be online. We are not hiding anything so we will put packets online for more transparency. A resident called NM Foundation for Open Government who in turn contacted the town regarding the minutes. Mayor read the NM Foundation for Open Government flyer. The minutes will be online by Wednesday or Thursday. We will be attending the NMML Conference this week.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

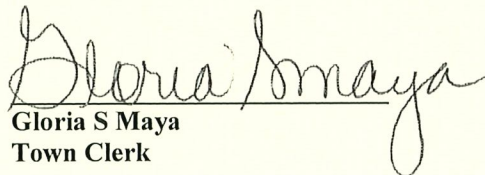
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:37 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 6TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2023.



Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria S Maya
Town Clerk



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
SIGN UP SHEET
AUGUST 28, 2023**

NAME	ADDRESS
Andrew Bryan	Mesilla
Greg Lester	"
Ricardo Gonzalez	EPE
Ruben Amick	LC
Andrew Linnon	NMDOIT
Cesar Newberry	
Jerry Houston	Mesilla
Natalie Goldberg	Mesilla
Crystal Davis-Whited	MFD
Greg Whited	MFD
Mindy Torrey	Mesilla
Barb Dehner	Mesilla
Maggi Davidson	Mesilla
William Dwyer	"
Catherine Walkinshaw	2134 Calle de Principal Mesilla
Eric Walker	" " " "
Trina Witter	Mesilla
Blanca Huizar	1705 Tierra de Mesilla.
Cesar Huizar	Mesilla
Mark Salazar	NMDOIT
Richard Moreno	1285 calle de Guadalupe
Juan I. Tamez	Mesilla
Upe Garcia	
Mary H. Ratje	Mesilla
Rosemary Stoberg	MO.
Rudy Buens	Anthony Po
Wissal Hernandez	Mesilla

