



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

TUESDAY MAY 26, 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 Sgt Lourdez Hernandez, Marshal
Lorenzo Astorga, Public Works Director
Greg Whited, Fire Chief
Eddie Salazar, Econ & Com Development Director
Gloria S Maya, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLIC Christopher Stephens Trina Witter
Cormac McMaha. Pat Taylor
Andrea Bryan Beverly Estrada
Greg Lester Clint Snow
Crystal Whited Virginia Martin

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

TOWN OF MESILLA

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall Council Chambers
2231 Avenida de Mesilla
Mesilla, New Mexico 88046

May 26, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Russell Hernandez called the meeting to order and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya called roll.

Present:

- Mayor Russell Hernandez
- Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Johnson-Burick
- Trustee Veronica Garcia
- Trustee Bibiana Cadena
- Trustee Timothy Nevarez

A quorum was established.

Staff Present:

- Gloria Maya, Town Clerk/Treasurer
 - Eddie Salazar, Community & Economic Development Director
 - Lorenzo Astorga, Public Works Director
 - Greg Whited, Fire Chief
 - Ben Ascarate, Marshal Department
-

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Trustee Nevarez moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Second: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Items included:

- a. BOT Minutes – May 26, 2026
- b. Purchase Requisition – Desert Peaks Architects – Town Hall Project
- c. Purchase Requisition – Molzen Corbin – Paisano Road Improvements
- d. Purchase Requisition – APIC Solutions – Community Center Security
- e. Purchase Requisition – Souder, Miller & Associates – Mesilla Water Tank & Well
- f. Purchase Requisition – Alpha Southwest – Colonias Emergency Funding Project
- g. Purchase Requisition – Souder, Miller & Associates – Parque Conmemorativo
- h. Purchase Requisition – CES – Signage Construction

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Second: Trustee Cadena.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

5. PRESENTATIONS

A. PROCLAMATION – PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Mayor Hernandez read a proclamation recognizing National Public Works Week and acknowledged the contributions of the Public Works Department in maintaining infrastructure, utilities, facilities, parks, streets, and community services throughout the Town.

The Board expressed appreciation to Public Works staff for their dedication and service.

B. PROCLAMATION – HISTORIC PRESERVATION WEEK

Mayor Hernandez read a proclamation declaring Historic Preservation Week in Mesilla and recognized ongoing preservation efforts within the Town.

Special recognition was given to Historic Preservation staff and volunteers involved in preservation programming and activities.

Mayor Hernandez highlighted ongoing efforts at the Historic Blacksmith Shop and recognized the importance of preserving Mesilla's unique historic and cultural resources.

C. PROCLAMATION – PALACIO BAR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Mayor Hernandez presented a proclamation recognizing Palacio Bar's 90 years of continuous operation in Mesilla.

The proclamation honored the Salcido and Chavez families and recognized Palacio Bar's significance as a longstanding community institution and historic landmark.

Trustees congratulated the owners and family members present.

D. SOCIAL MEDIA / WEBSITE STATISTICS

Mayor Hernandez presented social media and website analytics for Town outreach efforts.

Discussion included:

- Facebook engagement statistics.
- Website traffic reports.
- Promotion of community events.
- Visitor interaction metrics.
- Growth in public engagement through digital platforms.

Mayor Hernandez noted the importance of maintaining strong communication with residents and visitors through social media and the Town website.

6. STAFF UPDATES & COMMENTS

Marshal Department – Ben Azcarate

Marshal Department representatives reported:

- Successful participation in the Ride of Silence event.
- Graduation of student interns.
- Summer adjustments for School Resource Officers.
- Approximately 280 calls for service during April.
- Increased patrols and traffic enforcement activities.
- Continued community outreach initiatives.
- Participation in upcoming "Fish With A Cop" activities.

Discussion followed regarding speeding concerns along University Avenue and additional traffic enforcement efforts.

Fire Department – Chief Greg Whited

Chief Whited reported:

- Graduation of department personnel from the State Fire Academy.
- Recruitment efforts for volunteer firefighters.
- Participation in school and community outreach programs.
- Smoke detector distribution efforts.
- Community Connect enrollment.
- Mutual aid responses and emergency service activities.

Trustees discussed smoke detector placement, program eligibility, and public education efforts.

Chief Whited explained that the detectors contain sealed ten-year batteries and are intended to improve life safety throughout the community.

Public Works Department – Lorenzo Astorga

Public Works Director Lorenzo Astorga provided an update on departmental operations.

Mr. Astorga reported on:

- Routine roadway maintenance.
- Facility maintenance activities.
- Irrigation and landscaping work.
- Ongoing infrastructure improvement projects.
- Coordination with contractors and engineers.
- Support for Town events and facilities.

Trustees thanked Public Works personnel for their continued efforts and recognized the department during Public Works Week.

Community & Economic Development – Eddie Salazar

Community & Economic Development Director Eddie Salazar provided updates regarding:

- Historic Preservation Week activities.
- Historic Blacksmith Shop programming.
- Tourism promotion efforts.
- Community event planning.
- Economic development initiatives.
- Business outreach and support activities.
- Grant opportunities and regional partnerships.

Mr. Salazar discussed efforts to promote Mesilla's historic character, local businesses, and cultural attractions through marketing and community engagement initiatives.

Finance Department – Gloria Maya

Ms. Maya provided budgetary and financial updates associated with current fiscal year operations and upcoming budget preparation activities.

7. PUBLIC INPUT ON CASES

Ms. Estrada expressed concerns regarding University Avenue.

Ms. Martin expressed concerns regarding University Avenue.

Ms. Witter expressed concerns regarding University Avenue and lighting.

Mesilla Resident express concerns regarding University Avenue and lighting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval – Doña Ana County All Hazard Emergency Operations Plan

Mayor Hernandez presented the updated Emergency Operations Plan for consideration.

Discussion focused on emergency preparedness, interagency coordination, and response planning.

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Second: Trustee Cadena

Vote: Approved unanimously.

B. Discussion – Preliminary FY 2026-2027 Budget (Amended)

Mayor Hernandez and staff reviewed proposed amendments to the Preliminary FY 2026-2027 Budget.

Discussion included:

- Revenue projections.
- Operational expenditures.
- Capital improvement funding.
- Grant revenues.
- Infrastructure projects.

Trustees discussed budget priorities and funding allocations.

C. Approval – Preliminary FY 2026-2027 Budget (Amended)

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Second: Trustee Cadena

Vote: Approved unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion to Reconsider PZHAC Case #062127

Trustees discussed reconsideration of permit fees associated with the Las Cruces Public Schools Technical Education Center project.

Discussion centered on prior practices, municipal code language, fee waivers for public entities, and precedent-setting concerns.

Motion: Trustee Garcia

Second: Trustee Cadena

A condition was proposed to waive permit fees.

Motion on Condition: Trustee Garcia

Second: Trustee Cadena

Roll Call Vote on Condition:

- Garcia – Yes
- Cadena – Yes
- Johnson-Burick – No
- Nevarez – No
- Hernandez – Yes

Motion Passed 3-2.

The original motion as amended was then considered.

Roll Call Vote:

- Johnson-Burick – No
- Cadena – Yes
- Garcia – Yes
- Nevarez – No
- Hernandez – Yes

Motion Passed 3-2.

B. Reconsideration of PZHAC Case #062127

The Board formally approved reconsideration and waiver of fees associated with the project pursuant to the action taken above.

C. Casa Peregrinos Pop-Up Event Dates

Mayor Hernandez reviewed upcoming Casa Peregrinos food distribution events scheduled at the Community Center.

Dates discussed included:

- June 17
- July 15
- August 19
- September 16

Residents were encouraged to participate.

No action required.

D. University Avenue Updates

Mayor Hernandez provided an extensive update regarding the University Avenue project and recent NMDOT public meeting.

Discussion included:

- Lighting concerns.
- Drainage concerns.
- Privacy impacts to adjacent homeowners.
- Historic preservation issues.
- Trail enhancement opportunities.
- Resident complaints.
- Future public meetings.
- Potential grant funding opportunities.

Trustees Garcia, Cadena, Nevarez, and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick discussed resident concerns at length.

Public comments emphasized:

- Property damage.
- Safety concerns.
- Privacy concerns.
- Historic preservation compliance.
- Lighting impacts.

Mayor Hernandez committed to continued coordination with residents, NMDOT, and state and federal agencies regarding project concerns.

E. Discussion – Municipal Boundary Legislation Proposal

Mayor Hernandez presented a legislative proposal intended for consideration by the New Mexico Municipal League.

Discussion centered on:

- Municipal boundary adjustments.
- Annexation limitations.
- Small municipality growth opportunities.
- Legislative process considerations.
- Potential impacts on Mesilla and surrounding areas.

Trustees discussed concerns regarding municipal growth, boundary protection, and possible future implications.

F. Resolution 2026-26 – Municipal Boundary Legislation Proposal

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Second: Mayor Hernandez

Roll Call Vote:

- Nevarez – Yes
- Garcia – No
- Cadena – Yes
- Johnson-Burick – No
- Hernandez – Yes

Motion Passed 3-2.

G. Approval – Querencia Mi Mesilla Volunteer Support for Blacksmith Property

Mayor Hernandez presented a request for volunteer assistance to stabilize the rear wall of the Historic Blacksmith Property.

Estimated material costs were discussed.

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Second: Trustee Cadena

Vote: Approved unanimously.

H. Approval – iWorQ Asset Management Proposal

Discussion focused on implementation of the iWorQ asset management system.

Topics included:

- Annual subscription costs.
- Engineering setup costs.
- Asset tracking capabilities.
- Infrastructure management benefits.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

Second: Trustee Garcia

Vote: Approved unanimously.

I. Resolution 2026-25 – Fourth Quarter BAR

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

Second: Trustee Cadena

Vote: Approved unanimously.

10. PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Beverly Estrada addressed the Board regarding the University Avenue project.

Ms. Estrada discussed:

- Historic preservation compliance.
- Section 106 review requirements.
- Federal undertaking agency involvement.
- Privacy impacts.
- Property damage concerns.
- Lighting concerns.
- NMDOT responsiveness.
- Requests for Town support and accountability.

Additional residents expressed concerns regarding privacy, safety, and project impacts affecting properties adjacent to University Avenue.

11. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustees reported on attendance at MPO/NPO meetings, preservation activities, foundation meetings, community events, and University Avenue meetings.

12. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustees discussed:

- Resident concerns.
- Community outreach.
- Public Works Week recognition.
- Community garden activities.
- University Avenue concerns.
- Regional transportation planning activities.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

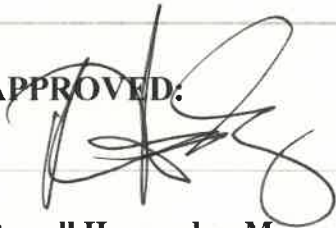
Mayor Hernandez reported on:

- Community beautification projects.
- Clean & Beautiful grant activities.
- Colonias grant awards totaling approximately \$3.2 million.
- Water well construction funding.
- Fire hydrant replacement projects.
- NMDOT coordination efforts.
- Municipal League activities.
- Workforce Development meetings.
- OSHA compliance review.
- Nuisance ordinance updates.
- Upcoming community meetings and conferences.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Mayor Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

APPROVED:



Russell Hernandez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria Maya
Town Clerk/Treasurer



**WORKSESSION/BOT REGULAR
MEETING
SIGN IN SHEET
May 26, 2026**

NAME	ADDRESS
Sgt. Louder Hernandez	Mesilla Washers 2670 Calle De Parian
T. Stephens, Christopher	Mesilla Fire 2676 Calle De Parian
Carmene McMahon	Mesilla Fire 2676 Calle De Parian
ANDREA BRYAN	2557 calle de Parian
GREG LESTER	" " " "
G. WHITED	Mesilla Fire CAPRI ARC
G. WHITED	MESILLA FIRE CAPRI ARC
Trina Witter	Mesilla
PAT TAYLOR	MESILLA
Beverly Estrada	PO Box 103 Mesilla NM 88046
Clint Lane	303 Capri Arc
Virginia Martin	108 Capri Rd.

Petition to Request Reevaluation of the Walking Path and Support the Construction of a Rock Wall Behind Homes on University Avenue

We, the undersigned residents of the Town of Mesilla, are writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed road project that includes a walking path on University Avenue, directly behind homes located in the area. While we support improvements to public infrastructure, we strongly believe that the current plan for the walking path presents significant safety risks to residents, pedestrians, and the community as a whole.

We respectfully request that the Town of Mesilla take the following actions:

1. Build a protective barrier, such as a rock wall or fence, between the walking path and residential properties to ensure the safety of pedestrians and residents.

Reason for Our Request:

- Proximity to Residential Homes: The proposed walking path runs directly behind homes, putting pedestrians in close proximity to private properties. This raises both safety and privacy concerns for homeowners. Additionally, the elevation of the walking path is up to two feet higher than the elevation of the backyards along the property line. This creates an alarming situation where individuals could easily jump over fences and access private yards.
- Traffic Safety: There have been multiple incidents in the area, including vehicles running off the road, high-speed chases, and accidents. These incidents pose a significant risk to anyone using the walking path and to surrounding homeowners who use their backyards.
- Public Safety Concerns: There have been ongoing reports of gunshots, domestic disturbances, and other safety incidents in the area. The proposed walking path could expose pedestrians, as well as homeowners, to these risks, further compromising their safety.

We believe that building a protective barrier will provide a safer environment for everyone—residents, pedestrians, and drivers—while still allowing for the development of the area.

We urge the Town of Mesilla to address these concerns promptly and find a solution that prioritizes public safety.

We, the undersigned, hereby support this petition and request that the Town of Mesilla take immediate action to address our safety concerns.

Signatures:

Name / Address	Email	Date	Signature
Jennifer Taylor 317 Capri Arc	jetaylor@msu.edu	5/22/25	Jennifer Taylor
Ben Schmitt 323 Capri Arc	BSchmitt351@gmail.com	5/27/25	[Signature]
Bonny Nelson 311 Capri Arc	wendoc@comcast.net	5-27-25	Bonny Nelson

BRANDON F. SCHWARTZ 409 BASON DR	brandon.schwartz@gmail.com	6-3-2025	[Signature]
Ali Libento 412 BASON DR.	alilore@hotmail.com	6/3/2025	alilore

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Ben Schmitt 323 Capri Arc	BSchmitt351@gmail.com	5/27/25	[Signature]
Bonny Nelson 311 Capri Arc	wendoc@comcast.net	5-22-25	Bonny Nelson

BRANDON F. SCHWARTZ 409 BASON DR	brandon.schwartz@gmail.com	6-3-2025	[Signature]
Ali Liberto 412 BASON DR.	alilore@hotmail.com	6/3/2025	alilore

Leonard W...			
311 Capri Arc LCNM SUE Theodorson	Lendoc.comcast.net sktheod@comcast.net		
315 CAPRI ARC 307 Capri Arc	LC, NM	5/27/25	Sue Theodorson
Roberto Naese	roberto.naese@icloud.com	5/29/25	Roberto Naese
Judith Gallardo			
318 Capri Arc	jglcnm@yahoo.com	5/27/25	Judith Gallardo
^{Whited} Greg & Crystal Davis-Whited	coolestnurseemsu.com	5/27/25	
203 Capri Arc			
Greg Whited	gregorywhited687@gmail.com	5/27/25	
203 Capri Arc			
Andrew Whited	Andrew.Whited@hotmail.com	5/27/25	
203 Capri Arc			
Sue Ann Davis	Sueand58@gmail.com	5-27-25	Sue Ann Davis
203 Capri Arc			
Joanie Demchok	none	5/27/25	Joanie Demchok
203 Capri Arc			
Richard Whited	Darkwolf687@gmail.com	05/27/25	
203 Capri Arc			
Elizabeth Salazar	esalazar@nmsu.edu	05/27/2025	E Salazar
201 Capri Arc			
Shirley Geddes	breeze@rause576@gmail.com	5/27/25	Shirley Geddes
F. Omar Holguin	frholgui@gmail.com	5/27/25	
Aroza L. Holguin	fomar.holguin@gmail.com	5/27/25	
Ryan Mastin	Mastin.Ryan@yahoo.com	5/27/25	
Sara Orton	saraorton@comcast.net	5/27/25	Sara T. Orton

Name

Email

Date

Signature


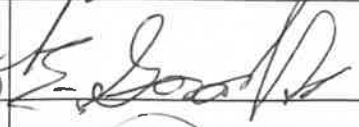
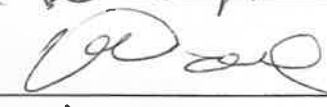
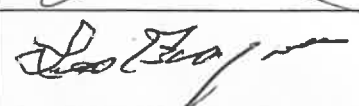
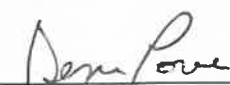


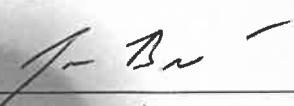
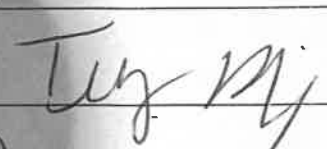

A. J. Simonini 321 Capri Arc	Jim. SIMONINI@gmail.com	5/27/25	AS Simonini
Michael Nolen 321 Capri Arc	msnolen@gmail.com	5/27/25	MSNolen
Samir Nolen 321 Capri Arc	nolenbills32@gmail.com	5/27/25	Samir
Jasey L Loman 329 Capri Arc Kurt L. Austin	jaseylloman@gmail.com	5/27/25	Jasey L Loman
329 Capri Arc Kurt L. Austin	Kurt L. Austin - civ	5/27/25	Kurt Austin
Kelly Brooks 326 Capri Arc	Kebrooks@msu.edu	5/27/25	Kelly Brooks
Coy Lowther 335 Capri Arc	CoyLowther@gmail.com	5/27/25	Coy Lowther
Matt Lowther 335 Capri Arc	mattlowther85@gmail.com	5/27/25	Matt Lowther
Lauren McBurray 314 Capri Arc	Laurenstanbury@hotmail.com	5/27/25	Lauren McBurray
Sam McBurray 319 Capri Arc	TadMedic@mesilla.nm.gov	5/27/25	Sam
Scott Eckert 316 Capri Arc	roscoe.louie@gmail.com	5/27/25	Scott
Laurie Findley 2860 NE Sawell Place	lauriefindley@hotmail.com	5/30/25	Laurie Findley
Ramon Parris 457 Bason Dr.		5/31/25	Ramon Parris
Mark Schwartz 409 Bason Dr.	Pilgrimbango@gmail.com	6/3/25	Mark Schwartz
Ellen Thompson Schwark 409 Bason Dr.	alternativefitness@hotmail.com	6/3/25	Ellen Thompson Schwark

Name E-mail Date Signature

APR 2

Name / Address	Email	Date	Signature
Wendy Elston 421 Bason Dr.	wkmetz.home @Yahoo.com	6/3/25	Wendy Elston
Kristin Oliver 406 Bason Dr	olikus1c@gmail.com	6/3/25	Kristin Oliver
Alex KASSIN 406 BASON	"	6/3/25	Alex Kassin
LANA Williams 425 Bason	"	6/3/25	Lana Williams
Sandra Grant 427 Bason	e2grant93@yahoo.com	6/3/25	Sandra Grant
Dustin Grant 427 Bason	granttejas@yahoo.com	6/3/25	Dustin Grant
Lydia Marquez 422 Bason	lydiatmarquez@yahoo.com	6/3/25	Lydia Marquez
Judy + Jerry Silva 304 Capri Rd	saxmut2575@yahoo.com	6-3-25	Judy + Jerry Silva
MARTA REECE 215 CAPRI RD	MREECE@NMSU. EDU	6-3-25	Marta Reece
Bonnie Poloner 431 Bason		6-3-25	Bonnie Poloner
Jack Nolter 321 Capri Arc	Nolter DJack@gmail	6-4-25	Jack Nolter
Kristin Spahn 325 Capri Arc	kmaesr@gmail.com	6-5-25	Kristin Spahn
Ladislava Dominguez 292 Capri Rd	ldladislava@gmail.com	6-5-2025	Ladislava Dominguez
Wiley E. Thompson 298 Capri Rd		6/5/25	Wiley E. Thompson
V DONAHUE 3010 BOWMAN		6/5/25	V Donahue
Raúl A. Villar 414 Conway		6/5/25	Raúl Villar
CLARK MYERS 3009 BOWMAN		6.5.25	Clark Myers
Michael Rosborough 3001 Bowman St	mrosborough@gmail.com	6-5-25	Michael Rosborough

Name/Address Email date Signature

Name / Address	Email	Date	Signature
308 Capri Rd Martha Turner	heartofthedove	6/5/25	Martha Turner
Michael Bell 435 Bacon Dr		6/5/25	
Ed Gomolak 294 Capri Rd	edgomolak@gmail.com	6/5/2025	
Michelle 402 Bacon		6-5-29	
Lo-Pong 324 Capri Arc		6-5-29	
Gene Love		6-6-25	
Marat Talipov 206 Capri Rd LC Nr	talipovm@gmail.com	6/6/25	
Carol & Garland Turner 403 Bacon		6/6/25	
Ryan Aford 314 Capri Arc	Greyhounds967@gmail.com	6/6/25	
James Beaupre 314 Capri Arc		06 June 25	
Tracy Beaupre 314 Capri Arc	tbeaupre5@hotmail.com	6/6/25	
Emily Cordova 314 Capri Arc	EmilyDeeCordova@icloud	6-9-25	Emily C.
BRIAN CURRY	BCURRYJLGI@GMAIL	6/23/25	
Lauren Curry	lam9219@gmail.com	6/24/25	