



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) OF THE TOWN OF MESILLA
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

2231 Avenida de Mesilla

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

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

STAFF: Ben Azcarate, Marshal
Lorenzo Astorga, Public Works Director
Paulo Rocha Alfaro, Community Development Coordinator
Gloria S Maya, Town Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLIC:

Catherine Walkenshaw	Amanda Bowen
Andrea Bryan	Trina Witter
Beverly Estrada	Luke Mitchell
Elaine Abrams	Ashleigh Curry
Teresa & Eric Sanchez	Sam Bernal
Enrique Vigil	Ben Schmitt

WORK SESSION

1. MUNICIPAL STREETS & POSSIBLE ONE WAYS

The Board of Trustees work session began at approximately 5:07 p.m. Mayor Hernandez stated that the posted agenda mistakenly described the gathering as a work session/public hearing. It was clarified for the record that the meeting was a work session only and not a public hearing because the public-hearing notice requirements had not been completed in the legal notice section.

The purpose of the work session was to hold a preliminary Board discussion regarding municipal street needs and the possible use of one-way traffic patterns on certain streets. The discussion was intended to provide staff with direction for additional research, engineering review, and identification of any right-of-way or easement issues before any future changes were considered.

Mayor Hernandez advised that public comments would be accepted during the Regular Meeting rather than during the work session. Any potential conversion of a street to one-way traffic would require detailed engineering review and broader public feedback before implementation.

a) Municipal Street Needs - Signage and Traffic Safety

[00:05:04]

The Board began with signage and traffic-safety concerns previously raised by residents and staff. Potential speed-notification signage was discussed for Calle del Norte, primarily between Avenida de Mesilla and Paisano, and along University Avenue near the Zia Middle School area and extending toward the Mesilla Farms area. Staff noted that temporary NMDOT speed-notification equipment on Calle del Norte had received favorable feedback from residents.

Staff explained that Calle del Norte and University Avenue are state roads; therefore, permanent signage or related traffic-control changes on those roadways would require NMDOT review and approval.

[00:06:32]

Potential stop-control locations were discussed, including a three-way stop on Calle de Colon near the acequia before the roadway narrows toward Tierra, a three-way stop at Union Avenue and Snow Road, a three-way stop at Calle del Sur and Snow Road, and a possible four-way stop in the Picacho/Santo Tomas area. The Board reviewed these areas on a map and discussed using stop controls to reduce speeds and improve safety.

[00:08:21]

The Board clarified that the speed-notification signs under discussion would display a motorist's speed but would not photograph vehicles or issue citations. Marshal Department input indicated that similar portable signs had helped slow traffic when previously deployed. Members expressed a preference for notification signs rather than automated camera enforcement.

Traffic-Calming Measures and Children-at-Play Signage

The Board discussed the relative effectiveness of stop signs, speed humps, and speed-notification signs. Staff stated that engineering review would be necessary to determine the most appropriate measure for each location. Speed humps would not be available on state-controlled roadways such as Calle del Norte and University Avenue without state approval.

Children-at-play signage was discussed for Santiago near the park/community center and for the Capri park area. Trustees suggested reviewing signage needs at all Town parks so motorists are alerted to areas where children may be present. Staff agreed to include park-related safety signage in the review.

Avenida de Mesilla / Union Avenue and Pedestrian Safety

The Board discussed requests for traffic signal or stop-control improvements at Avenida de Mesilla and Union Avenue. Staff reported that the Town had already raised the matter with NMDOT during recent coordination meetings and that the intersection is under state jurisdiction. Trustees noted difficulty crossing or entering Avenida de Mesilla and referenced recurring accidents in the area.

Pedestrian safety at the Highway 28 crosswalk near Town Hall was also discussed. Staff reported that NMDOT had recently surveyed the area for a planned pedestrian-control improvement, described during the discussion as potentially including a pedestrian-activated signal or flashing-light treatment.

The Board also discussed signage identifying hearing-impaired residents. Staff indicated that such signage existed near the school on University Avenue and at another location on Union Avenue. Trustees were asked to notify staff of any residents who may require similar reasonable-accommodation signage.

Parking

Parking was identified as a recurring concern throughout Mesilla. The Board discussed property across from a local business that is presently owned by the church and includes NMDOT right-of-way. Staff stated that the Town could explore whether an agreement or property acquisition might create additional parking opportunities.

The McComas property near the Plaza was also mentioned as a location residents have asked about for possible parking. A trustee familiar with the family stated that the property was not believed to be available for sale but offered to verify that information.

The future Blacksmith Shop property was discussed as another location where some parking would be incorporated. Trustees also considered whether additional on-street parking could be more clearly identified near the site, similar to existing diagonal parking in other areas.

Parking around neighborhood parks was reviewed, including the possibility of diagonal parking where roadway width and engineering conditions permit. Members emphasized preserving existing trees and avoiding configurations that would further narrow already constrained streets. Signage identifying legal parking areas was suggested as a way to encourage vehicles to pull farther off the traveled roadway where appropriate.

The Board also discussed whether parallel parking near El Patio could potentially be converted to diagonal parking to increase capacity. Staff stated that any such change would require engineering review.

Major Road Repairs and Drainage

Staff reported that major road-repair projects for Oeste, Paisano, and McDowell were already moving forward through grant funding and were expected to begin paving work in the near future. Large potholes and deteriorated areas were noted on several of these streets.

Trustees raised concerns about areas where stormwater accumulates after relatively minor rainfall. Staff discussed prior use of permeable pavement in one area and noted that some locations do not have conventional storm drains. Other streets identified for major repair or additional attention included Calle de Parian, Calle de Colon, Calle de Guadalupe, Snow Road, Calle de Santiago, Capri, Capri Arc, Basin, and the roundabout area. Staff also noted that several inner-

core streets are already included in the Town's ICIP and would be reviewed in conjunction with planned water-line replacement work.

b) Possible One-Way Streets

The Board then discussed possible one-way traffic patterns. Calle de Guadalupe was reviewed as a potential continuation of the existing one-way pattern north of the Plaza. Trustees described recurring congestion where vehicles park on both sides of the roadway, leaving only enough room for one vehicle to pass and creating conflicts when vehicles approach from opposite directions.

The Board discussed whether a one-way conversion should retain parking on both sides or whether parking should be removed from one side. Members emphasized that affected residents would need to be consulted because any change would alter established driving and parking patterns.

A second area was discussed where the roadway effectively becomes one-way because of its narrow width and parked vehicles. Trustees agreed that substantial resident feedback would be necessary before any change was pursued.

San Albino was also discussed as a possible one-way street. One concept involved a one-way pattern from the north with possible conversion of existing parallel parking to diagonal parking between Santiago and another intersection where roadway width may permit it. Staff noted that delivery-truck access to nearby businesses, including food deliveries and access to La Posta parking, would need to be evaluated.

Trustees discussed large delivery trucks occasionally blocking travel lanes during business hours. Members questioned whether the Town already regulates delivery times and suggested that staff review the Municipal Code to determine whether an ordinance provision exists or whether future regulation should be considered.

Plaza-Area Pedestrian and Traffic Conflicts

Trustees recalled a resident concern involving a child entering the roadway between parked vehicles near the Plaza area. The Board discussed the visibility problems created by congestion and irregular parking during major events and busy weekends.

The Board also discussed the one-way configuration near Avenida de Mesilla and the intersection where the roadway transitions toward Boutz. Trustees stated that motorists sometimes attempt to turn the wrong way, with some drivers reportedly following GPS directions. Members discussed whether larger or more visible one-way/no-turn signage might help and whether vegetation may obscure existing signs.

Additional discussion addressed narrow streets entering from Avenida de Mesilla/Highway 28. Trustees noted that vehicles attempting to enter or exit can block traffic while waiting for opposing vehicles to clear. A possible one-way-in configuration was discussed for one of these approaches, with the goal of reducing conflicts on Highway 28 while preserving two-way circulation farther inside the neighborhood.

Direction to Staff / Next Steps

Mayor Hernandez emphasized that the work session was preliminary and intended to provide staff with direction for additional research. Staff would further evaluate the proposed signage, parking changes, traffic-calming measures, street repairs, and possible one-way configurations.

Once additional research and engineering reviews are completed, the Town intends to schedule public hearings and obtain public input. Staff stated that residents and property owners who could be affected by major roadway changes would be contacted directly. Agricultural impacts would also be considered because some of the affected streets serve farming areas and the Town did not want traffic-control changes to unnecessarily interfere with agricultural operations.

2. ADJOURN

The work session concluded at approximately 6:00.

REGULAR MEETING

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Town Clerk/Treasurer Gloria Maya conducted roll call.

Present:

- **Mayor Hernandez**
- **Trustee Cadena**
- **Trustee Garcia**
- **Trustee Nevarez**

Quorum was established.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Hernandez requested moving Item 6, Executive Closed Session, after Item 8.

Original Motion: Trustee Cadena

Original Seconded: Trustee Garcia seconded the motion

Trustee Garcia requested postponing items G, J and K until Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick returns so the related presentations or discussions could occur with full Board participation.

Amended Motion: Trustee Garcia

Amended Seconded: Trustee Nevarez

Amended Motion Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - No**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes**

Motion passed

Original Motion Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes**

Motion passed unanimously

6. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Hernandez proceeded to the consent agenda, which included the Board of Trustees meeting minutes for August 24, 2026, and a purchase requisition for a Polaris Ranger in the amount of \$16,414.93.

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Seconded: Trustee Garcia

Trustee Garcia asked why the public agenda appeared to contain an additional purchase-requisition item that was not included in the Board packet. The discrepancy was acknowledged during the discussion.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes**

Motion passed unanimously

7. PRESENTATIONS

A. International Walk to School Day Proclamation

Ms. Curry, Safe Routes to School Coordinator for LCPS, Luke, student at Mesilla Elementary School, and Mayor Hernandez read the International Walk to School Day Proclamation.

Mayor Hernandez proclaimed September 30, 2026, as International Walk to School Day in the Town of Mesilla, New Mexico, and encouraged the community to consider the safety and health of children every day. The proclamation was signed, sealed, and proclaimed September 14, 2026.

Mayor Hernandez noted that Mesilla has had strong participation in Walk to School Day and recalled attendance of more than 300 participants the prior year. Ms. Curry stated that Mesilla's participation is among the largest in New Mexico by percentage. She also explained that the school conducts a regular walk-to-school activity each Wednesday when school is in session, except when lightning requires cancellation under district policy.

B. Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Ms. Bowen, Emergency Manager, presented the 2026 Doña Ana County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and requested that the Town formally adopt the plan by resolution. Ms. Bowen explained that the plan serves as a roadmap for reducing long-term risk before disasters occur. It identifies natural hazards, evaluates community vulnerabilities, and establishes actions intended to reduce future impacts to people, property, infrastructure, and critical services. The multi-jurisdictional plan includes Doña Ana County, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, the Town of Mesilla, the City of Sunland Park, New Mexico State University, the City of Las Cruces, the City of Anthony, and the Village of Hatch. Hazards addressed include dam failure, drought, extreme temperatures, flooding, severe wind and dust storms, thunderstorms, and wildfire. Ms. Bowen stated that an approved hazard mitigation plan is tied to eligibility for certain FEMA hazard-mitigation funding programs. FEMA had completed an initial review, and participating jurisdictions were being asked to formally adopt the plan before final approval could be issued. She described the plan as a five-year document that would guide mitigation priorities and future initiatives.

Trustee Garcia asked whether Mesilla had participated in development of the plan and who represented the Town. Ms. Bowen responded that Mayor Hernandez participated in reviews and that the Town's projects were identified in the plan. She explained that the current planning process used a contractor who worked directly with each jurisdiction to obtain more meaningful feedback than had been received during the previous five-year planning cycle.

Further discussion identified Public Works Director Lorenzo Astorga and Fire Chief Greg Whited as having also been involved in the Town's planning input. Trustee Garcia stated that the purpose of the question was to confirm that Mesilla had been represented and its needs had been discussed. Ms. Bowen confirmed that the Town had participated.

6. EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Hernandez stated the governing body will convene in executive closed session pursuant to Section 10-15-1(H)(7), NMSA 1978, for discussion of pending or threatened litigation in which the Town of Mesilla is or may become a participant.

Motion: Trustee Cadena

Seconded: Trustee Nevarez

Trustee Garcia – I have discussion.

Trustee Nevarez: I just had a question relating to uh the agenda. I mean how it stated in the agenda and we have legal here but I guess uh because I wasn't sure if it involved the department or the whole town or you know so I was kind of confused as to um how the item was worded. Um and also uh there is no uh there should, should there have been language saying no action decision uh will be made by the BOT as a result of going but normally you see that as you have a and b and yeah and this one didn't have any, any more information so I just wanted some reassurance that we are doing this correctly.

Mayor Hernandez: Rob

Town Attorney Cabello: Okay, so you don't need to have, so legal advice being provided. You don't need to make a decision. And if you do make a decision about something, then eventually that decision has to be disclosed later on. But, you know, I don't know if this happens.

Trustee Nevarez: Okay. Back to my question was should, should it have been on the agenda, the wording. No decision will be made by the board of trustees.

Town Attorney Cabello: You don't have to have that.

Trustee Nevarez: That's the question I have

Town Attorney Cabello: You don't have to have the language.

Mayor Hernandez: You don't have to have the language and that's part of the, the motion especially in returning from executive close session.

Trustee Garcia: um, yeah um, so I asked the league, we do have to mention why we are going to closed session. If it has to say a case number or water or something on there. It is on page 31 of our Open Meetings Act. So, we do need to make a motion of saying why we're going... We don't have to specifically say anything, but we do have to I mean, here's the copy of the Open Meetings Act on there. Um, I did call the, I did call the New Mexico League and they did say we do have to say why we are going into close session. We don't have to go into specifics, but we do have to say if it has to do with I'll use me for example, we're going into close session regarding a trustee or a department or something on that before we go into close session. That's my concern, is are we going to violate an OMA if we not saying why we're going into closed session. It's on page 31 of the Open Meetings Act. I have a copy here if you like one.

Town Attorney Cabello: Trustee, you could, you could actually amend that right now and say that you're going to have a um right now about what general matters is going to happen about that.

Mayor Hernandez: Okay, so to amend on that note so to continue on the governing body will convene in Executive Close Session pursuant to Section 1-15-1(H)(7) NMSA 1978 for discussion of pending or threatened in which the Town of Mesilla is or may become a participant to uh concerning... I don't even know what would be the... just the general topic, the two general topics. Okay. So then uh concerning uh the um, I mean the, the construction of the University project uh and then as one. Then the other discussion is uh a personnel issue uh and a grievance file.

Trustee Nevarez: Okay

Mayor Hernandez: So, that is the amendment. Okay. If I can have a motion on the floor to go into Executive Closed Session.

Trustee Nevarez: Do you need a second?

Mayor Hernandez: A motion and a second, please. I do need a motion.

Motion: Trustee Cadena

Seconded: Trustee Nevarez

Mayor Hernandez: Okay, so motion on the floor Motion by Trustee Cadena, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez for the amended uh Executive Closed Session. Any other further discussion. Gloria, if we can have a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia – Yes based off of um legal advice.**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes based on legal counsel advice**

Motion passed unanimously

Mayor Hernandez: Great

Ms. Maya: Mayor, the roll call is three (3) yeses

Mayor Hernandez: Thank you very much. The time is now 6:27 p.m.

Entered Executive Closed Session at 6:27 p.m.

RETURN FROM EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Seconded: Trustee Cadena

Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes**

Motion passed unanimously

Entered Regular Meeting at 7:45 p.m.

9. STAFF UPDATES AND COMMENTS

Mayor Hernandez stated that, unless staff had specific comments requiring discussion that evening, staff updates would be included in the Board packet for the next meeting. Trustees were asked to forward any additional questions for staff to the Mayor so responses could be obtained.

10. PUBLIC INPUT ON CASES

Ms. Walkenshaw, 2134 Calle Principal, commented on the municipal-streets discussion from the work session. She supported speed-notification measures on Calle Principal and stated that speeding occurs, particularly between Calle de Parian and Avenida de Mesilla. She also supported review of crosswalk signage on Avenida de Mesilla and additional parking near the Plaza, and suggested that the Town explore whether church parking could be leased for special-event use when not otherwise needed.

Ms. Walkenshaw opposed adding more one-way streets without a systematic traffic analysis. She stated that piecemeal one-way configurations could be confusing to residents and visitors and that traffic and parking problems are most pronounced during several major festivals each year rather than throughout the year. She encouraged the Town to obtain professional traffic-circulation analysis and conduct substantial public outreach before making changes.

Ms. Witter also commented on the possible creation of additional one-way streets and agreed that the issue should be evaluated methodically. She supported examining safety improvements at Highway 28 and Union Avenue, including possible stop control, a traffic signal, a roundabout, or other measures. She suggested considering whether traffic changes are intended primarily to address festival visitors or everyday resident needs and mentioned temporary one-way patterns during festivals or alternating parking arrangements as possible options.

Ms. Witter also commented on Resolution 2026-48 and the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. She questioned consistency in the terminology used in the resolution and raised concerns about the extent of public outreach and participation reflected in the planning process. She asked the Board to consider whether additional public input should be obtained.

Mr. Schmidt, a resident of Capri Arc, raised continuing concerns regarding the University/NM 101 project. He stated that lighting behind his residence remained inconsistent with the Town's night-sky requirements, that erosion continued to affect his property, and that weeds and trash were present along the walking path and ponding areas. He also raised concerns about vehicle speeds, turning geometry at Bowman and McDowell, emergency-vehicle access, and vehicles blocking or driving on the walking path. Mr. Schmidt asked the Town to take action on the concerns residents had repeatedly raised.

Ms. Estrada expressed concerns regarding the University/NM 101 project. She reported possible water leakage or runoff near the culvert at Bowman and University and stated that residents were concerned about conditions beneath the completed improvements. She referenced an earlier agreement concerning lighting and traffic-signal improvements and discussed turning-radius concerns for buses and fire apparatus. She stated that she had requested emergency-vehicle access information and vehicle-turning analyses from NMDOT and urged continued accountability and corrective action regarding the project.

11. NEW BUSINESS

a. University / NM 101 Project - Discussion

Trustee Garcia requested an update regarding the University/NM 101 project. She asked about legal review of the maintenance agreements, the status of the project punch list, and the anticipated final walkthrough. Mayor Hernandez stated that the maintenance agreements were pending legal review and that he had not yet received an update on the punch list or final walkthrough. He recalled that the anticipated timeframe had been approximately 60 to 90 days and stated that he would follow up with the project managers.

Trustee Garcia also asked whether NMDOT was aware that Town Public Works staff had begun cleaning and maintaining portions of the project area. Discussion indicated that the Town was performing work that would ultimately be its responsibility under the applicable agreement. Trustee Garcia suggested contacting NMDOT regarding weeds and other conditions that may be inconsistent with Town requirements. Mayor Hernandez stated that he would follow up.

Mayor Hernandez thanked a resident for assisting with communication regarding project concerns and stated that a consolidated list was being developed identifying the reported issues, their current status, and the entity responsible for investigating or addressing each matter. He stated that legal counsel would also review the list and that he hoped to provide a more complete update at the next meeting.

B. Approval - PZHAC Case #062161, 2355 Avenida de Mesilla

Mayor Hernandez reviewed PZHAC Case #062161.

Motion: Trustee Garcia

Seconded: Trustee Nevarez

Trustee Garcia asked whether the application would be subject to a permit fee, noting the Town's prior action concerning fees for public schools. Staff confirmed that the applicable code provision had been amended and that no additional condition was required for the fee issue.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez - Yes**

Motion passed

C. Approval - PZHAC Case #062171, 2231 Calle de Parian

Mr. Rocha Alfaro reviewed PZHAC Case #062171.

Motion: Trustee Garcia

Seconded: Trustee Cadena

Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez - Yes**

Motion passed

D. Approval - PZHAC Case #062172, 2615 Calle del Sur

Mayor Hernandez and Mr. Rocha Alfaro reviewed PZHAC Case#062172.

Motion: Trustee Cadena

Seconded: Trustee Nevarez

Trustee Garcia questioned whether a variance application had been submitted for the requested subdivision, specifically referencing the variance identified in the case materials. Mr. Rocha Alfaro, Community Development Coordinator, stated that he was not personally aware whether a separate variance had been applied for and initially could not confirm the status. The Board also clarified that the date shown as September 2, 2027 was a typographical error and should have been September 2, 2026.

Trustee Garcia asked whether the property had been posted and neighboring property owners notified for the summary subdivision. Mr. Rocha Alfaro explained that a summary subdivision would ordinarily involve posting and neighbor notification, but could not confirm from the information immediately available whether those steps had occurred for this case. Discussion emphasized that the current summary-subdivision request was a new case and differed from the applicant's previous subdivision request.

The Board discussed emergency access and the ability of fire apparatus and ambulances to enter and exit the property. Mr. Rocha Alfaro stated that the Fire Department had signed off on the proposed road width and configuration. The proposed access would be from Calle del Sur and would remain within Mr. Bernal's property; the road behind the property was not proposed for access. Mr. Bernal stated that the fire hydrant would be located between the two lots on his property.

The variance question was revisited. Mr. Rocha Alfaro located the case background and analysis and confirmed that the application materials requested a variance from MTC 18.35.060(A). The Board questioned whether the variance should first proceed through the applicable variance process before the subdivision request returned to the Board. Discussion

included whether the variance procedure fell under Chapter 17 or Chapter 18 and whether review should occur through the Board of Adjustment or another process. Mr. Rocha Alfaro could not answer all procedural questions during the meeting.

The recommendation was made to postpone the case so that the outstanding procedural questions could be researched and answered before the next meeting. Trustee Garcia stated that her questions included the variance process, posting requirements, neighbor notification, and whether those requirements had to be completed again because the summary subdivision carried a different case number and differed from the prior request.

Trustee Nevarez also discussed a prior reference to an unresolved civil-access issue. Mr. Rocha Alfaro explained that the previous case contemplated a different access arrangement, while the current proposal was contained within Mr. Bernal's property and included a hammerhead-style turnaround for emergency vehicles. The Board discussed whether the statement that the rear road would not be used for property access should be made a condition of approval if the case later proceeded.

Mayor Hernandez requested that any additional questions for Community & Economic Development Director Mr. Salazar be submitted by September 23 so that responses could be prepared for the next meeting.

Trustee Garcia recommended postponing PZHAC Case #062172.

Amended Motion: Trustee Garcia

Seconded: Trustee Cadena

Amended Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez - Yes**

Motion passed

e. Resolution 2026-45 - Local Solar Access Fund Grant Agreement

Mayor Hernandez reviewed Resolution 2026-25.

Motion: Trustee Garcia

Seconded: Trustee Cadena.

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes**

Motion passed

f. Resolution 2026-46 - First Quarter Budget Adjustment Resolution

Ms. Maya reviewed Resolution 2026-46.

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Seconded: Trustee Garcia

Trustee Garcia asked if funds were being transferred between accounts or whether the budget was being increased. Ms. Maya explained that the adjustments involved EMS funding and grant revenues. Trustee Garcia requested that a spreadsheet be included show the funding sources.

Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes**

Motion passed

g. Resolution 2026-47 Trustees Interactions, Liaison Responsibilities, Recognition, Meals, Gifts, and Chain of Command. *Removed from agenda*

h. Resolution 2026-48 Dona Ana All Hazards Mitigation Plan

Mayor Hernandez reviewed Resolution 2026-48.

Ms. Bowen reviewed the All Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Motion: Trustee Cadena

Seconded: Trustee Nevarez

Trustee Garcia

Roll Call Vote:

- Trustee Cadena - Yes
- Trustee Garcia - Yes
- Trustee Nevarez – Yes

Motion passed

i. Resolution 2026-49 - Transportation Project Fund Award for McDowell Road

Mayor Hernandez reviewed Resolution 2026-49.

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Seconded: Trustee Garcia

Discussion clarified that the Transportation Project Fund is an NMDOT funding program and that proposed projects are reviewed through the regional transportation planning process before recommendations proceed to NMDOT. The Town had submitted projects for McDowell Road and another roadway; available funding resulted in the McDowell Road project receiving the award.

Roll Call Vote:

- Trustee Cadena - Yes
- Trustee Garcia - Yes
- Trustee Nevarez – Yes

Motion passed

j. Resolution 2026-50 Chain of Command Revision *Removed from agenda*

**k. Service Agreement – Riviera Group Consulting – Leadership, Governance, & Organizational Alignment
*Removed from agenda***

l. Approval - MOU for Mobile Crisis Unit

Mayor Hernandez reviewed the MOU for Mobile Crisis Unit.

Motion: Trustee Garcia

Seconded: Trustee Cadena

Roll Call Vote:

- Trustee Cadena - Yes

- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes**

Motion passed

m. Approval - MOU with UNM for Blacksmith Shop Documentation, Recording and Conditions Assessment

Mayor Hernandez reviewed MOU with UNM for Blacksmith Shop Documentation, Recording and Conditions Assessment.

Motion: Trustee Nevarez

Seconded: Trustee Garcia

Roll Call Vote:

- **Trustee Cadena - Yes**
- **Trustee Garcia - Yes**
- **Trustee Nevarez – Yes**

Motion passed

12. PUBLIC INPUT

No Public Input

13. BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Trustee Nevarez reported attending the New Mexico Municipal League conference in Las Cruces, where one presentation addressed the Dignity Index and approaches to interacting with others. He also attended the Domenici conference at the convention center and stated that it provided useful information. He reported meeting with the Community & Economic Development Director and checking with staff for updates on departmental activities.

Trustee Garcia reported on a Blacksmith Shop committee meeting and stated that the committee had made progress on identifying work to be completed. She expressed support for the UNM Blacksmith Shop item approved earlier in the meeting and noted that the next committee meeting had not yet been scheduled. She also reported attending an MPO/NPO-related meeting with the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem and stated that the next meeting would be held in Las

Cruces in October. Trustee Garcia also reported attending the Mesilla fiesta and suggested having a first-aid center at a future event. She asked staff to follow up on compensation previously approved for Planning and Zoning commissioners. Ms. Maya responded that a list had been provided and that payments would be processed retroactively from the beginning of the year. Trustee Garcia also shared lighthearted comments recognizing the preparedness of Marshal Department personnel and the work of Public Works staff during the event.

Trustee Cadena reported attending the fiesta and stated that it appeared successful and well received. She also attended a Taylor Historic Site board meeting and reported that the site was approaching a successful first year. She discussed plans to increase awareness and activities, including possible family programming and a partnership between the LCPS Foundation and the historic site foundation to fund school-bus transportation for student visits. She also noted upcoming transit-related activity and reported that the Municipal League presentations had been helpful. Trustee Cadena thanked Town staff, public safety personnel, and others for the extensive work required to organize the fiesta and parade.

Mayor Hernandez reflected on a busy several weeks of meetings, events, and Town business and stated that the Municipal League conference had provided useful information. He thanked Trustee Cadena for assisting with a meeting when he was unavailable, which allowed him to address other Town matters.

Mayor Hernandez praised the recent fiesta and thanked Town staff and departments for working together to make the event successful. He recognized Public Works, Finance, Community Development, Fire, and the Marshal Department, as well as staff members who coordinated the event and parade. He also discussed the fundraising dunk-tank activity supporting restoration of the Town's old fire truck and described the enjoyment it provided for children and families.

Mayor Hernandez highlighted the return of the community crowning tradition. Although no queen applications had been received, a princess was crowned, which he described as a positive step toward restoring a community tradition. He also recognized participation by an Indigenous pueblo dance group and emphasized Mesilla's cultural connections with surrounding Indigenous communities and the importance of celebrating the mix of cultures that contributes to the Town's identity.

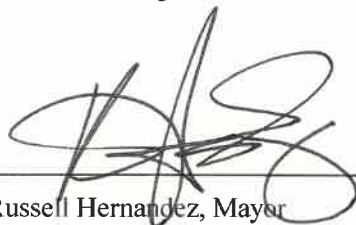
Mayor Hernandez also recognized a community trash pickup conducted with the historic site and approximately 15 students from Zia Middle School. He reported that approximately 43 bags of trash were collected from the plaza and surrounding areas and emphasized the value of partnerships and teamwork among residents, students, staff, and community organizations.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:44 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 28TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2026.



Russell Hernandez, Mayor

ATTEST:



Gloria S Maya

Town Clerk/Treasurer



September 14, 2026

[illegible]

