



**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, JULY 13, 2026

~ 6:00 P.M.~

AGENDA

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

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

PUBLIC	Martha Orta	Janice Cook
	Isidro Peña	Bill Cook
	Catherine Walkinshaw	Lori Miller
	Crystal Whited	Andrew J.
	Cole Morris	Beverly Estrada
	Eric Walkinshaw	

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Hernandez:

"All right, everybody. Thank you for joining.

We are here at the Mesilla Town Hall for a regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting.

The first item on the agenda is the Pledge of Allegiance. If you'll please stand.

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Mayor Hernandez."

Mayor Hernandez:

"Present."

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Garcia."

Trustee Garcia:

"Here."

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Nevarez."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Here."

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Cadena."

Trustee Cadena:

"Here."

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick did have another engagement that she's attending."

Mayor Hernandez:

"We do have a quorum."

3. Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Hernandez:

"Next item is approval of the agenda as it has been presented."

Trustee Nevarez:

"So moved."

Trustee Garcia:

"Second."

Mayor Hernandez:

"Motion on the floor by Trustee Nevarez, seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Unless there's discussion or objection, the motion will proceed as it has been motioned.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Nevarez, seconded by Trustee Garcia, for approval of the agenda."

Motion carried.

4. Approval of the Consent Agenda

Mayor Hernandez:

"Next item on the agenda is approval of the Consent Agenda.

That does include:

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2026.

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of June 22, 2026.

Purchase Requisition – Apex Solutions, Public Safety Building Security, in the amount of \$2,162.10.

Purchase Requisition – Apex Solutions, Community Center Security, in the amount of \$77,937.56; and

Purchase Requisition – Desert Peaks Architects, Public Safety Building, in the amount of \$12,366.26."

Trustee Cadena:

"So moved."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Second."

Mayor Hernandez:

"Motion on the floor by Trustee Cadena, seconded by Trustee Nevarez.

I'll open it up for discussion."

Trustee Garcia:

"I don't know if you received the email regarding Ms. Morgan."

Mayor Hernandez:

"Yes. We can get that corrected for June 22, minutes."

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes.

And then also, for the minutes, Ms. Morgan—it was not her that said that."

Mayor Hernandez:

"So we'll go back and review that and make those adjustments.

I appreciate it. Thank you.

Any other questions or discussion?"

(No further discussion.)

Mayor Hernandez:

"Seeing none, motion on the floor by Trustee Cadena, seconded by Trustee Nevarez.

Gloria, if we can have a roll-call vote, please."

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Garcia?"

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes."

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Nevarez?"

Trustee Nevarez:

"Yes."

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Cadena?"

Trustee Cadena:

"Yes."

Town Clerk Gloria Maya:

"Mayor, the roll call is three yes."

Mayor Hernandez:

"Thank you very much."

Approval of the Consent Agenda includes the meeting minutes, the purchase requisitions for Apex Solutions, the purchase requisition for Desert Peaks Architects, and we will make those adjustments to the minutes as noted."

5A. Presentation – Film Las Cruces

Mayor Hernandez:

"Next item on the agenda, presentations."

Our first presentation this evening will be by Film Las Cruces."

Film Las Cruces Representative:

"Good evening, Mr. Mayor, Trustees."

Is it too loud? Should I back up?

Okay.

Hello. I'm with Film Las Cruces. I am the Film Liaison here at Film Las Cruces.

Film Las Cruces is the film office for Doña Ana County and the City of Las Cruces.

Even though Mesilla has Dorothy as the Film Liaison here, we work very closely with her. We coordinate with Dorothy, but we also continue to include Mesilla in our location packages and everything like that.

If there's a location that's perfect for Mesilla, we want to make sure we include it.

This also helps take some of the workload off Dorothy's hands, and then once productions are interested, we hand them over to her.

I have some statistics I'd like to share with you. Is it okay if I pass these around?"

Trustee Garcia:

"What are the benefits of us approving this?"

Film Las Cruces Representative:

"So, what we do—we get funding from the City, the County, and from Anthony. What we use this funding for is to maintain those databases. It costs money. It helps pay for the location scouts and everything like that.

We also will go out to different events. One of the main reasons that we want this added money to our budget is because we'll go out to what's called AFM, which is the American Film Market. That is another location where a lot of producers are going.

One of the hard things about advertising a film office is that you're not advertising in a normal way. Like, if you have a bakery, you want to let people in Las Cruces know all about your bakery and everything.

But we want to let decision-makers—and only decision-makers—like producers, directors, and people with projects know about Las Cruces and the benefits. We've talked to the PGA and different organizations to find out what's the best way to make those kinds of connections and have those talks. They said, because our budget is so small and our office is so small, the best way is to do it in person. So, we have been trying to go out more to AFM. Eli Arvizo, the Associate Film Liaison, just went to the Produced By Conference, which is a conference put on by the Producers Guild of America. We're just trying to hit those big networking opportunities so that we can let people know about us. One of the things that has helped us is the marketing. When I first started, there was a company called The Asylum. They do *Sharknado* and those kinds of cheesy horror movies. The first thing I did was make a location package. I made it specific to them, and I added the *Sharknado* to the Organ Mountains and different things so they knew it was happening. That was four years ago. This year, they finally reached out and said, 'We kept that, and now we have some projects that we want to film.' They filmed two shark movies here in about three weeks. One of them was shot at the Mesilla Valley School that's up there, and the other one was shot at the Blue Door Venue. It's because of those marketing successes that we have been able to go—and especially with how we've been reaching higher as far as production—I think it is greatly due to the fact that we have been pushing ourselves in marketing. So, those are the things that kind of go into our budget."

Trustee Garcia:

"Okay. So, it's basically the \$10,000 for marketing?"

Film Las Cruces Representative:

"Yes."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Yeah.

I had a question. I guess you work with educational programs at the university, like the creative—"

Film Las Cruces Representative:

"Yes. Of course.

We have many workshops with the community college and with CMI. We usually go every semester to the classes to give presentations.

With CMI, they have what's called short-form film productions every year. What we do is—they don't really need permits—but we get them into the habit.

We've talked with Sherwin Lau, who is one of the main teachers there, and they will send us the permit requests. Then we tell them, 'Here's what you would need for the permit.'

Again, we want them to go through the steps and make sure that once they leave NMSU, they know how to do that process, even though it's kind of a mock one for that time.

Next time, we go through all the steps so they know, 'This is what you need.' So, when you actually do it for real, you have that ahead of you.

We'll even go out to the schools. We do the career days.

We try to do the elementary schools, but they either don't really know what we do, and they'll ask us, 'Oh, did you film *Jurassic Park*?' And we have to say, 'No, that wasn't us.' But once they're in middle school, we will go. They kind of get it more. Once they're in high school, as soon as they hear how much you can make on a film crew, they get really excited.

One of the great things about film is that you can go either route. We have crew members who never went to college, who just went straight into film afterward, and they've been able to get pretty high in their ranks or become department heads. But we also have so many students coming from NMSU, CMI, and DACC who have been able to move along that way.

Another thing we'll do is, every summer, we reach out to DACC and NMSU and ask them for those students who are ready to be on set, who know the lingo, and who have been on a couple of student productions so they're not as intimidated, because it can be intimidating.

This way, we want to give them the best foot forward and make sure they know that, A, we are a good resource and they can always call us if they need it, but also that they're ready to go and ready to be on set.

So, there are a lot of things we do with the schools."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Yes. Okay."

Film Las Cruces Representative:

"Yes. Yeah.

We help them whenever they need us. We'll also share every month at the Rep.

Usually, if we have—the way, right now, they're about to do the new program about the night school, so we'll put it in our announcements just so people can be aware.

Again, usually the people who are coming to our events not only work in film, but they love film. So, we want to make sure they know about those events and everything like that.

Even last year, when the economic team came, DACC's Matt Byrnes and I put on a presentation for visiting offices just to show them what we do in terms of film and economic development."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Cool."

Film Las Cruces Representative:

"Of course."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"One of the things that I just want to mention—and it's good for the Trustees—is that I've dealt with it personally, right, from the restaurant side.

I think one of the things we see as part of the local impact, with people coming into the businesses, is generally when a movie is filming, the cast and crew are working, you know, a minimum of 12 hours. So, they're not really out dining at that point in time.

But the catering services that come from that typically come from the local restaurants. I know I've done it several times. Andele's, I believe, has done it.

It's also roamed around to where it's on site. Nellie's has done it before. It just depends on what they're doing.

They try to work with the companies or restaurants that are within that area as well.

So, the potential of us having the extra gross receipts coming in because of that is exponential. It's a good sign on that part.

Plus, also doing any of the afterparties, the wraps, and everything like that, or even when you're scouting.

What I've also noticed is that while the actors might be on set, a lot of times they're not necessarily there the full 12-hour day.

So, you might be getting the actors coming in, especially in our restaurant row, where we have all the extra business, to come out and enjoy what they want.

So, that benefit is always a good thing."

Film Las Cruces Representative:

"Yes. Exactly.

One of the great things we do is we talk to businesses when they want to become vendors. Catering is the perfect one, because when you think of a catering company, usually they'll have one event.

You know, it's a wedding, and it's from five to nine.

When you're making a film, it is two meals a day. The start time for the shoot could be 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., which means you're having breakfast at 6:00 p.m. and then you're having lunch at midnight.

So, we want to prepare those businesses.

As a matter of fact, Andele's did it last year, and we had to kind of tell them—and like you've done too—'Too many enchiladas. They want tacos or something else.'

So, we do kind of get them ready to say, 'Hey, this is a little bit different with film. You know, you kind of have to switch it up.'

Of course, it's Hollywood, so there's always a vegetarian, at least.

It's just letting them know this is what to expect when you are going to be part of film. It helps them, and it helps the productions as well."

Mayor Hernandez:

"Oh, sure."

...in San Albino and recently getting this done from here in these areas. So, it's just a continuation of what's already been done, but really focusing on the Senior Community Center and ADA accessibility through these specific areas.

Any other questions?

Seeing none, we'll move on to the next item on the agenda.

5B. CDBG Project Application Presentation

South Central Council of Governments (COG)

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Next presentation is for the South-Central Council of Governments CDBG Project Application.

With this, Tiffany with the COG is the one that's helping us out with this, but unfortunately she has a meeting in Chaparral, so she's not able to be here with us this evening to do this.

I've been working closely with her, and Eddie has as well, throughout this process.

If you recall, probably about a month ago, there was a set of public hearings that was held. I was one of those that was mentioning to the Board that the elected officials were told not to attend those public hearings because they might tend to have an influence on the projects, or whatever the case may be.

Those hearings were intended to receive community feedback and determine what the community wanted and how the funding could be used.

Tiffany and Eddie conducted the two public hearings. Both were held at the Community Center.

One was during lunchtime while the seniors were having lunch at the Community Center. That actually had good attendance.

The other one was held in the evening, which, from what I understand, didn't have any public attendance.

That's just part of the application process.

What came out of those meetings was that this is very targeted funding. It's specifically intended for seniors or another qualifying group of individuals, with improvements mainly involving ADA accessibility and creating an accessibility loop.

So we're really focusing on projects that are also intertwined within our current ICIP listing.

Here's a map that Tiffany prepared.

What you see in pink are the existing sidewalks and the existing loop that goes around the area.

There's also a bus stop here on the end, so she wanted to make sure the project encompassed a bus stop where people could potentially be dropped off and then have accessible travel all the way around to the Community Center and through the Plaza.

The areas shown in yellow identify where improvements are needed.

Along this sidewalk, in front of the Wells Post parking lot almost to the Tortilla Factory, there's a very steep incline made of brick that needs to be repaired.

We'll be repairing that.

We'll also be reconstructing all four corners here at San Albino and ensuring they're all ADA accessible, especially the ramp on the northwest corner.

We'll also be evaluating the height of the sidewalk as it pertains to going down that side because, due to the height difference, there may need to be a railing or some other type of barrier installed through the engineering process.

The sidewalk currently stops here at the public restrooms.

The proposal extends that sidewalk so it connects to the sidewalk around the corner on Picacho.

There is also a break that goes to the back side of the Community Center.

The proposal specifically identifies and restripes the crosswalk to improve mobility to the sidewalk on this side, while also adding a new sidewalk around the opposite side that connects to the Community Garden.

That is included in the project.

The estimate that was provided as part of the application—which we'll discuss later as part of the overall budget—covers this entire area.

The total funding request is approximately \$527,000, a federal grant administered through the South Central Council of Governments.

So it's pretty straightforward.

Any questions?"

"The last time we actually pursued this type of funding—the Community Development Block Grant—the last project we completed with CDBG funding was replacing the windows at the Community Center.

If I remember correctly, that was back in 2012.

We haven't applied for anything since then."

Trustee Garcia:

"What about that rail right there where the priest lives? That's pretty high."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"So that will be another area that can be reviewed.

It's not as steep as the area that's about a foot and a half high over there by Julian, but all of that will be evaluated through engineering.

They'll determine whether it needs a railing and ensure that it complies with ADA requirements.

That's already included within their engineering budget."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Probably a much-needed project because there are safety concerns with people stepping off those steps."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"We've already completed a lot of improvements around the Plaza and in surrounding areas, as well as along San Albino and the nearby locations.

This is really just a continuation of what's already been done, but with a specific focus on the Senior Community Center and improving ADA accessibility through those areas. Any other questions?"

6. STAFF UPDATES & STAFF COMMENTS

Marshal's Department

Marshal Ben Azcarate:

"Good evening, Mayor and Trustees.

Not much to report. The Fourth of July went smooth. No issues on the Plaza, no issues with the fireworks show, or traffic control. The fireworks show was over 35 minutes long compared to about 15 minutes for our neighbors up there. It was a good show for it being sponsored by Planet Fireworks.

While I was surfing Facebook, I found a post on Community Watch about an encampment over by the river that would fall within our jurisdiction. Our day shift guys were dispatched, but they couldn't find it after I screenshot the post and sent it to them. Deputy Boylston, SRO Boylston, and Code Officer Ramirez went over there and located it. It was uninhabited. They spent an hour and thirty minutes cleaning it up, packing everything out, and clearing the area.

While they were there, a couple of bikers and runners thanked them for their service because I guess it had been there forever.

There was another issue on a residence on North Day that was addressed on social media. That's been taken care of by Code Enforcement.

We're hitting the trouble areas here and there. If you see any, let us know. Email us, call us, throw it on social media. I guess that works. If we see it, we can find it, and it's in our jurisdiction, we'll handle it.

Graveyard shift is still running patrols on University for speeders and traffic violations there, and for violations involving e-bikes and dirt bikes being on the walking path.

They've had a couple of incidents, and they're still using those as teaching moments regarding the walking path. Vehicles are starting to receive citations.

Friday, we were selected by the New Mexico Victims' Rights Project to host a seminar from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. here at the Community Center. They were advised by people who have gone to trainings that Danny has put on, or the CSI team has put on, and they came highly recommended.

I think that's a step in the right direction, that they're starting to see what the Town and the Department have to offer.

That seminar will be attended by people from all corners of New Mexico. The CSI team is going to help with that. Danny's going to help with it, so that should be a good event for us.

I don't think there's anything else.

I stand for questions or concerns.

Thank you."

Fire Department

Cole Morris:

"Sorry, I've got a lot of keys.

Good evening, Mayor, Board, and members of the public.

You'll have to deal with me because Chief Whited is at training with two of our volunteers, so bear with me here as we talk through this.

I just want to talk about our volunteers a little bit.

We recorded over 1,600 volunteer work hours last month.

We're three weeks away from ending our academy that we've been running over the summer. I've got seven volunteers who are training to become Firefighter I certified.

They've learned everything from how to put their gear on to how to deploy a hose, and they'll finish their training with a live burn this weekend.

Obviously, we're very hopeful for the resolution that's on tonight. We've got our fingers crossed. We're hoping for more staff. We always need the help.

We had a very eventful Fourth of July. All the cadets were there. They brought their families to the fire station and got to see how everything works for us.

Something I wanted to highlight was that since it was the 250th anniversary of Independence Day, we made special shirts.

Captain White is going to model that shirt for you.

It's got a historic fire truck on it.

Something we're looking at, after being approached by the public multiple times, is the possibility of selling these shirts and donating the proceeds toward restoring the historic fire truck.

I'll be talking with you all about how to make that happen.

That's pretty much all I've got.

I stand for questions."

Mayor Hernandez:

"That's a very good idea."

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes."

Cole Morris:

"Yeah. They're fantastic shirts. They're super soft. We've got sizes from 3X all the way down to extra small.

We'll try to get that done as soon as we can."

Mayor Hernandez:

"I'll talk with you and we'll figure out how to do that."

Cole Morris:

"Perfect."

Mayor Hernandez:

"Sounds like a plan. Thank you, sir."

Trustee Garcia:

"Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think Volunteer Firefighter Appreciation Day is coming up on August 18."

Cole Morris:

"I'll take a look at that. I feel like there's a day for everything now. It's Monday Day today.

We'll figure it out. I'll take a look and, if that's right, we'll make an event out of that.

We obviously care a lot about our volunteers. They've been the backbone of this department for a very long time."

Trustee Garcia:

"I'd actually like to share that I've been talking with some members of the community in Las Cruces whose family was involved in starting the Mesilla Fire Department. They told me they may have some historical items.

Then I met a man at Maverik the other day who said he volunteered back in the 1980s. He still has uniforms, a badge, and everything. He wants to donate that back to the department so we can put it on display."

Cole Morris:

"Yeah, we want to put together the history of this department."

Board Member:

"That's exactly the type of stuff we want to put together."

Cole Morris:

"Exactly.

Any other questions?

Perfect.

Thank you."

Community and Economic Development Department

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Good evening, Trustees, Mayor, Board, members of the public. Eddie Salazar with Community and Economic Development.

You know, we've been working a lot with getting our software together. Our iWorQ is really coming along. We've had multiple meetings, Zoom meetings, with the representative, walking through the permit process, how to set it up. A lot of information is being shared, especially the applications, the forms, the GIS.

You know, the third party actually also does online payments, takes online payments, at no additional cost. So, all that stuff is very positive.

The expectation—I think the contract was signed sometime in May, I believe, at the end of May—and it was 90 days. Ninety days from that is whenever we should be—well, they committed, you know, we committed, I guess we agreed—that we would be having that finalized by 90 days from the end of May.

So, if we do the math, it's coming soon.

Also, we're looking at the possibility of adding the additional business add-on to iWorQ. I had a meeting again with them today. Very promising.

I can mention I have worked with iWorQ before, and I think it's a very good system to have with permits and business licenses. A very good tracker and notifications. It's just a product—now, it's been about four years since I worked with it—but it seems to be getting a little bit better with the AI included and all that stuff in there.

So, it's very nice versus what we have now, which is Tyler Solutions and Code. It almost seems like you're working with a DOS computer, right? It's just so—to me, it just seems like there's so much more that they can do to make our jobs easier.

So, yeah, we are working on a lot of software. That includes Square 9. That includes recordkeeping, scanning. We'll continue to add records.

It's very, very important, I think, for not just the Commission, but also for the Board of Trustees, to have a history of records on file at our fingertips in case there is a case or something coming up.

'Hey, when did this happen? When did this happen?'

So, we make a lot of our decisions based on previous cases and codes, and when did it get approved, when did the resolution pass, and all those things.

So, we're continuing to do that and trying to get those in the system again, ready for Square 9, and we can reach them anytime we need them.

Let me put my glasses on here.

I've been working with Liana and our Events Coordinator. We are starting, you know, with the Fiesta coming along. I think it's going to be a little different.

I like to include every age group. You know, whenever we have get-togethers as a person or as a family, you know, as a host for the get-together—for me, it's always Fourth of July—it's always a matter of entertaining the little ones to the most senior ones, right?

So, I think a lot of times we focus on just one side, one age group, or whatever. I think we need to involve the whole community as part of it, so everybody can enjoy themselves.

Maybe the kids can pull their parents and say, 'Come on, take me, because they've got a lot of cool stuff,' you know?

So, we are working on a lot of great ideas on that part.

Historic preservation: I talked with them the other day. They want to schedule the first Monday of August. We are going to continue doing our nominations for our local registry. We are nominating more properties for that.

Hopefully, this time around it will go a little bit smoother than the first time we attempted that. But, obviously, we are getting more information and learning more and more about that.

Along with the hearing on that, the Commission and I have also been working during the last three—at least three—work sessions on some code amendments, some proposals that we would like to present to you.

So, that will be coming up soon, also on the first Monday—well, after the first Monday—we'll be forwarding them to you as well.

We are getting applications in for the Community Coordinator. There are quite a few. Soon we'll be getting together and reviewing them and selecting which ones stand out, which one we feel fits Mesilla, and moving forward with scheduling some interviews for that.

In the meantime, you know, to me it's always been structure. You know, to me, it's always structure. It's always structured, especially when a new person comes on and there's no structure or no SOPs or anything like that.

It's always a lot of questions, always confusing, intimidating to some, you know?

I remember when I first started here, it was like, 'Man, what am I doing?' Right? You just have to form your own routine.

I'm hoping that when this Community Coordinator comes in, I do have some structure, I do have some SOPs—the process from start to finish, how to process a permit, you know, all those things—so that way they can follow the process, basically, what they're for.

And not just on that, but hopefully, with this new help, I can continue to start moving on. I'm working on SOPs for the whole department, and if anybody needs help, I'm more than willing to help them.

As for Codes, you know, every day the Code Officers and I get together, and they stop by for what I call a briefing. You know, 'What are you working on? What new things are coming up?'

I think we're moving in the right direction.

Right now, we're working on report writing, reports that we want to present to the Board, as well as statistics and such. Sometimes, on the before-and-afters, you know, 'We did this.'

Right now, we're working a lot, like I mentioned, on the Mesilla Park neighborhood—if I get it right—it's the opposite of Apodaca Park.

You know, we are, again, continuing to reach out to those homes. A lot of these trees have been there for a long, long time, and they're just an eyesore. Half of them are dead, half of them are unsafe. We're working on that, along with many other ones. Weeds are coming up, and one of the questions I want to ask is just like—we talk about weeds in our Code, but as a general rule for the whole of Mesilla, you know, I mean, we have agricultural land.

Is a 12-inch weed in your front yard, in a historic zone or in a regular residential zone, the same as a weed in a 20-acre parcel where you have agricultural land?

There's no differentiation in our Code, right?

So, a lot of that we have to take into consideration. I was, again, talking with the officer. You know, a lot of it depends on, as we talked about, interpreting the Codes. What is the intent?

And, you know, if the weeds are out of control in the agricultural area, where we've got tumbleweeds drying up and they're leaning against fences, causing a nuisance to neighbors or potentially fire hazards, obviously those are things we're going to deal with that way.

So, again, just working with the Codes. I'm excited. I really, really do like working with Codes and making things a little bit better.

The Thai restaurant—you know, every time I passed by there, even before working here, they had that sign. It looked like it was sun-damaged.

Officer Ramirez went in there and spoke with the manager. They submitted an application. They have a new sign coming soon. It'll be on the agenda for Monday's P&Z meeting to get that approved.

Again, the main corridors are what we're focused on, especially Avenida de Mesilla, all those things. A lot of the homes, the weeds, the cracks. We already have some properties being cleaned up.

So, again, it's exciting. It's exciting to see that. Hopefully, you all can see a difference from the efforts of Officer Ramirez.

Other than that, I stand by for any questions.”

Trustee Nevarez:

“I have a comment. You mentioned weeds. Weeds are really a pain.

I mean, because where I live, sometimes they come into my yard from somewhere—I don’t know—but they roll in, and they’re huge, so you can’t put them in the trash can. So, I think the trick is to eradicate them when they’re small, before they’re four feet tall.”

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

“I agree. I agree.

You know, a lot of them start on agricultural land, and then when they dry up, they tumble over to a lot of residential homes.

It’s a balance, right? I mean, but I’ve seen more in a larger spot because they’re more tolerable, because they’re at the edge of an acequia or canal or something like that. Then they dry up, and then you’re over there, you know, digging them up out of your swimming pool, right?

So, again, stuff comes in, filters through, and I just kind of wanted to bring it up.”

Trustee Nevarez:

“Yeah. And it’s hard. It’s hard to tell somebody, ‘You’ve got to keep up with weeds.’ We understand the rain man.”

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

“You go to my house, there are no weeds, you know, and I love pulling them. Believe it or not, I really enjoy pulling weeds.

It’s something that I’ve done since I was a kid. It was always my chore. Now, I don’t look at it as a punishment. I just like being out there, you know.

So, anyhow, but yeah, we’re working on that.

Kudos to that officer. He’s new, but, I mean, we are going in the right direction.”

Trustee Garcia:

“So, I have some comments.

First of all, thank you for posting Lucia and putting her back on social media. You brought her back.

Thank you for the email regarding the parade, but if we can advertise that on social media about the parade—I didn’t see it, but I know we got an email.”

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

“Okay.”

Trustee Garcia:

“So, I really appreciate that.

And our neighborhood is clean, so you guys can skip our end. You can skip our street. Other than that, really—I mean, just—oh, ask about the ditch. I know it’s EBID’s, but they have a lot of trash in there.”

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Which ditch is this?"

Trustee Garcia:

"Along the old ditch."

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"This is along the old ditch?"

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes."

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"We're looking at which lateral or canal?"

See, I reached out to EBID concerning some other issues that I was having, or some residents were having, and they actually sent me some information—some, some—I don't know what to call them, but they're agreements that EBID is only responsible for certain canals and certain drainage ditches.

Once they come off—say, for instance, there's a lateral right behind here where we see our farms—I've been speaking with them because there's one water gate that kind of leaks and creates a puddle and mosquitoes and such.

So, yeah, they are going to work on that.

But other than that, we don't "...which I find odd. We don't have a community ditch ordinance, right? Because anything outside of those laterals is not EBID's responsibility anymore. Then it becomes the responsibility of the property—the property adjacent to where it's being used, right?"

So, if you have water rights and you have a canal or a small little ditch going toward you, all these homes that it passes through in front of, they're the ones that are responsible for maintaining these, right?

So, at the very end, the last person—it could be a block, two or three blocks down the line—they're not getting much water, or trash is going down, whatever. Then they have a problem, but the issue could have been, you know, three or four blocks down the line. So, we don't have any ordinances that really regulate the responsibility, other than EBID's information that we get. But we really do—it's on my checklist—we really do need to identify which ones we need to hold EBID accountable for cleaning and, two, who's got water rights, and then how are we going to maintain them?

Because there have been some—some quite a few questions about trash and stuff like that. They're like, 'Well, it's not my—I used to use that ditch, you know, seven years ago. My parents used to use the ditch, but now I don't—we don't do agriculture, so I shouldn't have to.'

It doesn't work that way. You're still responsible for that ditch."

Trustee Garcia:

"At least we have a community ditch, and my neighbors know. They just come down our field and we'll just get under the main ditches."

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Yeah, the main—when you talk about trash, the water is bringing it. Is it a dry ditch? I mean, is it dried up, or is water still flowing?"

Trustee Garcia:

"No."

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"So all that is now—okay. Well, if you give me an exact location, I'll give them a call. I mean, I've come to know quite a few people—two people—from EBID, and we get pretty—so they'll send the—I know the emergency maintenance number. I can call them and they can come pick it up. As long as there are no dead bodies, right? We'll be all right."

Trustee Garcia:

"Yeah."

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Anything else?
All right. Thank you."

Clerk-Treasurer's Department

Ms. Gloria Maya:

"Another year down. We're starting the new year. There were a lot of changes this year with the insurance because they lumped them all together. So, it was a challenge, but we got it done. And we're moving forward, getting going. The first payroll was difficult because they had split the old salary and the new salary for this year. But it was done. It was done correctly, and I'm very proud of my staff. They continue to move forward because we're a team. And now we're going to start—I'll do my presentation on the BAR and the year-end—I mean, the budget for the year—and we'll start getting ready for the audit. The never-ending. Any questions?"

Public Works Department

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Mr. Astorga, Public Works, has a personal thing that he's dealing with today as well. But his team is trucking along, as you see them out there all the time, especially with the recent rains. There's always weed control on our own property that we can focus on. The parks are being maintained, so on and so forth. He does have open positions as well that we will be interviewing for, hopefully this week. And he is out next week as well, so we're going to try to get some interviews going and done."

That way, by the next meeting, hopefully we'll have some approvals for positions being filled.

We do have projects that are closing up and finishing up that he's helping with some of the punch-list items on. That being the Public Safety Building, the security systems being installed at the Public Safety Building, here, and at the Community Center, as well as the fire systems that are being finished up at all—which the fire team will help out with all of those and ensuring that that's set.

We do have a road project that's getting ready to be underway, and that's the resurfacing of Pajaro. Engineering is finishing up their design right now.

So, hopefully by the next meeting, we'll have an update on when the shovel will be in the ground for that road project specifically.

We heard back—I think I mentioned at the last meeting—on our Colonias funding, where we were granted that. So, we'll be bringing all that forward.

And that is for the water well project—or, sorry, the water tank—the storage and adding another tank, and then a fire hydrant replacement program to replace 25 outdated and non-serviceable fire hydrants around the entire community.

And then, of course, I'll touch on other—”

7. Public Input on Cases

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Next item on the agenda: public input on cases, Item Number 7.

This is where the public is invited to address the Board on any of the cases that are being heard this evening.

If there's any public comment, if you would step to the podium and state your name for the record.”

Mr. Jonathan Sepp:

“Hello. My name is Jonathan Sepp. I have a few businesses on the Plaza of Old Mesilla—the Chocolate Lady and Hidden Gems of Mesilla.

Thank you all for your continued support of Film Las Cruces.

As a business owner on the Plaza, I really appreciate all the activity that is drawn up by the film and television industry.

I can't go a single month without encountering a producer, a director, a crew member from out of town that is visiting Mesilla.

Something really interesting happened a couple—a few weeks ago. I was at my card shop, Hidden Gems, and a producer that I had—I had worked with years ago had walked into my store kind of confused.

And this happens a lot. I'm where Michael used to be with The Real Man. People come in all the time looking to either get some hats or just kind of chitchat with Michael, and I let them know that he retired in November.

This producer was one of those people who would come in and either buy hats or chitchat with Michael. It was just kind of a very interesting moment, and we got to catch up.

But she had worked on a project in Las Cruces called *Squealer* four years ago, I think, purchased a house while she was here, and periodically comes in whenever she wants and hangs out in Mesilla and hangs out at her house here in Las Cruces.

So, I thought that was a really interesting anecdote to bring to you all today. Thank you all."

Mr. Ian Simon:

"My name is Ian Simon. I live here in Mesilla. I'm a member of the Directors Guild of America and Producers Guild of America eligible.

I just wanted to thank these guys for all the hard work they do.

And I just kind of wanted to reiterate, you know, one of—they were talking about the rural spending being at kind of a record high in this state. That has a lot to do with these guys, because film, as far as the state goes, is down.

So, that's saying, like, I'm pretty lucky to be living in this community where I've got these guys and I get hired a lot.

So, thanks again. I just wanted to say that on behalf—and then one of the things that they always talk about is direct spending.

Russell, you kind of attested to it, was indirect spending, where, you know, guys from L.A., guys from New York, people that don't live here—what do we do on the weekends? Mesilla is the place.

So, I can tell you, any Friday night at El Patio or any day on the Plaza on a Saturday, a lot of money is being spent by a lot of, you know, pretty well-off people who don't live here.

So, once again, just thank you again, Film Las Cruces, and for the work you two did and built it.

And, yeah, that's my public comment. Thank you, guys."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Any other public comment?

Seeing there's none, we'll move on to our next item on the agenda."

8A. PZHAC Case No. 062147

2138 Calle del Sur

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Item 8A, for approval: PZHAC Case Number 062147, 2138 Calle del Sur, submitted by Marta Orta, requesting approval to replace one of two garage doors with windows in the Historic Residential Zone."

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Good afternoon, Trustees, Mayor.

Again, this is Eddie Salazar with Community and Economic Development.

This is a case that has been forwarded from the PZHAC with a vote of two to three—two to three.

This is Case Number 062147. The address is 2138 Calle del Sur. It was submitted by Marta Orta.

She is here tonight to answer any questions that I may need help with, or, obviously, she is welcome to come up and add any comment along with my introduction or my discussion here.

It is requesting approval to replace one of two garage doors with windows. The zone is Historic Residential.

Dispatch received a call regarding the above property under construction without a permit. Officer Ramirez responded to the call and made contact with the property owner, Marta Orta.

Ms. Orta advised she had stopped by the Community Development Office and spoken with Mr. Salazar. She stated she was advised no permit was required for any internal changes or upgrades to the structure.

She was unaware that a permit for the windows would be required.

Ms. Orta was directed to stop by and apply for a permit, as it is a violation of our Town ordinance.

The following day, Ms. Orta spoke with Mr. Salazar and was advised that, indeed, it was a violation and needed to be considered by the PZHAC and the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Orta applied for a permit and paid her normal permit fees, plus an additional fee according to our Town Code, 15.15.040(D)(2).

An investigation fee, in addition to the permit fee, shall be collected whether or not a permit is then subsequently issued. The investigation fee shall be equal to the amount of the permit fee required by the Code.

And that, again, did happen.

The location of the structure is in the back of the property. There are some pictures in your packet. It is not the main residence.

It appears to be a garage-storage building.

After reviewing and presenting this information to the PZHAC, you know, the two main things—or three, really—came up.

One was, obviously, what I mentioned: Ms. Orta was not aware that the windows needed a permit.

Her statement or her comment was, you know, that property had been owned previously by a resident who owned a plumbing company, from my understanding. The inside of that accessory building was in very, very bad shape. It had mold, and, I mean, she showed me some pictures—just terrible.

Obviously, along with cleaning the place up, you know, you're trying to make it better.

She was unaware that—again, maybe she got a little carried away, you know, in the spring, and then she just kind of continued—but she is working on the inside.

After doing some review, that property—that actual accessory building itself—I couldn't find any information for when it was built, but it was anywhere between 1958 and 1970.

The whole house and the accessory building were not there originally.

My understanding from a resident—and maybe you guys can help me with some information—is that it started with a smaller adobe-type home, and then some additions were added onto that.

So, there are multiple construction materials on the actual residence itself, and that has a pitched roof. The one in the back has a flat roof, and it has more modern garage doors. A lot of it is cinder block; a lot of it is lumber.

So, again, it just looks like it's been put together in various stages of its life.

The windows, when the PZHAC reviewed the windows along with our Historic Preservation Specialist, that were installed did not meet the historic design for the

building itself and also the design standards for that zone—that block, I guess—according to Town Code.

What happened was, we were also—the NMCID applications were submitted.

Every time you create an opening in your building, you know, put in a new window, or maybe even change the size from one window to a smaller one or a bigger one, or even add a door, that changes the integrity of the building itself, and a permit through CID is required.

Again, once we reviewed it through PZHAC, we took those into consideration, and it was voted three to two.

There were two conditions that were set on there.

The first was that the CID permit process requirements are met, which means the plans and such. I already got with Mr. Maese. He has been in contact with Ms. Orta, and all the paperwork that is submitted in your packet meets their requirements for a building permit for such a project.

The other condition was that Ms. Liana—again, she was not here that week—and that it be reviewed by Ms. Liana and that she give a recommendation as well.

We did have a meeting with Ms. Orta and Liana. We've been in constant communication, and then we came to an agreement—or Ms. Liana came to an agreement—that if the windows are framed with panels, you see the wooden panels on the outside, it will have more of a design standard for a Territorial building here in Mesilla.

We have five different types of building styles here in Mesilla. We have the Spanish Pueblo...

the Territorial, the Spanish Mission, the Northern New Mexico, and the Ranch-style building. Obviously, they're located in different parts of Mesilla, right? So, we're more closer to the farmland.

Again, I stand by for any questions, or if Ms. Orta wants to make any comments, she's more than welcome to. Please do."

Ms. Marta Orta:

"Hi. Good evening. My name is Marta.

Again, I truly apologize. I did not know that I had to ask for a permit. It just started off as there's rust, and there's mold, and there's stuff falling off. I started peeling back everything, and it turned into a little bit of chaos.

I was just trying to restore it to make it look better. That's all I'm trying to do, is trying to make it look better.

Again, my apologies on that. I guess we had talked about some ideas. I threw out like a thousand ideas for Eddie."

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Yeah, we did."

Ms. Marta Orta:

"I was like, 'I could try this. I could try this,' you know?

But at some point, really, all I want to do is make it better than what it was. What it was is not at all safe, to be honest with you.

When I have my granddaughters or my grandkids going in there, it's not something that I would want them to be around.

I did fumigate for all these years, every three months, but what I found behind the insulation was just awful—maggots and cockroaches and all kinds of stuff.

So, I had to just gut it all out. That's kind of where I'm at.

Again, I'm just here if you have any questions for me."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Questions?"

Trustee Nevarez:

"So, you mentioned the installation of some—is it—on the existing windows to change the look?"

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Yeah, the window. I gave you an extra—you know, if you look at the third page, the very top picture of the third page is how it looks now.

It's not finished yet. You know, when the Code Officer spoke to her, obviously, it was to cease and not continue.

The one right below is the one that we came to an agreement with. It's basically just a frame panel that will be on the outside of the window, so it gives it the appearance that it has panels.

The window itself will not be replaced. It will just be some type of screening over the top of it."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Okay. So, it can easily be done?"

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"It can easily be done."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Yes, that's what I thought. I wanted to make sure."

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Yeah. There are some, again, other ones similar. Again, these are Territorial homes. She just said some other ideas along with that, but at minimum—at minimum—if she wants to add, you know, more decorative landscaping and gravel and stuff, we can move forward. But at minimum, those panels on the windows are necessary."

Trustee Garcia:

"Do we put conditions on this?"

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Yes."

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes. And those conditions, just for clarification, are the investigation and all requirements?"

Mr. Eddie Salazar:

"Correct. As I mentioned, yeah, one is that the CID requirements are met, and it be reviewed and recommended by Ms. Liana, our Historic Preservation Specialist."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Questions?"

There is an original motion on the floor by Trustee Nevarez, seconded by Trustee Garcia.

Gloria, roll-call vote, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Cadena?" "yes"

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Garcia?"

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Nevarez?"

Trustee Nevarez:

"Yes."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Mayor, the roll call is three yes."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Thank you very much for approval of PZHAC Case Number 062147."

8B. Film Las Cruces Agreement

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Next item on the agenda, Item 8B, for approval: the Film Las Cruces Agreement."

Trustee Garcia:

"So moved."

Trustee Cadena:

"Second."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena. I will open it up for discussion."

Trustee Cadena:

"I just want to say I appreciate the presentation. I think the stats are good for us to know and for us to have."

Film Las Cruces Representative:

"Thank you."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"If there are no further questions, there is a motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Gloria, if you can roll-call vote, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Garcia?"

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Nevarez?"

Trustee Nevarez:

"Yes."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Mayor, the roll call is [inaudible]."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Thank you very much for approval of our Film Las Cruces Agreement."

8C. Doña Ana County Fire and Emergency Response Agreement

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Next on the agenda, Item 8C, for approval: County Fire and Emergency Response Agreement."

Trustee Garcia:

"So moved."

Trustee Cadena:

"Second."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena. I will open it for discussion.

I know that we still need to have this reviewed by our legal counsel before—even if it does move today—that would need to be done.

I do think that there needs to be a little bit more in the agreement, just a little bit more verbiage and details added.

Under Item 4, specifically, for the deployment model, when we're looking at the emergency response station 48 hours a week, specifically what that 48 hours entails. Is it nights? Is it weekends? When does it cover? So on and so forth.

Just for clarity. I know that we know internally what it's going to take, but I think we need to have that down there for clarity.

Another thing that I see that needs to be added is maybe under the annual reporting and performance metrics, Item Number 6, maybe add another line item that says Line F for documented maintenance and expenditures.

Whatever maintenance expenditures are expended with that \$50,000, that is automatically documented so that it can be given to the County at the end of that reporting period for those monthly invoices that they're requesting."

Cole Morris:

"Okay."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"That way, I was just following through, because we're going to be doing that and providing that as a yearly deal, as well as an update when it comes up to that renewal, per se.

It's not really a renewal because it has the clauses in here to continue on.

But I think that's the other part that we do need to have in there as well, is that continuation and some of that language, because boards change, you know.

It doesn't necessarily mean that MOUs will stay consistent from year to year. They might change. They usually don't go away, but there are usually some trickle effects that happen within that, and we know that that'll probably change.

So, we probably want to look at what that looks like and strengthen up a little language in that.

We'll get that changed as soon as possible because this goes before the County Commission on the 28th. We're trying to get one on this side, so these can be added in as such.

Under the liability and insurance, we need to make sure that we include stronger indemnification language within that, and who's liable for what at the end of the day.

I think that's huge, especially when we're doing these where we're cross-commissioning across both, for us and for them, just to have that in there.

It goes the same because I didn't notice any force majeure language in here. So, if there were a pandemic, if there were any type of major event that happened, who knows what happens?

We want to know what happens in that case, and it doesn't detail any of that. I think it's important that we add that language in there.

Those are just a few of the things that I see that are changes. It's just strengthening that and adding a little bit more detail.

The bones are there, and we know what the intent is. There just needs to be a little bit more.

I don't have any other questions, changes, or suggestions on there, but I'll pass it to the Board otherwise."

Trustee Garcia:

"They could be conditions?"

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Yes."

Trustee Garcia:

"We still need a legal review on it on our part?"

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Correct."

Trustee Nevarez:

"It goes before the Commission on the 28th. We have a meeting on the 27th."

Trustee Garcia:

"Is this going to come back to us on the 27th, depending on the attorney?"

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"That would be the only thing."

Trustee Garcia:

"I'm not against it. No, I understand. Don't get me wrong. I'm not against it.

I just don't feel comfortable not seeing a complete contract. I don't feel very comfortable with it, and I'm not against it whatsoever.

I'm just saying the Mayor has very valuable points of what needs to get done, and I understand trusting our bodies with making conditions on it and everything on there. But not knowing what we're presenting, I would hate for us to present it and then you guys get turned down on it, because I think that's going to lower your self-esteem."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"I think that this was something that was worked up with our Fire Chief as well as the County Fire Chief, correct?"

Cole Morris:

"That's correct.

This whole MOU has been completed with Fire Chief Whited and current Interim Chief Sean Hickey for Doña Ana County Fire Rescue.

They've kind of gotten their backing. I can't speak exactly for the MOU because I wasn't at their last meeting." He was providing, as far as my knowledge from the meetings that I was present in, information for how to write this document."

From what I remember from when I was there, I do believe that the intent is that they are not trying to be super stringent on how we do that coverage, because it doesn't say that we have to do that coverage with paid staff.

We could do that with volunteers as well. They didn't word it that way.

So, it's not, 'Okay, you have to do it this way.' It's just, 'Get us 48 hours of coverage.'"

"It's written that way."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"It's just details."

Cole Morris:

"No, yes, sir. I understand."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Nothing outrageous or egregious by any means. It's just that we want to make sure that we cover those little details."

Trustee Nevarez:

[inaudible]

Trustee Garica:

Can we have it in our hands by Monday's meeting, so we can bring it up for discussion for the 27th?"

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"The 27th meeting, because you have it on the 28th."

Trustee Garcia:

"As long as we have what the legal team said and what you guys corrected, as long as we have it before that Tuesday meeting with the County."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

So, let's take a step

"No, that was—you wanted to make the formal condition on that, right?"

So, that was a formal motion, right?"

Trustee Nevarez:

"I think Trustee Garcia mentioned that—to have a discussion copy for the next meeting."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Understood."

Trustee Cadena:

[inaudible]

Trustee Garcia:

"I just—I don't like being rushed. It's kind of being shoved at us too. Like, here, we have a meeting on the 28th and we've got to—"

Cole Morris:

"I know we've been working on this for months."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Yeah. It just kind of—just, you have to think that, from—and to the Fire Department's defense, if you will—they didn't know a lot of this until the beginning of this fiscal year, when it physically started on July 1."

We didn't know specifically how ambulatory care was going to be taken care of. We didn't know how we were going to proceed with a lot of this, and a lot of that is still in question, per se, right?

How we're going to move forward with billing and things to that extent.

I can attest to some of that. We've been in communication with the State, and we still have not gotten a straight answer on who's taking over billing, whether it's still going to be PRC, if it's going to DOT.

We've been back and forth a lot with Chief Whited and talking to the heads of those departments, and we still have not gotten a straight answer.

On that note, the previous discussion that I had with the Fire Chief is also that we might be looking at another potential agreement with the City of Las Cruces to help out with part of that concurrently with what they're doing."

Cole Morris:

"Correct."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"I mean, so we're trying to cover all bases."

Cole Morris:

"The last comment that I want to make about this is this entire document is designed for a transition period.

The whole goal is that the Department starts billing, and we're able to cover these costs ourselves.

You can see in the document it says any billing that occurs outside of the Town of Mesilla will be deducted from the—I guess the award is the right way to say it. I don't know all the legalese—but the money that they give us.

Any money that we make from billing in Doña Ana County gets taken out of this, because the entire goal is that we will become self-sufficient.

This is not designed to last forever. It says it will renew until, you know, we decide not to do it, but the entire goal is that we get to where we can sustain ourselves and hopefully continue to grow."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"I think that we would probably see it continue with us taking over the South Valley Fire Station.

That would continue indefinitely until we either fully assume that station—which it would have to be incorporated for us to do that—or come back."

Cole Morris:

"Yeah, it's not exactly on their agenda to move forward with that station."

Trustee Cadena:

"Yes, sir.

You guys have just done the best job with volunteers. I mean, you're doing what the County should be doing, and you've been doing it for a while.

So, that's a tribute to you guys."

Cole Morris:

"Yes, ma'am. Thank you."

Trustee Cadena:

"You know, you guys have to come back to us."

Cole Morris:

"Absolutely."

Trustee Garcia:

"I'll say again, I'm not against it. I just don't like being rushed, and I don't like being shoved in, especially knowing that legal hasn't seen it either.

So, I'm not against it."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"No, no. I understand."

Trustee Garcia:

"You've got to protect you, but we've got to protect our Town and you guys as well, too."

Cole Morris:

"Yes."

Trustee Garcia:

"You know, so it's a great presentation you're doing, but don't get into any of that stuff either."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Like I said, one of the things that we can do is, just like we did with our resolution on the last one, where we have changes that are made, and then I can get you those changes once it's reviewed by the legal team, once it's been updated with those amendments that I had noted, so on and so forth.

You can review it and make sure that it's in line.

We'll still do a discussion at the next meeting of it, but it also allows for that extra set of eyes that looks it over.

It's another potential review before it actually goes on the agenda, because the County's agenda is probably going to be put together this next week, if it hasn't been."

Cole Morris:

"They'll turn it around quickly because it's not super long, and it's pretty straightforward."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Yeah. No, I didn't—sorry. Second. Sorry."

"Amendment on the floor by Trustee Nevarez, seconded by Trustee Cadena, to amend the agreement to add the notes as I had noted earlier.

Gloria, if we can have—and that's, sorry, Sections 4, 6, and 10, and then making sure that we have an extra section for [inaudible]."

"Right, but let's do that condition and then the other condition."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Gloria, if you can roll-call vote on that, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Nevarez"

"Yes"

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Cadena"

"Yes."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"For discussion, to bring it up at the next meeting."

Trustee Garcia:

"So moved."

Trustee Nevarez:

"Second."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Motion by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Nevarez. Any further discussion?"

All right, Gloria. Roll-call vote, please."

Trustee Garcia:

"Who's going to present this?"

"Don't be nervous. Don't be nervous. No, you do a good job. You do a good job. Don't be nervous."

Cole Morris:

"Yeah, I know. My hands aren't sweaty at all, you know."

Trustee Garcia:

"Don't be nervous."

Cole Morris:

"Yeah, this is worse than any burning building I've ever run into."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Any further discussion?
If we can have a roll-call vote on the original motion, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:
[Roll-call vote inaudible.]

Mayor Russell Hernandez:
"Approved. Thank you."

8D. 2027 Clean and Beautiful Program Agreement

Mayor Russell Hernandez:
"Next item on the agenda, Item 8D, for approval: the 2027 Clean and Beautiful Program Agreement."

Trustee Garcia:
"So moved."

Trustee Cadena:
"Second."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:
"Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena. I will open it up for discussion, if any."

It's our annual agreement on here.
There is a motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.
Gloria, if we can have a roll-call vote, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:
[Roll-call vote inaudible.]

Mayor Russell Hernandez:
"Approved, our Clean and Beautiful Program Agreement."

8E. Resolution 2026-32

Fourth-Quarter Financial Report

Mayor Russell Hernandez:
"Next item on the agenda, Item 8E, for approval: Resolution 2026-32 for the Fourth-Quarter Financial Report."

Trustee Nevarez:
"So moved."

Trustee Garcia:
"Second."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Motion on the floor by Trustee Nevarez, seconded by Trustee Garcia. We'll open it up for discussion."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Do you see Attachment A in the back?"

Trustee Cadena:

"Yes."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Did you need clarification on those items?"

Trustee Cadena:

"No."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Okay. Those are needed so that we can zero out these accounts, these carryovers, because we don't carry over anything on those.

Okay. Do we want to do a vote, and then I'll just stay here for that?"

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Any questions or discussion?"

Gloria, roll-call vote, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Nevarez?"

Trustee Nevarez:

"Yes."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Garcia?"

Trustee Garcia:

"Yes."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"Trustee Cadena?"

Trustee Cadena:

"Yes."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Great. Thank you very much for approval of Resolution 2026-32."

8F. Resolution 2026-33

Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Final Budget Adoption

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Next item on the agenda, Item 8F, for approval: Resolution 2026-33 for the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Final Budget Adoption."

Trustee Garcia:
"So moved."

Trustee Cadena:
"Second."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:
"Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena. I will open it up."
Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

"As you can see, this is what you voted on the last time. The only thing that has changed is the beginning cash balance, except for two items. The Marshal's Law Enforcement Fund 18—they paid off their vehicles. So, instead of it being the \$88,171, they will be receiving \$108,500 for their vehicle. So, it's not going to be taken out of the general—the GRT anymore. Then the next one was the SRO. We had budgeted on the preliminary \$206,000, where we're going to get \$194,000. So, those changes had to be made both on the revenue and on the expense. Okay. Any questions?"
"I know. I know."

There is a motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.
Any further questions or discussion?
Gloria, if you can call the roll, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:
"Trustee Garcia?"
Trustee Garcia:
"Yes."
Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:
"Trustee Cadena?"
"Yes"
Trustee Nevarez:
"Yes."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:
"Thank you very much for approval of Resolution 2026-33."

8G. Resolution 2026-34 – LGRF FY 2027 Co-op Funding (Calle Oeste)

Mayor Russell Hernandez:
"Next item on the agenda, Item 8G, approval of Resolution 2026-34, LGRF FY 2027 Co-op Funding for Calle Oeste."

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia

Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

This is for our LGRF application that we have in for funding, and we were awarded that LGRF funding for Calle Oeste.

So, this is just following through with that request.

Any discussion?

...Sorry, I thought I heard somebody.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Gloria, if we can have a roll-call vote, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

[Roll-call vote.]

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Thank you very much for approval of Resolution 2026-34 for our LGRF FY 2027 Co-op Funding for Calle Oeste."

8H. Resolution 2026-35 – LGRF FY 2027 Match Waiver Request

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Next item on the agenda, approval of Resolution 2026-35, LGRF FY 2027 Match Waiver Request.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia

Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

We'll open it up for discussion.

This is just the match waiver request to see if we can get the required match waived on this specific grant.

Any questions or discussion?

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Gloria, if you can call the roll, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

[Roll-call vote.]

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Great. Thank you very much for approval of Resolution 2026-35."

8I. Resolution 2026-36 – Capital Asset Certification

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Next item on the agenda, approval of Resolution 2026-36, Capital Asset Certification.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia,

Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

I will open it up for discussion.

This is just our annual capital asset certification and inventory.

Any discussion?

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Gloria, if you can call the roll, please.”

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

[Roll-call vote.]

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Thank you very much for approval of Resolution 2026-36.”

8J. Resolution 2026-37 – South Central Council of Governments FY 2026–2027 Agreement

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Next item on the agenda, Item 8J, approval of Resolution 2026-37 for the South Central Council of Governments FY 2026–2027 Agreement.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia,

Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

I'll open it up for discussion.

This is just our annual agreement with the Council of Governments.

Any questions?

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Gloria, if you can call the roll, please.”

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

[Roll-call vote.]

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Thank you very much for approval of Resolution 2026-37.”

8K. Resolution 2026-38 – 2027 CDBG Application

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Next item on the agenda, Item 8K, approval of Resolution 2026-38 for the 2027 CDBG Application.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia

Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

I will open it up for discussion.

This is the application that we discussed during the presentation earlier.

Any questions?

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena. Gloria, if we can call the roll, please.”

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

“Trustee Garcia?”

Trustee Garcia:

“Yes.”

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Thank you very much.

Approval of Resolution 2026-38.”

8L. 2027 CDBG Administrative Services Agreement

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Next item on the agenda, Item 8L, approval of the 2027 CDBG Administrative Services Agreement.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia

Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

I will open it up for discussion.

This is just the services agreement that, if we are awarded the CDBG funding, the Council of Governments will engage with all the necessary services to get the application completed, as well as administering the grant.

Any further discussion?

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Gloria, if we can call the roll, please.”

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

Trustee Garcia?

“Yes.”

Trustee Cadena?:

“Yes.”

Trustee Nevarez?

“Yes’

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Thank you very much for approval of the 2027 Services Agreement.”

8M. Resolution 2026-39 – Employee Engagement, Service and Recognition Policy

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

“Next item on the agenda, approval of Resolution 2026-39, Employee Engagement, Service and Recognition Policy.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia,

Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

I will open it up for discussion.

This is just a policy to be added where we can engage a little bit more with our team because we don't have that specifically set, and bringing the team together, especially during Town time, and just being transparent on what we're doing, when we do it, how we do it, and so on and so forth.

Any questions?

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Gloria, if you can call the roll, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

Trustee Cadena?

"Yes."

Trustee Nevarez?:

"Yes."

Trustee Garcia?

Yes

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Thank you very much for approval of Resolution 2026-39."

8N. Resolution 2026-40 – Historic Preservation Funding

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Next item on the agenda, approval of Resolution 2026-40, Historic Preservation Funding.

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia

Seconded by Trustee Cadena.

I will open it up for discussion.

It's preservation grant time, so I want to try to get as many grants submitted as possible, and I need resolutions from you all.

This kind of encompasses all of the potential funding opportunities.

Any questions?

Motion on the floor by Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Cadena.

Gloria, if you can call the roll, please."

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya:

Trustee Garcia?

"Yes."

Trustee Cadena? :

"Yes."

Trustee Nevarez?

"Yes"

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Thank you very much for approval of Resolution 2026-40."

9. Public Input

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Next item on the agenda, Public Input.

...I know...I know you don't want to do that."

Public Comment – Beverly Estrada:

"So, you guys know me by now.

Thank you.

I'm just following up on the University Avenue project.

I have submitted some of this information to Mayor Hernandez and Trustee Garcia, but I just want to put it on the record for the rest of the Trustees.

There are quite a few concerns that are going on with what's occurring due to the outcomes of the University Project.

I understand the walkthrough occurred. Things were pointed out. They're going to do some corrections.

However, residents around Capri Arc are dealing with their trees, grasses, and landscaping dying.

There's no improvement.

They've fertilized. They've done everything they can.

So, of course, when one neighbor is affected, all the neighbors come together and we do what we need to do.

We brought in two professionals that we know.

One of them is an agricultural arborist. This is what he specializes in. He does it for a living.

He took a look, walked up and down, looked at what was occurring, and came to find out that the sediment and runoff coming from the asphalt is causing the erosion that is killing the trees, the grass, and the plants.

There's a neighbor who has paid over \$5,000 for trees that he planted as a privacy screen, and they're now as good as dead.

They have reached out and are trying to get soil samples completed.

I highly encourage the Trustees—Trustee Garcia is out there a lot. Mayor Hernandez listens to us a lot—but I'm encouraging Trustee Cadena and Trustee Nevarez to get out there.

Go look and see what is happening.

Your seats were appointed and voted for. Come support us. Come help us.

It's not fun that we are dealing with so much negative outcome from a project that should not have affected residents this much.

It's just not right.

And it's not right for the Town of Mesilla to have to foot any of the bills or any of the consequences that are going to come from this."

"So it leads to the next concern that came due to looking into all this. We have a knowledgeable architect who does buildings, grading, flood control, and things like that. He went and took a look at the whole walking path from McDow to Bowman. His concern was the steep slope. It's essentially a 90-degree angle. That's usually not the first choice that any engineer, architect, or designer would agree to. The slope is simply too steep.

So there's always going to be water runoff. The way he saw it, and the way it's functioning, is that a lot of the sediment and erosion is washing into the adjacent properties.

Even if you put up a fence—a cinder block fence or a chain-link fence—that sediment and erosion is still going to occur underneath the fencing. In reality, it's going to undermine the fence, causing it to settle, deteriorate, or eventually fail.

So it doesn't actually solve the problem at hand. That's the advice that was given.

The other concern that was brought up is that the erosion and sediment not only affects the plants and trees, which it's already affecting, but it can also affect the underground culvert that was installed.

Sediment buildup can accumulate at the culvert inlet or outlet, reducing its ability to carry water. The slope instability can place stress on the culvert or damage it. Debris, vegetation, and sediment can clog the culvert. If that happens, we're going to have issues with the underground culverts, the joints holding up, possible leaks, and additional problems.

He also stated that the erosion removes the supporting soil around the culvert pipe, which may cause the pipe to settle, separate at the joints, or become damaged, which is what I just described.

The fact that sediment is already going into residents' yards this soon after construction should be a great concern and should warrant an engineering evaluation.

Based on the knowledge brought forward, the slope is essentially vertical, and that's uncommon for a permanent roadside embankment unless it's supported by a retaining wall or another engineered structure.

From what we've seen, there is no retaining wall. There is no supporting structure. There's nothing there that we've noticed.

A request was also made to see the landscaping plans—the plants that NMDOT was supposed to pay for and install.

I did send that information to you. To your defense, it was just last week, so you probably haven't had time to review everything.

But a lot of what is noted on those plans, we simply cannot see.

The residents cannot locate those plants. I don't know if Trustee Garcia has been able to identify them, but the residents certainly haven't.

I was just going to request that if you have the opportunity, maybe you could walk with us or show us where exactly those plants are supposed to be because we're not finding them.

The advice given by the architect is that Mesilla should obtain a licensed civil engineer or geotechnical engineer to independently evaluate this runoff.

We should not simply take NMDOT's engineer at face value. Obviously, there's reason to question what they've provided.

We should obtain our own study because what we're seeing should not already be occurring.

The fact that the walking path already has potholes is also concerning because it indicates whatever is stabilizing or supporting that walking path underneath may not have been done correctly.

He also pointed out that when he went down to the bottom and looked back up, if you pay close attention between the walking path and the dirt, you can see gaps in several locations.

He referred to those as 'pockets.'

His recommendation is that we obtain a second opinion.

He said if the Town of Mesilla is not going to seek one, then as residents we need to come together and obtain one ourselves because of everything we're already seeing.

Regarding the IPRA request, the question came up concerning EBID and what approval they actually gave.

From the research that was done, EBID permitted NMDOT to move forward and gave their consent. However, a lot of that documentation has not yet been provided to me.

They requested another extension until July 23rd, which is why I'm questioning a lot of things.

I also took the time to research the licenses of the construction companies that were contracted.

Ducross Construction, Laretta, and the third contractor do not appear to have a GF-3 or GF-4 contractor's license on record. Those classifications are generally required for culverts and underground drainage work.

I just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention in hopes that before we sign off on this project, all of these issues receive a thorough review and the Town does not assume accountability or responsibility for something it did not cause, because additional issues continue to come forward.

So, thank you."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"I have everything printed out. So what you just said right now—is that in an email?"

Ms. Beverly Estrada:

"No. It's in text messages. I sent it to Mayor Hernandez and Trustee Garcia.

The people we brought out are simply friends and relatives who are helping us."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"And from your walking path down..."

Ms. Beverly Estrada:

"Yes. He observed the pockets that were there.

However, his opinion is that the construction deficiencies continue throughout the project from McDow all the way to Bowman.

That's the major concern."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Yes. Maybe you can email that to us, so we have an idea when we're talking about it."

Ms. Beverly Estrada:

"Right. But he's one person. I don't expect the Mayor to walk out there and approve engineering decisions.

I'm not an expert.

You're not an expert either.

That's where Trustee Garcia has really gone above and beyond, even before she was appointed to the Board.

She listened to us.

I honestly felt bad for her while she was campaigning because neighbors would stop her everywhere and point out all of these issues and concerns.

She listened to every one of us.

To this day, we've felt her support one hundred and ten percent.

The Mayor also took the time to sit down and hear me out.

We've had a lot of conversations—he can attest they haven't always been the happiest conversations—but he listened.

Trustee Cadena, I'm not an expert either, but I've taken the time to research Section 106, understand what it means, and even call Washington.

I have a full-time job. I have a family. Yet outside of that, this is what I've continued to work on.

One person cannot do this alone.

Sooner rather than later, the Town is going to have to take responsibility for addressing these concerns.

I don't think it's right that the Town should assume responsibility if all of this is simply left in chaos.

We're not even forty-five days from project completion, and we're already seeing all of these issues.

That's where I think we need to go with this.

I'll wait to talk with you about whether the Town is actually going to have an engineer evaluate it.

I know he receives my text messages, and so does Trustee Garcia—sometimes at eleven o'clock at night—because I'm still researching.

That's really all I wanted to bring to everyone's attention so we can come up with a solution.

It's not one side against another.

It's simply asking, 'What can we do to resolve the issue?'

It's also not fair to the residents.

Many of them are elderly.

They're out there picking up all the trash that blows into their yards.

They didn't create this situation.

Some of what's happening underneath the ground is beyond anything they can fix.

But on a positive note, I do want to say thank you because we have seen the Mesilla Marshals out there more often at night, and that's helped.

Thank you."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Any other public comment?"

Moving on to Board of Trustee Committee Reports and Comments."

Board Reports

Trustee Nevarez:

"I attended the Taylor Museum Friends meeting this past week.

I also met with Community and Economic Development staff to go over and catch up on upcoming events.

I've also been trying to get some of the different student organizations at the university to participate in this year's parade.

Hopefully we can get them interested. The challenge is that it's right at the beginning of the semester, so they don't have much time to organize, but hopefully we'll have some representation.

My comment regarding the University Avenue project is that we've heard a lot of issues continue to come forward.

At what point are we going to have a concrete resolution to address these concerns sooner rather than later?

That's it for me. Thank you."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"We do have a meeting this Friday, July 17th, here in Bowman regarding the Blacksmith Shop."

Trustee Garcia:

"I don't think I'm going to be able to tell this to all of the residents, but the reason other residents aren't showing up is because they don't want to be disappointed.

They appointed Beverly to represent them.

They had their own neighborhood meeting. I wasn't able to attend one of those meetings, which I had intended to.

I requested information from NMDOT.

I'd love to see where those plants are because there's no way they spend that much money on landscaping and we can't find it.

I understand that plants sometimes have to be replaced, but University Avenue is full of weeds.

We're telling our residents about weeds while University Avenue itself has weeds."

"I was also going to ask about the no parking signs.

They placed them against the wall.

Shouldn't they actually be on the roadside instead of on the walking path side?

Between Bowman and the other end, there really aren't any signs."

"And, in defense of the Mayor, I did bring that issue up.

The Mayor immediately went to NMDOT and addressed the weed problem with them.

I told the residents, 'Yes, Mayor Russell is watching this.'

That's all."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"The only upcoming meeting is the Blacksmith Shop meeting, which you're part of. It's a Public Art and Public Places Committee meeting regarding the funding we have available.

We'll be looking at how we're going to utilize those funds.

I'll also be putting out a call for artists this week for murals so we can get that process started.

It's grant season right now.

We have a number of grants being submitted, including two Historic Preservation grants.

The Trails+ Grant has just opened.

We'll probably be using that for lighting replacement along the University Avenue walking path as well as some additional improvements.

The Water Trust Board also released its Notice of Intent application today.

Those are for design-only applications, which are due by the second week of August.

We'll be submitting those, and you'll be seeing those resolutions coming before the Board very soon.

The grants are just going to continue rolling throughout the year, so you'll be seeing quite a few of them.

I also received notification from the Department of Tourism regarding the Destination Forward grants we submitted.

Hopefully, the smaller grants will be announced within the next two weeks, along with the larger grant application we submitted."

to redo the Visitor Center. Those will need to have a presentation completed, so I'll be doing a presentation, along with team members, with the Department of Tourism, and just some of the things that we have to talk about.

I'll catch Beverly a little later as well—or Ms. Estrada.

I did get the list and went through that this afternoon because I was out of town last week with my family, but I did receive her email on that. I opened it up and went through all of those reports today.

In specific, a lot of the plants that are noted in that, they are out there. It's just that, yeah, a lot of the grasses that were supposed to be native, they didn't make it.

But the red yuccas, along with the sage, and another—there was, I can't even remember—penstemon, I think, was out there.

A lot of them are by their native names rather than by their known names, but the pictures help a little bit with what's there.

I did note a lot of those there, and I'll speak to her note there.

I will walk with her or other residents to identify plants. I'm fine with that and doing that.

There are some other questions on some of that paperwork that you sent, Trustee Garcia—or that you received through your request—that I do want to follow up on, because it showed some irrigation stuff going in, and I'm like, 'Where's the irrigation?' So, I get there are questions and all of that.

But, you know, that's the part there.

I think that there's also, when we look at it, just a full kind of encompassing of everything, you know, the agreements that we have signed that we did with DOT specifically for the path, as well as the areas—or the storm drains, the lights—those are maintenance agreements.

We don't take on the infrastructure to hold it. It's not our infrastructure. It's still DOT's infrastructure.

So, if there are holes that end up in the path or, you know, part of the path ends up falling down because of erosion, we're not on the hook to fix that. DOT is still on the hook to fix all of that.

Just like throughout all of these issues that have been brought up already with the drains and, you know, the drainage coming off and going into people's yards, they're working on the solutions for those and trying to figure out what the best solution may be. They've narrowed it down to two and are getting that set to see what that looks like. But there again, it has to be a change order to complete that on, and that's on the resident side.

From what Mr. Roder was mentioning, it was a 90-degree—I think it's more like a 45, you know, rather than a 90. Because 90 degrees is straight up and down.

But it is still a steep incline there that has runoff on that regardless. So, you know, when we get these heavy rains, it'll definitely continue to happen.

Yeah, I think that the other part of that, you know, having a civil engineer involved in this—I mean, they have their engineers, but they also had Bohannon Huston as the engineer that worked with them in the design on this, and they're all civil engineers on their side.

So, I mean, they should have done it right, and it should have been done correctly.

We can have one of our on-call engineers take a look at it overall. That does come at a cost, though, for the hourly rate on whatever that takes for that review.

So, that is something that, if the Board wants to review that, we can have a further discussion on what that looks like on that side."

I don't know. I think that's the hard part because, as I mentioned just before, it's not our infrastructure.

You know, so I think that's where, even if there was an issue, it doesn't come on our bill to fix it. It comes on DOT's bill to fix it.

We can make those suggestions, but that's coming from our engineer. So, whether they take that or not, I don't know.

It might get muddy and complicated. It's just—but it's something that we can review for sure and look at."

"That I don't know—for the asphalt. That's something that needs to be—that's information that, you know, I'll get from Beverly on that and get with DOT."

Trustee Cadena: [inaudible]

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"Right. Get the experts involved." Great."

Trustee Cadena:

"Right."

Mayor Russell Hernandez:

"We'll follow up on all that, you know, and on that timeline.

I think we brought it up in the last meeting, but just to touch on it again, they needed to have final information.

I had sent a whole list to them that included what we had from the walkthrough, plus some extras that came to mind and afterthoughts and walkthroughs there.

Signage was one of them—missing signage here and there, along with different things up and down.

I can ask again on the signs on the path. I don't know if it's necessary, but we can check in and see some of those and ask some of the questions.

But they were going to get a master list completed with all of the issues that needed to be done and get that out to everybody, which I have not seen yet. I'll follow up with that tomorrow.

The contractor had 30 to 90 days. They tried to get everything done within 30 days to work toward completion, and then whenever that is—but it can be up to 90 days, especially if there are bigger issues that need to be addressed, such as the change-order items in there.

One of the things that I want to note, and I think I mentioned it at the last meeting, is that with the lighting, they are putting shades on all the lights, but the shades only cover the back end of the light, not the front end of the light.

So, the front end still projects.

I mean, the lights are all on the north side of the street, so they all project into literally people's backyards and windows.

If you haven't gotten those emails from people who have been sending that, there is a ton, you know.

Nobody wants that.

So, we'll work on that. But that's why we have an application for [inaudible].

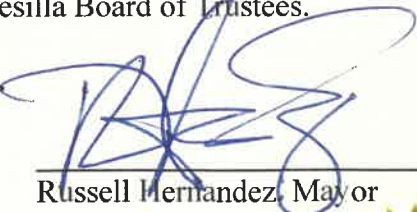
I don't have anything else.

So, unless there is an objection, we'll call this meeting..."

10. ADJOURNMENT

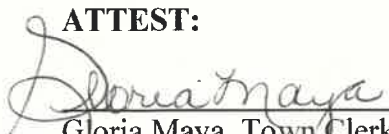
There being no further business before the Board of Trustees, Mayor Hernandez stated, unless there is an objection, he closed the meeting at 9:19pm. (no objection). Mayor Hernandez adjourned the Regular Meeting of the Town of Mesilla Board of Trustees.

APPROVED THIS 27TH DAY OF JULY, 2026.



Russell Hernandez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria Maya, Town Clerk/Treasurer



**BOT REGULAR
MEETING
SIGN IN SHEET
JULY 13, 2026**

[illegible]

