

# Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

THE PLANNING, ZONING AND HISTORICAL APPROPRIATENESS COMMISSION  
(PZHAC) WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING AT THE MESILLA TOWN HALL,

2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA.

FRIDAY-JANUARY 19, 2024, AT 6:00 PM

## MINUTES

### ATTENDEES:

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

Yolanda Lucero, Chairperson  
Davie Salas, Vice-Chairperson  
David Rockstraw  
Carlos Arzabal  
Eric Gallegos

#### **STAFF**

Eddie Salazar, Community Development Coordinator (CDC)  
Thomas Maese – CID Chief Inspector

#### **PUBLIC**

Andrea Bryan	Greg Lester
Susan Krueger	J. Lopez
Nathan Smith	Catherine Walkinshaw
Mary H Ratje	Trina Witter
Lori Miller	Janice Cook
Bill Cook	

#### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Lucero – started the meeting by identifying date and time as, January 19, 2024 @ 6pm. She then led us in the pledge of allegiance.

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

Mr. Salazar – established quorum by taking roll call, 4 of 5 present.

Commissioner Lucero  
Commissioner Salas  
Commissioner Rockstraw - absent  
Commissioner Arbazal  
Commissioner Gallegos

Chair Lucero – moved commissioners swearing in up on the agenda so they would be able to make motions and vote.

1<sup>st</sup> Motion to approve, Commissioner Salas

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to approve, Commissioner Arbazal

There was no vote, Town Clerk, Gloria Maya swore in new commissioners, Eric Gallegos and Carlos Arbazal. Certificates were handed out to each.

3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Lucero – Changes and Approval of Agenda

1<sup>st</sup> Motion to approve, Commissioner Salas

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to approve, Commissioner Arbazal

No Discussion

Approved 4 – 0.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairperson Lucero – *the public is invited to address the commission regarding items listed on the agenda as allowed by the chair. You can also email your comments to [clerktreasurer@mesillanm.gov](mailto:clerktreasurer@mesillanm.gov) at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting.*

Catherine Walkinshaw – commented on two items on the agenda. One, the agenda packet be posted online as the BOT is doing. If they can post these packets, I don't see why PZHAC can't.

Secondly, request that PZHAC meetings continue to be at 6pm. So more of the public can attend and also so if there are people that wish to be commissioners, can do so. If the time is moved to earlier in the day, working people would not be able to be part of the PZHAC.

There is no way to prove that attendance changes between both times in question because we requested those attendance sheets and they are missing for 2 and half years.

Submitted an email prior to meeting and requested it added to the minutes as public comment.

*Please include these comments in the official minutes for the Planning, Zoning, and Historical Appropriateness Commission (PZHAC) meeting on January 19, 2024.*

*Dear Commissioners and Mesilla Community Development Planner,*

*I am commenting on items 6 c and 6 d of tonight's agenda. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.*

*I am requesting consistency in the way these meetings are scheduled and conducted with the way the Board of Trustees (BOT) meetings are conducted and scheduled, specifically as follows:*

*First, I request that the entire agenda packets for PZHAC meetings be posted on-line ahead of the meeting, not just the agenda. This was done for all PZHAC meetings up to June of 2023 and was done for the 1/8/24 Board of Trustees' (BOT) meetings. This meets the commitment of newly elected Mayor Hernandez and Trustees Johnson-Burick and Navarez, who all ran and committed to increased transparency of Mesilla's government.*



*Second, I request the PZHAC meetings remain scheduled at 6pm on alternate Mondays as they have historically been and as BOT meetings are scheduled. This not only ensures more attendance by the public and permittees (who work during the day) but it also allows residents who work during the day to apply to be on the PZHAC rather than limit those positions only to those who are retired or don't work during the day. As I understand it, there is no way to prove public attendance at PZHAC meetings is not affected by the time of the meetings because attendance sheets for all PZHAC meetings are missing for 9 months of 2020, all of 2021 and all of 2022.*

Mayor Hernandez – addressed and thanked the commissioners for volunteering their time. Only be involved first part of the meeting. Excused himself before cases were heard.

Been working with Cultural Affairs, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and NM Municipal League in coming down for training of commission and governing board.

Soon, meeting room will receive a tech upgrade to include, audio, tv screens. Will be able to use screens in showing agendas and documents for presentation.

Process of creating a Mayor Facebook page and Instagram to be able to share information with the public such as projects, road closures, meetings and so on.

Hopes on a monthly basis will be having coffee with public officials, in Mesilla and surrounding municipalities.

Responded to Mrs. Walkinshaw's request on posting packets online. Is working with NM Municipal League on questioning the quasi judicial approval format related to releasing personal information.

Will be working with Eddie Salazar to streamline the process. Not only with staff but with commissioners and the public as well.

Asked the commission in the upcoming year to make decisions based on facts and ordinance and leave all the personal prejudice out of your decision making.

## 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Chairperson Lucero – continued meeting to approval of consent agenda to include Dec 18, 2023 regular meeting minutes.

1<sup>st</sup> Motion to approve, Commissioner Arzabal

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to approve, Commissioner Salas

No Discussion

Approved 4 – 0.

## 6. ACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

- a. COMMISSIONERS SWEARING IN was moved to the beginning of the meeting for the purpose of voting on agenda items.





Discussion: Conditions were made by commission for approval.  
Submit a property survey.  
Adhere to CID construction specifications.  
No utilities would be encroached.  
Clear view according to code onto street traffic.

Approved with Conditions, 4 – 0.

7. COMMISSIONERS/STAFF COMMENTS

CDC Salazar – congratulated new commissioners and welcomed them to PZHAC.

Also, requested new commissioners submit a small bio and picture of themselves to upload to our website.

Chair Lucero – requested the plaque coming into the meeting be updated to include passed commissioners. I think we have a great commission here with great knowledge and experience.

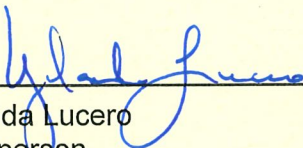
Thanked Mayor Hernandez for commenting on transparency and him talking with the NM Municipal League for guidance. Keep us out of trouble such as lawsuits. Understand transparency but privacy is also.

Commissioner Arzabal – very thankful and excited to be on the committee and serve the community.

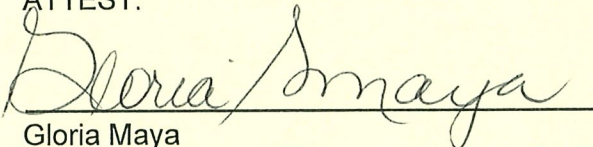
8. ADJOURNMENT

1<sup>st</sup> motion to adjourn, Commissioner Arzabal  
2<sup>nd</sup> motion to adjourn, Vice-Chair Salas

Approved 4 – 0.

  
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Yolanda Lucero  
Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
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Gloria Maya  
Town Clerk/Treasurer



