



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, JUNE 08, 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 Ascarate, Marshal
Lorenzo Astorga, Public Works Director
Greg Whited, Fire Chief
Eddie Salazar, Econ & Com Development Director
Gloria S Maya, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLIC Catherine Walkinshaw
Eric Walkinshaw
Janice Cook
Bill Cook
Morgan Switzer
Tiffany Haggard
Trina Witter
Beverly Estrada
Anton Magallanez

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 conducted roll call.

Present:

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

A quorum was established and the meeting proceeded.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Hernandez presented the agenda for approval.

Trustee Nevarez moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick seconded the motion.

There being no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: Trustee Nevarez

SECOND: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

RESULT: Approved

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Hernandez presented the Consent Agenda.

Discussion occurred regarding prior meeting minutes and comments related to public input and petitions. Clarification was provided regarding language contained within the minutes and how comments had been recorded.

Following discussion, the Board proceeded with consideration of the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick moved approval of the Consent Agenda.

Trustee Cadena seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

SECOND: Trustee Cadena

RESULT: Approved

5. STAFF UPDATES & COMMENTS

A. Mesilla Marshals Department

Ben Ascarate provided an overview of recent departmental activities.

The report included calls for service, traffic enforcement efforts, community policing activities, code enforcement support, officer training, and ongoing public safety operations. Updates were provided regarding staffing, community outreach efforts, and upcoming public events involving the department.

Discussion followed regarding traffic concerns throughout town, speeding complaints, and future enforcement opportunities. Trustees discussed concerns raised by residents and opportunities to increase visibility in problem areas.

B. Fire Department

Fire Chief Greg Whited presented the monthly Fire Department report.

Chief Whited reported on emergency responses, training activities, volunteer recruitment efforts, public education programs, and mutual aid responses.

The Chief discussed smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector initiatives, Community Connect participation, school outreach programs, and recent emergency response activities.

Board members discussed recruitment challenges, volunteer firefighter retention, smoke detector programs, and community outreach opportunities.

C. Public Works Department

Public Works Director Lorenzo Astorga provided updates on departmental activities and current projects.

Mr. Astorga discussed maintenance operations, drainage concerns, beautification efforts, roadway repairs, and infrastructure projects. He reported on partnerships with community organizations and ongoing work throughout Town facilities and public spaces.

Discussion included stormwater management concerns, drainage maintenance, roadway conditions, and infrastructure priorities.

Board members discussed recent rainfall events and the impact on drainage systems throughout town.

D. Economic/Community Development Department

Economic/Community Development Director Eddie Salazar provided departmental updates.

Mr. Salazar reported on:

- Historic preservation activities.
- Code enforcement cases.
- Ordinance review efforts.
- Planning and zoning matters.
- Historic Preservation internship activities.
- Historic Registry nominations.
- Community development initiatives.
- Public art planning.
- Special event coordination.

Discussion occurred regarding nuisance properties, RV parking concerns, code enforcement procedures, and ordinance revisions currently under review.

Mr. Salazar discussed repairs to the EBID lateral near Mesilla Farms and related coordination efforts.

Historic Preservation activities were reviewed, including ongoing intern projects and work associated with the Historic Registry.

Discussion then shifted to event parking concerns and fireworks stand hazard permit fees.

Trustees questioned how permit fees had been assessed and whether businesses had been provided adequate notice regarding fee requirements. Discussion focused on consistency of enforcement, ordinance interpretation, notification procedures, and fairness to businesses.

Mayor Hernandez emphasized the importance of reviewing ordinance language and ensuring businesses are informed when fee structures or permitting requirements affect operations.

Board members discussed grace periods, compliance procedures, and opportunities to improve communication with affected property owners and businesses.

6. PUBLIC INPUT ON CASES

Morgan Switzer – New Mexico Vintage Wines

Ms. Switzer addressed the Board regarding the proposed noise ordinance.

She stated that she supported having a noise ordinance but expressed concern regarding the proposed decibel levels.

Ms. Switzer stated that live music and customer activity are important components of local business operations and community enjoyment.

She expressed concern that the proposed thresholds could negatively affect businesses while not impacting other establishments or Town-sponsored events in the same way.

Ms. Switzer requested that the Board carefully consider how the ordinance may affect businesses and patrons before final adoption.

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

A. PZHAC CASE 062130 – 2130 CALLE PRINCIPAL

Economic/Community Development Director Eddie Salazar presented the request for improvements to an accessory structure located at 2130 Calle Principal.

Mr. Salazar explained that the application had been reviewed by the Planning, Zoning and Historic Architectural Commission (PZHAC) and received a recommendation for approval on a 4-0 vote. Commissioner Eric Walkinshaw recused himself from discussion and voting due to ownership interest in the property.

Staff reviewed the proposed improvements and confirmed compliance with applicable design standards.

Board members discussed the project and asked questions regarding the scope of work and consistency with historic district requirements.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick moved approval of PZHAC Case 062130.

A second was provided.

Following discussion, the motion carried.

RESULT: Approved

B. PZHAC CASE 062135 – CASA OSO SIGN REQUEST

Mr. Salazar presented a request for installation of a new projecting sign for Casa Oso.

Staff explained that PZHAC had considered the request and produced a split 2-2 vote, resulting in no recommendation.

The proposed sign included internally illuminated lettering.

Extensive discussion followed.

Board members discussed:

- Historic Plaza design standards.
- Compatibility with historic character.
- Traditional sign styles.
- Goose-neck lighting versus internally illuminated signage.
- Visibility concerns for businesses.
- Consistency with previous approvals.
- Potential precedent for future sign applications.

Several trustees expressed concern regarding the introduction of internally illuminated signs within the historic Plaza area and questioned whether approval would establish a precedent difficult to reverse in future cases.

Discussion also focused on examples from Santa Fe and other historic communities.

Trustees considered whether the sign could be redesigned using external lighting methods that would better align with historic design standards.

Following extensive discussion, a motion was made to approve the application.

The motion failed.

As a result, the application was denied.

Following the vote, additional discussion occurred regarding guidance for the applicant, potential redesign options, and future interpretation of sign standards.

RESULT: Application Denied

C. DISCUSSION – UPCOMING PUBLIC HEARINGS AND ORDINANCE UPDATES

Mayor Hernandez reviewed multiple ordinance amendments scheduled for future public hearings.

Discussion included:

- Nuisance ordinance revisions.
- Noise ordinance revisions.
- Hearing officer provisions.
- PZHAC compensation.
- Public school fee exemptions.
- Utility rate notification procedures.
- Future ordinance review schedules.

Mayor Hernandez emphasized that upcoming meetings would be public hearings and that drafts would be made available for public review.

Trustee Garcia expressed concern that businesses had not yet received ordinance drafts and stressed the importance of notifying those who may be affected.

Discussion focused heavily on the proposed noise ordinance.

Board members compared proposed standards to those used by Dona Ana County and the City of Las Cruces.

Mayor Hernandez stated that the intent was to recognize that commercial areas are business-focused areas while still providing protections for nearby residents.

Discussion included:

- Decibel measurement locations.
- Daytime and nighttime standards.
- Enforcement procedures.
- Town-sponsored events.
- Commercial versus residential priorities.
- Public outreach requirements.

Discussion then moved to PZHAC compensation.

The Board reviewed proposed commissioner compensation levels of \$100 per meeting and \$50 for alternates.

Trustees discussed reducing the number of alternates from two to one due to consistent attendance while allowing current appointments to remain through expiration of their terms.

Discussion also addressed building fee exemptions for public schools and public entities.

Questions were raised regarding exemption thresholds, Board review requirements, and utility connection fees.

Mayor Hernandez reviewed the process for future ordinance updates and encouraged trustees to submit comments before scheduled public hearings.

D. LAND SPLIT PRIOR TO SUBDIVISION CODIFICATION

Mr. Salazar presented concerns regarding historic land divisions that occurred prior to adoption of subdivision regulations.

The discussion became one of the most extensive topics of the evening.

Mr. Salazar reviewed issues involving:

- Mesilla Park properties.
- Legal non-conforming lots.
- Basin Manor subdivision history.
- Annexation history.
- R-1 zoning requirements.
- Historic Residential zoning.
- Drainage easements.
- EBID facilities.
- Properties divided by governmental actions.

Board members discussed situations where parcels had been legally separated by drainage facilities decades ago but continued to be treated as single tax accounts.

Questions arose regarding whether property owners should be required to seek variances when lot configurations resulted from historic governmental actions rather than owner decisions.

Discussion expanded to:

- Agricultural land divisions.
- Property surveys.
- Tax parcel mapping.
- GIS records.
- Historical zoning classifications.
- Housing affordability.
- Cluster development concepts.
- Greenbelt preservation goals.

Trustees questioned whether recurring variance requests indicated broader zoning issues requiring code amendments.

Mayor Hernandez noted that repeated variance requests may indicate deficiencies within existing ordinances and may justify future code revisions.

Board members discussed whether creation of a new zoning classification may be appropriate for historic neighborhoods such as Mesilla Park.

Historic preservation implications, annexation records, and potential Section 106 considerations were also discussed.

Staff requested policy guidance from the Board before proceeding with future recommendations.

The Board generally agreed that additional research and comprehensive zoning review would be necessary before policy decisions are made.

E. MUNICIPAL COURT UPDATE

Former Municipal Court Administrator Ramona Molina appeared before the Board to provide an update regarding reconciliation and closure of historical Municipal Court records.

Ms. Molina explained that significant work had been completed to reconcile bond accounts, close remaining court cases, and review historical records dating back many years. She stated that all known pending Municipal Court cases had been addressed and that DWI-related records had been transferred to Magistrate Court because those records are required to be maintained permanently.

Ms. Molina reported that an initial review identified approximately forty-two records that appeared to contain unresolved bond balances. Through extensive research and comparison of historical court records, accounting records, and available case files, that list had been reduced significantly.

Ms. Molina advised the Board that only a handful of records remained questionable and that approximately \$12,359 may still be associated with potential claims depending upon final verification.

Board members asked questions regarding how the discrepancies occurred.

Ms. Molina explained that many of the problems stemmed from older accounting systems, reversed transactions, missing documentation, and inconsistent historical recordkeeping practices.

During discussion, examples were provided of transactions where checks had been issued, later reversed in the accounting system, and then appeared to create duplicate obligations even though payments had already been made.

One example discussed involved an individual from 2011 whose case could no longer be located in the system despite the existence of a related financial transaction. Ms. Molina explained that because of missing records and incomplete historical information, it was difficult to determine exactly how some transactions had occurred. She noted that some records reflected pending bonds even though evidence suggested the bonds had already been refunded or applied. She further explained that because complete records were unavailable, there was no way to determine how many similar situations might exist.

Trustees expressed concern regarding the size of the discrepancy between the amount potentially owed and the amount remaining in bond accounts.

Ms. Molina explained that while approximately \$12,359 appeared to be potentially owed to identifiable claimants. She stated that she could not explain why the difference existed and that the issue likely predated her employment with the Town.

Mayor Hernandez discussed ongoing coordination with state agencies and emphasized that guidance was being sought from the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), the State Auditor's Office, and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). He noted that all parties involved were state-level entities and that the Town was awaiting direction regarding proper disposition of remaining funds.

Board members thanked Ms. Molina for the extensive work completed to reconcile the records.

Ms. Molina then stated that she had one concern regarding the proposed approval documents. She explained that she did not want to sign any documentation that could later be interpreted as accepting responsibility for problems that existed before she became Court Administrator. She

stated that she was willing to assist in resolving the issue but did not want her signature associated with actions that occurred before her employment with the Town.

Mayor Hernandez acknowledged her concern and confirmed that the issue could be addressed during consideration of the next agenda item.

Board members thanked Ms. Molina for her work and she concluded her presentation.

F. APPROVAL OF COURT RECORDS, LISTINGS AND REMAINING PROCEDURES

Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Johnson-Burick moved approval of the Court Records, Listings and Remaining Procedures.

Trustee Garcia seconded the motion.

Mayor Hernandez opened the item for discussion and referenced Ms. Molina's request regarding removal of her name from the records custodian portion of the documentation.

Trustee Garcia stated that she wished to amend the motion by removing Ramona Molina from the Public Safety Clerk Records Custodian designation contained within the documents.

Trustee Nevarez seconded the amendment.

Mayor Hernandez opened discussion on the amendment.

Hearing no discussion, Mayor Hernandez called for a roll call vote.

Amendment Motion

MOTION: Trustee Garcia

SECOND: Trustee Nevarez

Roll Call Vote:

- Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick – Yes
- Trustee Garcia – Yes
- Trustee Cadena – Yes
- Trustee Nevarez – Yes

RESULT: Amendment Approved Unanimously.

The Board then returned to the original motion as amended.

Mayor Hernandez again opened discussion.

Hearing none, he called for a roll call vote.

Main Motion as Amended

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

SECOND: Trustee Garcia

Roll Call Vote:

- Trustee Garcia – Yes
- Trustee Cadena – Yes
- Trustee Nevarez – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick – Yes

RESULT: Approved Unanimously.

G. APPROVAL OF USDA WILDLIFE AGREEMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick moved approval of the USDA Wildlife Agreement.

Trustee Garcia seconded the motion.

Mayor Hernandez explained that the agreement is the Town's annual wildlife services agreement.

Hearing no further discussion, a roll call vote was conducted.

MOTION: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

SECOND: Trustee Garcia

Roll Call Vote:

- Trustee Garcia – Yes
- Trustee Cadena – Yes
- Trustee Nevarez – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick – Yes

RESULT: Approved Unanimously.

H. APPROVAL OF NEW MEXICO COOPERATIVE MARKETING AGREEMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick moved approval.

Trustee Cadena seconded the motion.

Mayor Hernandez explained that the agreement represented the Town's annual marketing partnership with the State of New Mexico. He noted that the Town's matching contribution was approximately \$13,000 and that the program generated approximately \$40,000 in total marketing value.

No additional discussion was offered.

Roll Call Vote

- Trustee Garcia – Yes
- Trustee Cadena – Yes
- Trustee Nevarez – Yes
- Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick – Yes

RESULT: Approved Unanimously.

I. APPROVAL OF NEW MEXICO HISTORIC SITES LEASE AGREEMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick moved approval.

Trustee Garcia seconded the motion.

Mayor Hernandez explained that New Mexico Historic Sites had requested conversion of the lease agreement from an annual renewal to a three-year renewal cycle in order to streamline administrative procedures.

No additional discussion occurred.

Roll Call Vote

- Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick – Yes
- Trustee Garcia – Yes
- Trustee Cadena – Yes
- Trustee Nevarez – Yes

RESULT: Approved Unanimously.

J. RESOLUTION 2026-27 – FOURTH QUARTER BUDGET ADJUSTMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick moved approval.

Trustee Cadena seconded the motion.

Mayor Hernandez clarified that references to Fiscal Year 2025-26 were correct because the adjustment related to the current fiscal year.

Finance staff explained that the budget adjustments were necessary because reimbursements and refunds had increased revenues beyond budgeted amounts. Staff noted that budget adjustments are required whenever revenues exceed budget projections and explained that additional adjustments may occur before fiscal year closeout.

Mayor Hernandez noted that these adjustments were positive because they reflected additional reimbursements and funding being received throughout the year.

Staff emphasized that the Town budget is a living document that changes throughout the fiscal year as revenues and expenditures fluctuate.

Following discussion, a roll call vote was conducted.

RESULT: Approved Unanimously.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

Anton Magollanez– Moyes Surveying

Mr. Magollanez addressed the Board regarding the earlier discussion on greenbelt parcels and land divisions.

Mr. Magollanez explained that Assessor maps are tax tools and do not establish legal boundaries. He noted that many property owners mistakenly assume tax parcels and legal parcels are identical when that is not always the case. He described historical practices whereby multiple legal lots were combined under a single tax account and situations where legally distinct parcels existed under one assessment record.

He discussed greenbelt properties affected by the 1932 drainage easement acquisitions and explained how drainage construction legally divided certain parcels through governmental action. He stated that in many cases no subdivision occurred because the division resulted from government acquisition rather than owner action.

Mr. Magollanez encouraged the Town to develop an administrative process to address these situations rather than requiring variances or subdivision applications for parcels that were already legally divided. He also suggested consideration of conditional zoning approaches for historic undersized lots.

Beverly Estrada

Ms. Estrada addressed the Board regarding due process, transparency, communication, and accountability within Town government.

Ms. Estrada stated that she had submitted requests for documents but did not initially receive the requested materials. She explained that she received acknowledgment that the requests had been received and that staff would be working on them, but after time passed without receiving the records, she filed an IPRA complaint because she believed time was critical due to matters involving the University Avenue project.

Ms. Estrada stated that she contacted Trustee Garcia regarding the issue and informed her of the situation. She explained that after eventually receiving the documents, they were provided through a Google document system that required access permissions and that no password or access instructions had initially been provided. She stated that she had to request permission for each document individually.

Ms. Estrada noted that she did not receive a response from the Town Clerk regarding access but stated that Economic/Community Development Director Eddie Salazar ultimately provided access permissions later that evening, allowing her to review the materials.

Ms. Estrada stated that she consistently raises concerns regarding communication, transparency, and accountability because she believes those principles are essential to professional local government operations. She expressed concern that a lack of due process and communication damages the Town's credibility and affects how outside agencies view Mesilla.

She emphasized that her comments were not intended to criticize any individual personally but rather to encourage improvements in communication and transparency. Ms. Estrada stated that if access problems occurred in her case, similar issues may be affecting other residents as well. She concluded by stressing that leadership and accountability are necessary for effective government operations and thanked the Board for its time.

Trina Witter

Ms. Witter appeared before the Board on behalf of Mary Helen Rachie, who was unable to attend due to commitments with visiting guests from out of state.

Ms. Witter relayed a request regarding the temporary shade tent currently located on the Plaza. She stated that many visitors have been using the tent during periods of hot weather and that it has become a popular gathering and resting location. According to Ms. Witter, visitors have been using the tent for picnics and as a place to cool off while spending time in the Plaza area.

Ms. Witter requested that the Board consider allowing the tent to remain in place longer because of its usefulness and positive reception among visitors and residents. She thanked the Board and concluded her comments.

Morgan Switzer – New Mexico Vintage Wines

Ms. Switzer again addressed the Board regarding the proposed noise ordinance.

She stated that she supports development of a noise ordinance but urged the Board to consider the effect that proposed decibel limits may have on local businesses.

Ms. Switzer explained that under the draft language she reviewed, certain businesses would be impacted while others would not. She specifically referenced decibel levels proposed within the ordinance and compared them to common everyday sounds such as vacuum cleaners, household appliances, traffic noise, and normal conversations.

Ms. Switzer stated that proposed daytime limits of approximately 65 decibels and nighttime limits of approximately 60 decibels may be too restrictive for normal business operations. She expressed concern that ordinary customer conversations could potentially exceed the proposed standards if complaints were filed.

She emphasized that businesses depend on customer enjoyment and activity and requested that the Board consider the impact on business owners, customers, and community events before finalizing the ordinance. Ms. Switzer thanked the Board for its consideration.

9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS & COMMENTS

Trustee Nevarez

Trustee Nevarez reported that he had recently met with Community/Economic Development staff to discuss various projects and initiatives underway within the Town. He stated that the meeting allowed him to receive updates on ongoing activities and future planning efforts.

Trustee Nevarez announced that he intended to attend an upcoming Taylor Historic Site Board meeting and reported that he had also attended a June 5 meeting of the Southwest Area Workforce Development Board because of his long-standing professional interest in workforce development issues. He stated that he appreciated learning about current workforce programs and regional initiatives.

Trustee Nevarez expressed support for retaining the shade tent on the Plaza during the summer months. He stated that visitors regularly use the structure as a place to rest and seek relief from the heat and suggested that the Town consider maintaining the tent while adding seasonal decorations when appropriate.

Trustee Nevarez also proposed creation of a student poster contest associated with community celebrations such as Cinco de Mayo and Diez y Seis de Septiembre. He suggested partnering with local schools and displaying student artwork at the Community Center. He stated that such a program would encourage youth involvement, create opportunities for community participation, and showcase student creativity.

Trustee Garcia

Trustee Garcia reported that she would be attending an upcoming MPO meeting later that week.

Trustee Garcia then spoke extensively regarding accountability and transparency in Town operations.

Referencing comments made during public input, Trustee Garcia stated that she had been contacted regarding difficulties obtaining requested documents and stated that residents should not have to encounter obstacles when attempting to access public records. She emphasized repeatedly that accountability is critical and stated that both residents and businesses expect accountability from Town government.

Trustee Garcia expressed concern regarding maintenance conditions along University Trails, stating that she had observed developing issues including holes in recently completed improvements and weed growth in several areas. She questioned how the Town could enforce code requirements against residents while similar issues remained visible on public property.

She also discussed drainage concerns affecting residents and referenced situations where residents had personally undertaken efforts to divert stormwater away from their properties. She reiterated several times that accountability must remain a priority.

Trustee Garcia further discussed event promotion and community outreach. She referenced social media engagement related to Fourth of July advertising and noted that a recently posted event announcement received more than 200 interactions. She stated that providing residents with sufficient notice of events increases participation and encourages attendance.

Trustee Garcia encouraged earlier advertising of future events and celebrations and emphasized that advance planning helps residents schedule participation and creates stronger community engagement.

Trustee Cadena

Trustee Cadena reported on activities associated with the Mercado vendor review committee.

She explained that the committee continues reviewing applications from new vendors seeking participation in Mercado activities and noted that vendors must complete a screening and qualification process before approval. Trustee Cadena stated that the committee has been steadily adding merchants and that participation continues to grow.

Trustee Cadena also commented on Historic Preservation Week activities organized by **Ms. Liana Aguirre**. She stated that the programming included informative presentations and educational opportunities related to architecture, preservation, and regional history. Trustee Cadena specifically referenced presentations regarding historic buildings and noted that the events generated significant interest among participants.

She reported that she would be attending an upcoming Taylor Historic Site Board meeting and noted that the Transit Board had not met during the month.

Trustee Cadena thanked Town staff for their continued hard work and encouraged residents to review the planning displays located in Town Hall. She stated that public participation is important because community feedback will help guide future decisions regarding projects and priorities.

Mayor Pro Tem Stephanie Johnson-Burick

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick announced that a regional meeting would be held on Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at the Board of County Commissioners Chambers and encouraged attendance by those interested.

Mayor Hernandez comments

Mayor Hernandez reported that the Town recently hosted a community planning and project open house. He noted that project boards and displays remained available for public review and that residents could continue providing feedback throughout the week. He stated that attendance was limited but emphasized that participation opportunities remain available both in person and online.

Mayor Hernandez discussed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and reported that he had attended a workshop regarding funding opportunities. He explained that a public hearing had been scheduled for June 16 and noted that elected officials are generally encouraged not to actively participate in federally required public input sessions in order to avoid influencing public feedback. He stated that staff would facilitate the meeting and that elected officials could attend as observers.

Mayor Hernandez reported on meetings of the New Mexico Municipal League Board of Directors, Workforce Development Board activities, Lodgers Tax Committee meetings, NPO activities, and Municipal League policy discussions. He also announced upcoming events including the Governor's Conference on Tourism and a June 26 ribbon-cutting ceremony at Parque de la Guerra.

The Mayor encouraged trustees to participate in MOLLI II training opportunities and discussed the upcoming New Mexico Municipal League Annual Conference in Las Cruces. He noted efforts to encourage conference attendees to visit Mesilla businesses and attractions.

Mayor Hernandez then discussed the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). He explained that project priorities must be finalized before the July 1 deadline and encouraged trustees and residents to submit project ideas for consideration. He emphasized that the ICIP process remains flexible and that community suggestions are welcomed.

Mayor Hernandez announced that the Public Art Committee (PAC) would soon hold its first meeting and discussed efforts to establish procedures for reviewing public art applications. He stated that several potential applications had already been identified and that the committee would help guide future public art projects.

The Mayor also reported that a meeting of the Blacksmith Shop Ad Hoc Committee would be scheduled. He reviewed membership recommendations and discussed possible trustee participation. Mayor Hernandez stated that additional participation and input would strengthen planning efforts associated with the project.

Mayor Hernandez discussed recent rainfall and flooding issues throughout Town. He noted that several areas experienced flooding concerns and that significant runoff had affected portions of the University Avenue project. He stated that NMDOT had been notified and was evaluating options to mitigate future damage.

Discussion continued regarding Section 106 documentation associated with the University Avenue project. Mayor Hernandez stated that he continued requesting formal documentation and

confirmation from NMDOT and SHPO representatives. He advised that no final project walkthrough had yet been scheduled and that flood-related damage remained under review.

Mayor Hernandez acknowledged Public Works Director Lorenzo Astorga and Public Works staff for addressing storm-related issues, including roadway damage and drainage concerns. He specifically referenced a pothole at University Avenue and Avenida de Mesilla that expanded significantly following recent rainfall and required immediate attention.

Concluding his comments, Mayor Hernandez encouraged residents to continue providing feedback on ordinance revisions, planning projects, infrastructure priorities, and community initiatives. He reminded residents that comments could be submitted in person, online, or by email and stated that public participation remains critical to the Town's planning efforts.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Mayor Hernandez announced:

"The time is now 8:48."

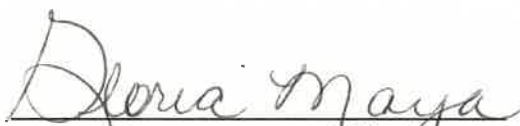
Mayor Hernandez adjourned the meeting at **8:48 p.m.**

APPROVED THIS 13TH DAY OF JULY, 2026



Russell Hernandez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria Maya, Town Clerk/Treasurer

**BOT REGULAR
MEETING
SIGN IN SHEET
JUNE 8, 2026**

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