



# Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) TOWN OF MESILLA REGULAR MEETING

**MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 ~ 6:00 P.M.~**

### MINUTES

**TRUSTEES:** Russell Hernandez, Mayor  
Adrianna Merrick, Mayor Pro Tem  
Biviana Cadena, Trustee  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee  
Gerard Nevarez, Trustee

**STAFF:** Ben Azcarate, Lieutenant  
Greg Whited, Fire Chief  
Gloria Maya, Town Clerk/Recorder

**PUBLIC:**

Mary F Lucero	Crystal Davis Whited
Andy Embury	Andrea Bryan
Greg Lester	Richard Moreno
Trina Witter	Mary H Ratje
Ruben Quintana	Lori Miller
Catharine Walkinshaw	Ben Young
Ron Burick	Eric Gallegos
Blaine Mynatt	John Montoya
Marcy Toomey	Don Toomey
Stewart & Karen Oberman	Bill & Janice Cook
Susan Krueger	Jesus Lopez
Edith Wynham	Rosemary McLonghlin

#### 1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

##### Roll Call.

**Present:** Mayor Hernandez, Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Trustee Cadena, Trustee Johnson-Burick, Trustee Nevarez

#### 3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL

Trustee Johnson-Burick requested making recommended appointments, item e and item g, individual motions.

**Motion: To approve agenda as amended, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.**

Mayor Hernandez removed New Business item i) from the agenda which was a duplicate.

**Motion: To approve Resolution 2024-01 Town of Mesilla's annual Open Meeting Act Resolution (OMA 2023-08), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson**

**Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4)  
Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes  
Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes

**b) APPROVAL: Resolution 2024-02 Rules of Conduct (2004-17)**

**Motion: To approve Resolution 2024-02 Rules of Conduct (2004-17), 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 Johnson-Burick Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes

**c) APPROVAL: Resolution 2024-03 Town of Mesilla Road Improvements**

**Motion: To approve Resolution 2024-03 Town of Mesilla Road Improvements, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4)  
Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes  
Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes

**d) APPROVAL: Resolution 2024-04 Calle de Norte Multi-Use Path Phase III**

**Motion: To approve Resolution 2024-04 Calle de Norte Multi-Use Path Phase III, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =4)  
Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes  
Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes

**e) APPROVAL: PZHAC Appointments**

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Appointment – Mr. Carlos Arzabal, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

Mayor Hernandez reviewed the process followed.

**Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes =3, No=2)  
Mayor Hernandez Yes  
Mayor Pro Tem Merrick No  
Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes  
Trustee Nevarez No

**Amendment Motion: To approve Attorney Contract for Legal Services – Mynatt Springer P.C., Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.**

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

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

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

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

i) **APPROVAL: Agreement Contract – Juan Fuentes *removed from agenda (duplicate)***

j) **APPROVAL: Professional Service Agreement for financial technical support and assistance between Mr. Juan Fuentes and Town of Mesilla**

**Motion: To approve Professional Service Agreement for financial technical support and assistance between Mr. Juan Fuentes and Town of Mesilla, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked about the per diem.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the contract does include mileage.

Mayor Hernandez stated we are looking at the extension of services that are being provided.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated her concern with the contract limit of \$20,000.

Mayor Hernandez stated Mr. Fuentes will be on a needed basis.

Mr. Fuentes stated are mindful of the need to stay within the budget.

Trustee Cadena stated we need to do whatever needs to be done to get the job done.

Trustee Johnson-Burick recommended hiring a temp to fulfill some of the duties.

Mayor Hernandez stated Mr. Fuentes has provided excellent support.

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

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

k) **APPROVAL: Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem election**

Trustee Cadena nominated Ms. Merrick for Mayor Pro Tem.

**Motion: To approve the nomination of Ms. Merrick for Mayor Pro Tem, Moved by Trustee Cadena, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.**

**8. PUBLIC INPUT – The public is invited to address the Board as allowed by the chair.**  
No Public Input

**9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
*(Written staff reports included in packets)*

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: MPO meeting Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> – Dona Ana County Chambers

Trustee Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. – Dona Ana County Chambers.  
She would like clarification of Community Development report that shows SUP request that reads “continuing to work with Pinnacle Pete Consulting”.

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

Lt. Azcarate stated the company will be coming down to install the laptops.

Trustee Cadena stated hopes this will be a productive year.

Trustee Nevarez stated he looks forward to working on moving Mesilla forward and being more transparent.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she looks forward to continuing the work they have been doing.

Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated moving and progressing in the right direction. The Christmas Events went well. Reviewed the process the board follows when contacted by the residents.

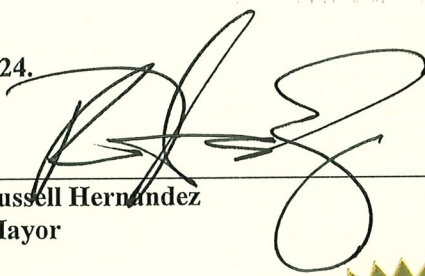
Mayor Hernandez stated he is hitting the ground running. Contacts are being made with the different state departments. We are working on maintaining our integrity.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

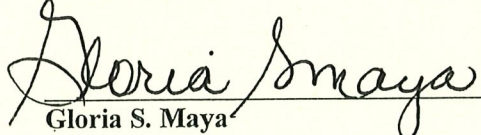
The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4).

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

**APPROVED THIS 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2024.**

  
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Russell Hernandez  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
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Gloria S. Maya  
Town Clerk/Treasurer





**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SIGN UP SHEET  
JANUARY 8, 2024**

NAME	ADDRESS
Ruben Quintana ✓	2185 Calle De Guadalupe
Richard Moreno ✓	2185 Calle De Guadalupe
Lori Miller	2250 Calle de Picoacho
Catherine Walkershaw	2134 Calle de Principal
Ben Young	1660 Hickory Loop
GREG LESTER	2557 Calle de Panzan
AUDREA BRYAN	2557 calle de Panzan
Trina Witter	Mesilla
RON BURICK	2117 calle de GUADALUPE
ETIZ GALLEGOS	2939 ESTRADA
PLAINE MYNAST	2052 ESTANCA PC
Greg Whited	MFD
Crystal Whited	MFD
Margit Ratz	Mesilla
Bill Montoya	Molun Cabin
Mary Jo Torney	Mesilla
Tom Torney	2833 Camino
Mary F. Lucero	Mesilla
Stewart & Karen Oberman	Mesilla
Bill & Janice Cook	Mesilla
Trina Kowacz	Mesilla
John Lopez	Mesilla
Andy Embury	MESILLA
Edith Wyndham	Mesilla
Rosemary McDonoughlin	Mesilla



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## Comments for January 8, 2024, BOT meeting

1 message

Catharine Walkinshaw <catharinewalkinshaw@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 8, 2024 at 12:20 PM

To: Russell Hernandez <mayor@mesillanm.gov>, Stephanie Johnson-Burick <stephaniejb@mesillanm.gov>, adriannam@mesillanm.gov, Biviana Cadena <bivianac@mesillanm.gov>, Jerry Navarez <mesillaj3@aol.com>, russell4mesillamayor@gmail.com, Mesilla Town Clerk/Treasurer <clerktreasurer@mesillanm.gov>, geraldna@mesillanm.gov

Dear Mayor Hernandez, Trustees Merrick, Johnson-Burick, Navarez, and Cadena,

Please include these in the official public input for the January 8, 2024, Board of Trustees Meeting.

My name is Catharine Walkinshaw and I live at 2134 Calle de Principal. Thank you for the opportunity to comment this evening. I have 4 comments I'd like to make:

1. I appreciate the posting of the entire agenda packet (which included draft minutes as well as information on projects/topics for discussion) in advance of this meeting. This shows the new administration's commitment to transparency. I request that this also be done for the Planning, Zoning, and Historical Appropriateness Commission (PZHAC) meetings in advance of those meetings.
2. I would like to request that tonight's vote on new members of the PZHAC be done individually NOT by the 2 individuals together as one vote. Both Dona Ana County as well as the City of Las Cruces vote on their planning and zoning commission members individually not as a group. Indeed when we vote at the polls, we vote for individuals not a slate of candidates as one vote.
3. Since you are voting on the resolution required by the Open Meetings Act on how you will conduct your meetings for the year, I assume the same will be done for the PZHAC. I request that the PZHAC meetings remain at 6pm on Mondays as has historically been the case and how residents have continually requested. This ensures more attendance by the public and permittees as well as allowing people who work during the day to apply to be PZHAC commissioners rather than having those positions restricted to only people who are retired or don't work during the day.
4. Finally, I'd like to request more involvement in the town's operations by its residents. There are talented residents of Mesilla and many can offer their volunteer labor and skills to help the town with tasks that the staff does not have time for, such as filings, mailings, computer entry, etc. I'd also like to request that there are more ways to obtain citizen input rather than just public comments during formal meetings, such as a citizen advisory council or periodic community forums/town halls.

Thank you,  
Catharine Walkinshaw  
575 932 8313  
2134 Calle de Principal  
Mesilla, NM 88046