Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026

~ 6:00 P.M. ~

AGENDA

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

STAFF: Lourdes Hernandez, Lieutenant
Eddie Salazar, Econ & Com Development Director
Gloria S Maya, Town Clerk/Treasurer/Recorder
Greg Whited, Fire Chief

PUBLIC Crystal Whited

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Russell Hernandez called the rescheduled regular meeting of the Town of Mesilla Board of Trustees to order at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at Mesilla Town Hall. Mayor Hernandez thanked those attending for their patience with the rescheduling.

Mayor Hernandez invited attendees to stand, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Present:
Mayor Hernandez
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick
Trustee Cadena
Trustee Veronica Garcia

Town Clerk/Treasurer, Ms. Maya conducted roll call and confirmed a quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Second by Trustee Cadena

Motion carried

4. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Hernandez presented the consent agenda:

a) **BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of BOT, September 28, 2026
b) **APPROVAL: Purchase Order – CES – AK Sales & Consulting, Inc. – Playground Equipment (Capital Outlay Grant) - $80,988.90**
c) **APPROVAL: Purchase Order – AK Sales & Consulting, Inc. – Mulch Commemorative Park (Capital Outlay Grant)- $3,984.42**
d) **APPROVAL: Payment – Milestone Construction – EV Charging Signs (Capital Outlay Grant) $431.76.**
e) **APPROVAL: Payment - CobbFendley – Waterline Services (Capital Outlay Grant)- $16,091.70**
f) **APPROVAL: Payment – The Power Center – 2027 Polaris Ranger (Que Linda Grant) - $16,614.93**

Exact vendor spelling and the two unclear amounts should be checked against the official agenda and invoices.

Mayor Hernandez requested corrections to the September 28 minutes: page 3, add Trustee Nevarez as present; page 5, record that only the topics identified for closed session were discussed and clearly state the amended motion; page 8, correct the Ad Hoc committee membership to Trustees Cadena and Nevarez, with the Mayor Pro Tem as alternate; page 9, clarify that the amendment related to Carlsbad equipment; and correct the closing agenda numbering from 11 to 12 and 13. Mayor Hernandez also reported a revised Resolution 2026-50, section 16, clarifying employees' right to contact the New Mexico Human Rights Bureau or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission directly regarding discrimination, harassment or retaliation. Mayor Hernandez noted that funding sources were being added to agenda purchase items for transparency.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, **Second by** Trustee Garcia

Roll call vote: (Summary: Yes-3)
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes

Approved with the stated minute corrections.

5. STAFF UPDATES AND COMMENTS

Marshal's Department — Lieutenant Hernandez reported favorable community and interagency feedback from participation in Las Cruces National Night Out. Mesilla's Community Blue Lights/Community Night event is scheduled for November 14 at the Mesilla Community Center, approximately 5:30–8:30 p.m.; an October 27 planning meeting would finalize arrangements. Trustee Garcia offered to distribute flyers. Lieutenant Hernandez responded that flyers had already been distributed to local businesses and to other law enforcement and federal agencies. Lieutenant Hernandez stated the possible attendance by Native Air with a helicopter subject to a safe landing location. Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick mentioned the October 30 District Court trunk-or-treat event. Lieutenant Hernandez responded she would look at the department's availability given Mesilla's October 31 festivities. Lieutenant Hernandez emphasized the importance of regional agency partnerships during major investigations.

Fire Department — Fire Chief Whited reported upcoming holiday safety messaging and approximately $20,000 of donated fitness/workout equipment from another fire department. The equipment is in use at the station in a first-responder readiness area and was acquired at no cost. Trustees noted that the equipment should nevertheless be entered into the Town inventory.

Community and Economic Development — Director Salazar reported attendance at an outdoor/economic development gathering, networking with municipalities, and conversations about water conservation, including a contact in Deming and an NMSU training session. He is researching the implications of childcare changes for municipal land-use oversight. The noise ordinance ad hoc group had met, reached broad agreement on objectives and planned a further meeting.

Director Salazar described preparation of written standard operating procedures for agenda posting, website publication, application processing and public hearings to reduce administrative mistakes and improve consistency with two new departmental employees. He identified code questions involving variance and subdivision hearings for future Board guidance. He also discussed potential community-ditch maintenance provisions and an animal-control fee schedule covering surrender, shelter costs, trap loans and feral-cat/TNR education, with assistance from a code enforcement officer.

The iWorQ implementation was described as approximately 60–65% complete: code enforcement and permit modules were in place, with the planning/zoning approval workflow under development to connect internal review, work sessions, PZHAC, BOT and Board of Adjustment steps. Director Salazar described a screen-printing machine and initial Town-branded shirts/tote bags for staff, volunteers and possible merchandise revenue, and the possibility of developing a distinctive Mesilla trademark. Historic-Preservation work includes a walking-tour map. He also discussed procuring a sound-level meter capable of logging LAeq measurements over time for future noise enforcement.

Finance — The Mayor reported that the annual audit process had begun, with an anticipated December submission deadline and additional updates to follow.

6. PUBLIC INPUT ON CASES
No public input.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. PZHAC Case #062169 — 2450 Calle de Principal — Felix Armijo
The request was to amend the building plans to install a wrought-iron fence and red brick pavers in the Historic Commercial zone. Director Salazar explained that the work continued an earlier approved project. Pavers would extend along the front and south side toward rear parking, providing a firmer accessible route from ADA parking. Drainage beneath the pavers and an additional drainage pond on the north side were discussed. The fencing would screen and protect the pond and incorporate latas consistent with the historic appearance. The Board reviewed PZHAC conditions to add a latas fence, address drainage beneath the pavers, and remove wood covering from the exterior electrical panel due to fire/electrical clearance concerns. Staff clarified the fence location and the relationship to the drainage area.

Motion: Trustee Garcia, **Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

Roll call vote: (Summary: Yes-3)
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes

b. PZHAC Case #062188 — 2200 Calle de Los Huertos — John S. Robinson
The applicant sought to remove cracked flagstone sidewalk and replace it with stamped, colored concrete in the Historic Residential zone. Director Salazar described the deteriorating edges, the proposal to straighten

the walkway and use a tile-like stamped finish. Trustees discussed the distinction between landscaping and exterior construction requiring historic review, and whether minor work might be handled administratively or on consent while prominent changes should be considered under new business. Board discussed seeking examples and definitions from other historic communities and clarifying Town standards before changing procedure. No separate policy action was taken.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, **Second by:** Trustee Garcia

Roll call vote: (Summary: Yes-3)
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes

c. PZHAC Case #06189 - 2456 Calle de Guadalupe — Anita Rivard
The request was for two business signs in the Historic Commercial zone for a new bead/craft business described as "Strands of Enchantment." Director Salazar explained that one sign would replace an existing approximately 18-by-24-inch projecting sign and the second would be a wall sign above the doorway. Staff confirmed the projecting sign would maintain at least seven feet of sidewalk clearance. A trustee raised a question about the hanging height and indicated satisfaction with the clarification.

Motion: Trustee Garcia, **Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

Roll call vote: (Summary Yes-3)
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes

d. Discussion — Town of Mesilla Employee Handbook Updates
Mayor Hernandez presented an estimated $4,500–$5,000 cost for the proposed handbook revisions, stating that any increase exceeding approval thresholds would return to the Board. The Human-Resources consultant's scope includes one or two meetings with the Mayor. Mayor Hernandez requested a trustee participate for transparency and oversight; Trustee Cadena volunteered and Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick offered to serve as alternate, citing HR experience. Revised language would ultimately return to the full Board. No formal vote was taken.

e. Discussion — New Mexico Self-Insurers' Fund Roof Repair Coverage
Mayor Hernandez explained that the insurance program had inspected municipal building roofs for covered peril-related damage. The inspector found no qualifying wind, hail or other covered damage to support full roof replacement at insurance expense; deterioration was characterized primarily as wear and tear. Mayor Hernandez expected a report identifying repair contractors or recommendations. Trustees questioned the distinction between storm-caused leaks and gradual deterioration, including repeated monsoon exposure. Mayor Hernandez described plans to work with Public Works Director Astorga on scheduled roof inspections and preventive maintenance, including attention to membranes, leaks and areas requiring patching. No action was taken.

f. Approval — Roof Care Services, Community Center Roof Repairs — $7,289.23
Mayor Hernandez explained that urgent repairs had already been undertaken following severe rain and leakage into office areas, with concern about ceiling deterioration and potential electrical impacts. A special

meeting would have required additional notice during continued rainfall; and described the decision as necessary to mitigate further damage. The Board considered approval of the expense.

Motion: Trustee Garcia, **Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

Roll call vote: (Summary Yes-3)
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes

g. Approval — Resolution 2026-52, Colonias Infrastructure Waterfall/Water Tank Project
Mayor Hernandez presented a $2,000,000 project financing package consisting of a $1,500,000 grant and $500,000 loan component. He explained that the loan component includes the required match and estimated annual debt service of approximately $21,000. A date discrepancy in the resolution was identified; staff confirmed the corrected version showed October 20, 2026. Signatures were requested following approval. Trustees emphasized the importance of water infrastructure resilience.

Motion: Trustee Garcia, **Second by:** Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick

Roll call vote: (Summary: Yes-3)
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes

h. Approval — Resolution 2026-53, Colonias Infrastructure Fire Hydrant Project
The Board considered a $697,776 project, including a $558,221 grant and $139,555 loan/match component. Mayor Hernandez described replacing 25 hydrants, including approximately 12–13 currently out of service and others nearing the end of useful life. Selected hydrants would include electronic monitoring to detect flow and pressure changes and alert Public Works. Installation was included and estimated annual loan service was slightly more than $57,000.

Motion: Trustee Garcia, **Second by:** Trustee Cadena

Roll call vote: (Summary: Yes-3)
Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes
Trustee Cadena Yes
Trustee Garcia Yes

8. PUBLIC INPUT
No Public Input

9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COMMENTS
Trustee Garcia apologized for missing a Blacksmith Shop committee meeting because of a pumpkin harvest and discussed the positive response to a free pumpkin distribution, offering to consider donating pumpkins for a future Mesilla children's event. She also reported missing another committee meeting because of a work scheduling conflict, but contacting the organizer, and meeting with the Fire Chief about forthcoming agenda requests she hoped the Board would support.

Trustee Cadena stated that another transit meeting was expected and that Trustee Nevarez attended a J. Paul Taylor Site Foundation meeting as alternate and could report later.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick reported no liaison update, noted a missed MPO meeting due to scheduling, and received confirmation of a November 18 rescheduled meeting.

Trustee Cadena additionally reported attending the audit kickoff with the Mayor and finance staff.

Mayor Hernandez reported plans for a public presentation the following Tuesday on conceptual drawings for a proposed fire-station addition, followed by further design feedback and formal processes. He announced the October 31 Halloween event at the Community Center (5:00–8:30 p.m., costume contest at 6:00), the November 14 community safety event, a forthcoming county presentation on the High Mesa Highway with questions invited in advance, and a future Las Cruces Public Schools presentation on Rio Grande Preparatory Institute plans. He anticipated a work session before the next BOT meeting to address Fire Department matters. He also noted that early voting was underway at Mesilla Town Hall Tuesday through Saturday and encouraged civic participation.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:06 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 26TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2026

Russell Hernandez
Mayor

ATTEST:

Gloria S Maya
Town Clerk/Treasurer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
(RESCHEDULED)
REGULAR MEETING
SIGN IN SHEET
October 20, 2026

NAME	ADDRESS
Crystal Whited	MFD
Greg Whited	MFD
Lourdes Hernandez	Mesilla Marshall's