



# Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) OF THE TOWN OF MESILLA  
WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING AT THE MESILLA TOWN HALL,  
2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA

**MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026 ~ 6:00 P.M.~**

## **MINUTES**

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

**STAFF:** Ben Azcarate, Marshal  
Lorenzo Astorga, Public Works Director  
Eddie Salazar, Econ & Com Development Director  
Greg Whited, Fire Chief  
Cole Morris, Fire Captain  
Gloria S Maya, Town Clerk/Recorder

**PUBLIC:**

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Mary F. Lucero   | Geronimo Garcia  |
| Andrea Bryan     | Greg Lester      |
| Janice Cook      | Bill Cook        |
| Edward Martinez  | Martha Mulvihill |
| Justin Bannister | Trisha Bannister |
| Andy Embury      | Trina Witter     |
| Rafael Ruiz      | Xavier Sanchez   |

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

#### **Roll Call.**

**Present:** Mayor Hernandez, Trustee Cadena, Trustee Garcia, Trustee Johnson-Burick, Trustee Nevarez.

Mayor Hernandez read statement.

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

**Motion:** To approve agenda, Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Trustee Johnson-Burick commented

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

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

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

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

Ms. Mulvihill commented

**5. 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 BOT, December 22, 2025 *Approved by consent agenda***

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

**Motion passed unanimously**

**6. PRESENTATION:**

a) **Historic Preservation Newsletter: Liana Aguirre**

Ms. Aguirre made a presentation on the Historic Preservation Newsletter.

Trustee Nevarez commented

Trustee Johnson-Burick commented

Trustee Cadena commented

Trustee Garcia commented

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

a) **DISCUSSION/NOMINATIONS: Mayor Pro-Tem Nomination**

Mayor Hernandez opened up for nominations.

Trustee Garcia nominated Trustee Johnson-Burick.

b) **APPROVAL: Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem from Nomination**

**Motion: To approve the appointment of Trustee Johnson-Burick as Mayor Pro Tem, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

c) **APPROVAL: Resolution 2026-01 Town of Mesilla's annual Open Meeting Act**

**Motion: To approve Resolution 2026-01 Town of Mesilla's annual Open Meeting Act, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

Mayor Hernandez reviewed Resolution 2026-01 Town of Mesilla's annual Open Meeting Act.

Trustee Garcia commented

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick commented

Trustee Nevarez commented

Trustee Cadena commented

**Amended Motion: To approve Resolution 2026-01 Town of Mesilla's annual Open Meeting Act as amended, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

**Second Amended Motion: To approve Resolution 2026-01 of Town of Mesilla's annual Open Meeting Act with additional amendments, Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

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

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**d) APPROVAL: Resolution 2026-02 Rules of Conduct  
Motion: To postpone Resolution 2026-02 Rules of Conduct, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.**

Mayor Hernandez reviewed Resolution 2026-02 Rules of Conduct.

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

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**e) APPROVAL: Resolution 2026-03 Rules of Procedure  
Motion: To approve Resolution 2026-03 Rules of Procedure, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

Mayor Hernandez reviewed Resolution 2026-03 Rules of Procedure.

Trustee Garcia commented

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick commented

Trustee Nevarez commented

**Amended Motion: To postpone Resolution 2026-03 Rules of Procedure, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**f) APPROVAL: PZHAC Appointments**

Mayor Hernandez reviewed the PZHAC appointment process.

Trustee Nevarez commented

Trustee Garcia commented

Trustee Cadena commented

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Appointment – Eric Walkenshaw, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3; No-2)**

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia No

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick No

Mayor Hernandez Yes

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Appointment – Eric Gallegos, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.**

Trustee Garcia commented

**Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3; No-1)**

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia Yes

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick No

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Appointment – Lori Miller, Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson.**

Trustee Garcia commented

**Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3; No-2)**

Trustee Cadena Yes

Trustee Garcia No

Trustee Nevarez Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick No

Mayor Hernandez Yes

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Appointment – Martha Mulvihill, Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.**

Trustee Garcia commented

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Appointment – Rosemary Avillar, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

Trustee Garcia commented

**Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3; No-1)**

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick No

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Appointment – Stevie Paz, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

Trustee Garcia commented

Trustee Cadena commented

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve PZHAC Appointment – Mary Lucero, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.**

Trustee Garcia commented

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**g) APPROVAL: Board of Adjustments**

**Motion: To approve Board of Adjustments – Trustee Cadena, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve Board of Adjustments – Commissioner (Alternate) Lucero , Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve Board of Adjustments – Paige Coleman, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**h) APPROVAL: Lodgers Tax Board Appointments**

**Motion: To approve Lodger’s Tax Board Appointments – Chris Hutchinson, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve Lodger’s Tax Board Appointments – Keith Bird, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

**Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-3)**

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Abstained

**Motion: To approve Lodger’s Tax Board Appointments – Cesar Huizar, Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

Trustee Garcia commented

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve Lodger’s Tax Board Appointments – Amy Lavender, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve Lodger's Tax Board Appointments – Dagmar Bausova, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**i) APPROVAL: Public Arts Committee Appointments**

**Motion: To approve Public Arts Committee Appointments – Trustee Nevarez, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

Mayor Hernandez reviewed the Board of Adjustments

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve Public Arts Committee Appointments – Commissioner Paz, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve Public Arts Committee Appointments – Emitt Booher, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Cadena.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**Motion: To approve Public Arts Committee Appointments – Susie Facio, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Garcia.**

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

Trustee Cadena Yes  
Trustee Garcia Yes  
Trustee Nevarez Yes  
Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

**j) DISCUSSION: Standing Committee/Liaison Assignments**

Mayor Hernandez reviewed the assignments.

MPO – Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Trustee Garcia

SCCOG – Trustee Cadena, Trustee Nevarez

Southwest Area Workforce Development – Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

SWRTD – Trustee Garcia, Trustee Cadena

Public Safety – Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

Public Works – Trustee Garcia

Finance – Trustee Cadena

Economic Development – Trustee Nevarez

**k) DISCUSSION: Public Safety Clerk Job Description**

Mayor Hernandez reviewed the job description.

Trustee Garcia commented

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick commented

Trustee Cadena commented

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

Ms. Ratje commented

**9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting December, February 11<sup>th</sup> next meeting

Trustee Cadena: Friends of Taylor Historic Site meeting January

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

Marshal Azcarate gave a department (Marshal) update.

Trustee Nevarez commented

Mayor Hernandez commented

Fire Chief Whited gave a department (Fire) update.

Mayor Hernandez commented

Trustee Johnson-Burick commented

Trustee Cadena commented

Mr. Astorga gave a department (Public Works) update.

Mr. Salazar gave a department (Com/Economic Development) update.

Trustee Nevarez commented

Trustee Johnson-Burick commented

Trustee Cadena commented

Mayor Hernandez commented

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

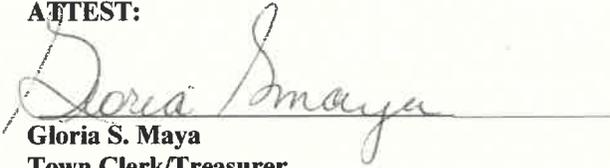
**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.M.**

**APPROVED THIS 26th DAY OF JANUARY, 2026.**



**Russell Hernandez  
Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



**Gloria S. Maya  
Town Clerk/Treasurer**



**\*\*BOT MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE LIVE ON TOWN OF MESILLA'S YOUTUBE PAGE\*\***



**BOT WORKSESSION/REGULAR  
MEETING  
SIGN IN SHEET  
JANUARY 12, 2026**

| NAME             | ADDRESS                                      |
|------------------|--|
| Mary F. Lucero   | 236 <sup>3</sup> Calle de Santiago - Mesilla |
| Benjamin Garcia  |  |
| Mara H. Katz     | 3235 Mesilla                                 |
| Martha Mufson    | 2690 Boddt Mesilla                           |
| Edward Mahoney   | 2690 Boddt St Mesilla NM                     |
| Justin Bannister | 2920 Camino Castillo                         |
| Trisha Bannister | 2920 Camino Castillo                         |
| Andrea Bryan     | Mesilla                                      |
| Greg Lester      | "  |
| Andy Embury      | MFD  |
| Janice Cook      | Mesilla                                      |
| Bill Cook        | MESILLA                                      |
| Trina Witter     | Mesilla                                      |
| Cec Morris       | MFD  |
| Rafael Ruiz      | MFD  |
| Xavier Gomez     | MFD  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |
|                  |  |

