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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**TOWN OF MESILLA**  
**WORK SESSION**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016**  
**5:00 P.M.**

**TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem  
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee  
Jesus Caro, Trustee  
Linda L. Flores, Trustee

**STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director  
Chris Mangusing, Marshal  
Irene Parra, Special Events Coordinator  
Gloria Maya, Recorder

**PUBLIC:** Ralph Geck Susan Krueger

1. Discussion regarding becoming a Colonia's Designated Community.  
Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez indicated Ms. Holguin and Ms. Alarcon gave a presentation at a prior meeting. She and Mayor Barraza have had more discussion and have done research to see how this can be done. Ms. Goodman from Senator Tom Udall's office, Mr. McCamley, and Mr. Joseph Cervantes are also in favor.

Mayor Barraza stated there are resources that become available when a community is designated a Colonia. When residents hear the word Colonias; they panic and think of third world country. That is not the case. This will help us with infrastructure needs for the areas that we have not been able to address.

1 Ms. Alarcon stated the designation opens additional funding opportunities for the town. This allows  
2 up to a 100% grant. Due to the medium household income exceeding the base of \$43,797, the town  
3 is only eligible for the loan program. If Mesilla decides to become designated they will need to go to  
4 the county to pass a resolution which will be provided to her agency so they can proceed with the  
5 application. We partner with the state and HUD to collaborate to provide funding for projects.

6  
7 Mayor Barraza asked if Ms. Alarcon's agency is federal or state.

8  
9 Ms. Alarcon responded the funding from USDA is federal.

10  
11 Ms. Holguin stated CDBG has a Colonia set a side where you only compete with communities  
12 designated as Colonias under HUD; competition is less. The application will not be for areas that do  
13 not meet the medium income; town may qualify for CDBG funding. We work closely with the state  
14 Colonia set aside which helps with projects with the most needs. Our area is 150-mile radius. She  
15 hears the comments when the word Colonia is used but a Colonia is Spanish for a subdivision. She  
16 wants to clarify that the designation helps access funding. Reiterated it is up to the board to make  
17 the decision regarding the designation. The needs are greater than the funding entities are  
18 receiving.

19  
20 Mr. Juan Fuentes indicated Ms. Holguin and Ms. Alarcon are great partners. We, the City of Truth or  
21 Consequences, also face infrastructures challenges. After looking at our needs and what we were  
22 receiving in funding we asked how we can pool together funding sources. Ms. Alarcon and Ms.  
23 Holguin came and indicated that these projects can be funded in phases. The City worked on the  
24 designation application and was able to tackle the first phase of a Water Treatment Plant which was  
25 in dire need and funded \$1.5 million for another phase. This is an opportunity to seek money. There  
26 are always loan programs but it is a loan. Small communities have limited resources and do not  
27 want to acquire additional debt. The majority of USDA funding is grant and part loan. The  
28 combination of resources allows for bigger projects. The City of Elephant Butte and Sierra County  
29 are also looking at the designation of Colonia after seeing the benefits. The competition is only with  
30 the communities within the 150-mile radius. It is a hard hit to the residents if a project needs to be  
31 funded through utility services. He encourages the town to take advantage of the benefits of having  
32 the additional resource it helps leverage the town's money to do bigger projects that otherwise would  
33 not be able to be done.

34  
35 Mayor Barraza indicated the Mayor of Ruidoso Downs told her that with the designation of Colonia  
36 they were able to do a \$1million project that they would of never been able to do. She hears  
37 constantly that communities within the 150-mile radius are taking advantage of this benefit. There

1 are elected officials from the northern part of the state who are trying to do away with the Colonia  
2 funding since that area is not benefiting from it.

3  
4 Trustee Flores state she understood we would not be eligible for funding.

5  
6 Ms. Holguin responded there are two different types of funding; regular (CDBG) and Colonia set  
7 aside; you can only apply for one. Every community in Dona Ana County except Mesilla and Hatch  
8 has been designated a Colonia.

9  
10 Trustee Caro asked if she said Mesilla could not qualify as a Colonia.

11  
12 Ms. Alarcon responded it will not qualify until it has been designated as a Colonia. Currently  
13 Mesilla's median household income qualifies for the loan program only. It will qualify for grants after  
14 the Town is designated a Colonia.

15  
16 Mayor Barraza understands the board must approved the designation where at that time it must also  
17 go to the county for approval.

18  
19 Ms. Alarcon responded a resolution must be passed. Our population threshold is 10,000.

20  
21 Trustee Caro asked if once a community becomes a Colonia, will state funding be cut?

22  
23 Ms. Alarcon responded federal funding is different and will not affect state funding.

24  
25 Mayor Barraza indicated state legislators only have so much money that must be distributed to their  
26 districts as per need.

27  
28 Trustee Caro asked if Truth or Consequences gets GRT primarily from tourism.

29  
30 Mr. Fuentes responded Truth or Consequences is a retirement community; our main industry is  
31 tourism. We did not see state funding affected with the designation. State funding is divided by the  
32 legislators to their communities so it is very limited anyway. These programs are the only way we  
33 have been able to tackle bigger projects. We depend on our relationship with Ms. Alarcon and Ms.  
34 Holguin to help us find resources.

35  
36 Trustee Caro stated he knows that Mr. Fuentes has done a great job in Truth or Consequences so it  
37 says a lot to that it works. People think of a downgrade of sorts when there is talk about Colonias.

1 He recommends have a town meeting so to address the residents' concerns. He also read in the  
2 paper how well the City of Sunland is doing now that they have been designated a Colonia.

3  
4 Mayor Barraza stated smaller communities do not have the revenue source to deal with big projects.  
5 The infrastructures in Mesilla are the originals and need to be replaced due to corrosion. We have  
6 looked for revenue sources but they are just not out there. We cannot count on Capital Outlay. She  
7 does not believe Mr. Fuentes would bring forth something that would not be good for the Town of  
8 Mesilla.

9  
10 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated Ms. Alarcon mentioned at the last presentation that due to  
11 our median household income, none of these funds could go to home rehabilitation.

12  
13 Ms. Alarcon responded due to the proximity of the Town of the City of Las Cruces, it is outside of the  
14 area that would qualify.

15  
16 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated this would be used more for infrastructure. We are  
17 incorporated, we know we have these issues and we need money but she struggles when see reads  
18 that Vado residents do not have paved roads. She has trouble competing with a community who is  
19 far worse shape off than Mesilla.

20  
21 Ms. Holguin responded Vado does have water and wastewater. The roads are the county's problem  
22 where the land is illegally subdivided. The State of New Mexico has an anti-donation clause. We  
23 cannot compare that community to Mesilla. We have put over \$42 million into the Vado community.  
24 It is not that the money is not available; it is the regulation. You are not competing with them; we  
25 cannot put money into roads until they become county roads. She is working with the  
26 commissioners; this has nothing to do with the government. All public roads are paved; private  
27 roads are not. This is apple and oranges. We have put water in all Colonias. Inaudible The  
28 money is there. You are not going to get everything but projects can be done in phases. Take what  
29 you need, if you can get 75% grant and 25% loan you will only have to pass 25% to the residents.  
30 Look at what is the best for the Town of Mesilla. CDBG can be used for home rehabilitation.

31  
32 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated Ms. Holguin said there is plenty of money to go around for  
33 everybody.

34  
35 Ms. Holguin responded there are about 154 designated Colonias in New Mexico. Last year there  
36 was \$14 million out of the state Colonia; \$1.5 million out of CDBG and some out of EPA for a total of  
37 \$33 million. You are not going to get all you need for a project at once but they can be done in

1 phases. Go after loans and combine them with grants. Inaudible They will be glad to come in to  
2 work with Mesilla to review the funding and deadlines for applications.

3  
4 Mayor Barraza stated Trustee Caro wanted to ensure that the designation will not affect tourism

5  
6 Trustee Caro asked what type of funding does Truth or Consequences have for the town?

7  
8 Trustee Arzabal asked if it will change the name of the town.

9  
10 Ms. Holguin responded it does not change; it is a resolution, a paper. A requirement for Colonia's  
11 Designation is lack of infrastructure and deteriorating houses.

12  
13 Trustee Arzabal stated we need to educate our residents, they see it as a negative thing. He  
14 recommends having an informational meeting for our residents. Residents see a Colonia as a  
15 negative thing.

16  
17 Ms. Holguin responded she tells the council that they are elected by the people and they owe them  
18 that much to inform them. Mesilla will not have to change its name.

19  
20 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated we can rescind the resolution when they see fit.

21  
22 Ms. Holguin responded that is correct. Hatch decided to remove the designation and now they have  
23 a big problem with flood control which is one of the requirements of the state. She has been  
24 contracted by the Hatch Mayor who wants to revisit the Colonia's designation.

25  
26 Mr. Alexander asked this is a fast track for the Town of Mesilla for improvements; get what you can,  
27 sell us out, re-designate us as a Colonia since we cannot take care of ourselves. This program is  
28 only offered for communities 150 miles from the border and is in conjunction with the federal  
29 government to clean up the land. The town has a lot of needs that could be met. We are having  
30 financially. The re-designation just to get the money which is what it is will help us obtain things but  
31 regulates us. We will have to operate within their guidelines or we do not get the funding. People  
32 that cannot do the hook-up will still not be able to hook-up. This will encourage more destruction and  
33 less preservation. It will tear down buildings to erect new ones so we do not have any substandard  
34 buildings. This will change the Town of Mesilla. All decisions have a direct effect on our future. It is  
35 his opinion that a Colonias are good for some places. Mesilla is special because of preservation and  
36 us being able to maintain it as we have. It will help us but it will not help us in historic preservation.  
37 These programs are unconscious when it comes to historical preservation. They are conscious of is

1 bring everything up to current standards. It will have a traumatic effect on the Town of Mesilla. Once  
2 infrastructures are installed those farms will not stay; money does the talking.

3  
4 Mr. Geck stated he is afraid that property value will go down. The historic aspect will be in jeopardy.  
5 He agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick that Vado looks bad. The City of Anthony looks  
6 pathetic. He asked how we as residents know that these funds will be used for the proper intention.  
7 We have been taxed without us knowing. The funds earmarked for Colonias that are in most need  
8 will dwindle. Our town leaders do not have the foresight to look for other funding sources that do not  
9 take from the poor and does not hinder the working people of Mesilla.

10  
11 Ms. Susan Krueger recommends there be an outline to use for the community meeting.

12  
13 Mr. Garcia stated he has spoken to people from other communities and since they became a  
14 Colonia their taxes and water has gone up. It is an improvement so it affects the taxes. Think about  
15 that.

16  
17 Mayor Barraza thanked everyone for their comments. A public hearing will be held within the next  
18 four weeks at the Community Center for further discussion and to address concerns.

19  
20 Worksession closed at 6:00 p.m.

1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
2 **TOWN OF MESILLA**  
3 **BOARD MEETING**  
4 **MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2016**  
5 **6:00 P.M.**  
6

7 **TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
8 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem  
9 Carlos Arzabal, Trustee  
10 Jesus Caro, Trustee  
11 Linda L. Flores, Trustee  
12

13 **STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
14 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
15 Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director  
16 Chris Mangusing, Marshal  
17 Irene Parra, Special Events Coordinator  
18 Gloria Maya, Recorder  
19

20 **PUBLIC:** Ralph Geck Susan Krueger  
21

22 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

23 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.  
24

25 **2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

26 **Roll Call**

27 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Caro, Trustee  
28 Flores.  
29

30 Mayor Barraza held a Moment of Silence for Ms. Zecha and the victims of the Orlando massacre.  
31

32 **3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

33 **Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Trustee Flores, Seconded by Trustee Arzabal.**  
34

35 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

36 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

37 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

1 **Trustee Caro Yes**  
2 **Trustee Flores Yes**

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**4. PUBLIC INPUT –** The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

Mr. Garcia stated last Thursday there was a brush fire on Glass Road and Belen Road. The Town of Mesilla Fire Department did not respond because it was in the county. He sat there and watched the fire. Fairacres showed up and worked hard and Mesilla is sitting there watching. It is not right that the Mesilla Fire Chief sat there watching and did not do anything. He did not take the big truck; he thinks the Fire Chief doesn't even know how to drive it. He feels Mesilla should have done something. The neighbor was told he could not do anything because it was in the county. There was property lost. The only one that responded was Trustee Caro; Trustee Johnson-Burick indicated she was sick. The Fire Chief probably does not know how to drive or he does not give a damn. It was bad; it was a sad day. He just sat there. Later on the big truck came. It is unbelievable. It is bad when you cannot even help your neighbors.

Mr. Alexander stated at the last meeting the new patio for Chala's was approved. He encourages all businesses to grow. The board voted against the existing ordinance which reads a non-complying business cannot be expanded. Staff failed to tell board; or board failed by not doing research. When a business cannot meet the parking requirements it cannot be enlarged. The board allowed a non-compliance business to reduce their parking requirements. Chala's is paying the town for the use of the parking lot across the street which may not be legal. The other concern is that there is a 94 year old resident which has lived next door to the business all her life is having trouble to breathe due to the smoker, it does not mean anything. He hopes nothing happens to her the board has opened the door for liability. An exhaust system should have been address by Planning and Zoning.

**5. \*APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with an asterisk \*:**

**Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Flores.**

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she is concerned with the wording for item d; it reads as if the board had already approved the school.

Mayor Barraza asked Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez if the school was approved at the last meeting.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded the board approved the Special Use Permit.

1 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated the approval was for Ms. Biad to file a permit; the school had  
2 not been approved. The permit to apply was approved.

3  
4 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated the business license was approved by Planning and Zoning.

5  
6 Mayor Barraza stated business licenses do not come to Board of Trustees.

7  
8 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked why the one with a day care center came to the Board of  
9 Trustees for approval.

10  
11 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded it was for a Special Use Permit.

12  
13 Mayor Barraza stated the question was had the school been approved by the Planning and Zoning  
14 through a Special Use Permit. Business registrations do not come to the Board of Trustees they go  
15 straight to the Planning and Zoning.

16  
17 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick understands the Special Use Permit for the day care came to the  
18 board for approval but the Special Use Permit for Ms. Biad's school went to the Planning and Zoning  
19 but didn't come to the board.

20  
21 Mayor Barraza responded the board approved the Special Use Permit for Ms. Biad.

22  
23 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded all Special Use Permits first go to Planning and Zoning then to  
24 the board for approval.

25  
26 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated so the board in essence approved the use as a school. She  
27 would have liked more discussion on this facility because she had concerns with state statutes  
28 regarding liquor licenses.

29  
30 Mayor Barraza indicated there was discussion regarding the item.

31  
32 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she thought was going to look into that.

33  
34 Mayor Barraza responded it was approved by 4-0 vote. Tonight's agenda item is a request for  
35 construction of a fence.

36

1 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked that the minutes, page 10 item 8 for May 23, 2016 be  
2 amended. She was referring that she wanted it in writing that we are not violating state statute.

3  
4 Mayor Barraza stated the sentence above has the amendment to the original motion.

5  
6 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated it appears that I stated that a waiver can supersede state  
7 statute and that is not what I stated.

8  
9 Mayor Barraza stated a waiver cannot supersede state statute. She asked that under a waiver, the  
10 word “not” be added to read *a waiver cannot supersede state statute*.

11  
12 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

13 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

14 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

15 **Trustee Caro Yes**

16 **Trustee Flores Yes**

17  
18 a. **\*BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting minutes of May 23, 2016. ***Approved by consent***  
19 ***agenda***

20 b. **\*PZHAC Case # 012562** – 1765 Avenida de Mercado, submitted by Raymond Vigil for  
21 Vigil & Associates; a request for a permit to install a business sign at a business at this  
22 address. Zoned: General Commercial (C). ***Approved by consent agenda***

23 c. **\*PZHAC Case # 012564** – 2309 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by Jorge Puentes of  
24 SCJ Business Consulting, LLC for Silver Studio at the Plaza; a request for a permit to  
25 install a business sign for a business at this address. Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC).  
26 ***Approved by consent agenda***

27 d. **\*PZHAC Case # 012565** – 1730 Tierra de Mesilla, submitted by Anna Biad for the  
28 private school to be opened at this location, a request for a building permit to allow  
29 construction of a fence around the proposed school playground. Zoned: General  
30 Commercial (C). ***Approved by consent agenda***

31 **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

32 a. **Closed Session** – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2) limited personnel  
33 matters of the Public Works Department. – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

34 **Motion: To enter closed session pursuant to MNSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2) limited**  
35 **personnel matters of the Public Works Department, Moved by Trustee Flores, Seconded by**  
36 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

1 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

2 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

3 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

4 **Trustee Caro Yes**

5 **Trustee Flores Yes**

6

7 **Enter Closed Session at 6:25 p.m.**

8

9 **Motion: To enter regular session after limited discussion pursuant to MNSA 1978 Chapter 10-**  
10 **15-1(H)(2) regarding Public Works Department, no action was taken, Moved by Trustee**  
11 **Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Flores**

12

13 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

14 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

15 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

16 **Trustee Caro Yes**

17 **Trustee Flores Yes**

18

19 **Enter regular meeting at 6:34 p.m.**

20

21 **b. For Approval: termination of a Maintenance I employee in the Public Works Department.**  
22 **– Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

23 **Motion: To approve termination of Maintenance I employee in the Public Works Department,**  
24 **Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

25

26 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

27 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

28 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

29 **Trustee Caro Yes**

30 **Trustee Flores Yes**

31

32 **c. Update on Public Safety Building – Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director.**

33 Ms. Lujan stated the CID inspector reviewed the code violations. The contractor has not completed  
34 the punch list provided by CID but should be completed by today. A meeting will be schedule  
35 meeting with Molzen/Corbin for a partial substantial completion of the punch list. When the punch  
36 list is completed a final completion will be done.

37

1           d. Discussion of fire condition forecasts for the upcoming fireworks season. – **Kevin**  
2           **Hoban, Fire Chief.**

3 Fire Chief Hoban stated conditions for fire danger are not unusual for this time of year. We are at  
4 high range for fire danger class. Forecast will remain unchanged. There are no big red flags. The  
5 Palmer Index is near normal for our areas; no reason to look at fire restrictions. There are no  
6 planned fire restrictions in the state. He has no planned restrictions and expects conditions to  
7 improve as we near the monsoon season.  
8

9           e. Resolution 2016-05: A resolution authorizing and approving submission of a complete  
10           application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance  
11           Authority for the purchase of two (2) Dodge Ram 1500 Pick-Ups with Up-Fits in the  
12           amount of \$79,242.17 utilizing the Fire Protection Fund. – **Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief.**

13  
14 **Motion: To approve a resolution authorizing and approving submission of a complete**  
15 **application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority**  
16 **for the purchase of two (2) Dodge Ram 1500 Picks-Ups with Up-Fits in the amount of**  
17 **\$79,242.17 utilizing the Fire Protection Fund, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**  
18 **Flores.**

19  
20 Fire Chief Hoban reviewed the Board Action Form.

21  
22 Trustee Caro stated he can see replacing the vehicles but at this time he feels due to cutbacks we  
23 need to prioritize what we spend money on. He is will to go with the purchase of one Ram Suburban  
24 but we can wait on the Impala for another couple of years.  
25

26 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3; Nay=1).**

27 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

28 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

29 **Trustee Caro Nay**

30 **Trustee Flores Yes**

31  
32           **f. \*STAFF REPORTS**

33           Community Development

34           Community Programs

35           Finance Department

36           Fire Department

37           Marshal's Department

38           Public Works Department  
39

1           **7. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

2 Trustee Arzabal state the Food Truck Festival will be this Wednesday.

3  
4 Trustee Caro stated the incident on Thursday was in close proximity to Glass Road and Calle de  
5 Paisano. He was informed that a neighbor called the Mesilla Fire Department and was told that they  
6 could not respond since it was in the county jurisdiction. It does not matter if the property was in the  
7 county; it bordered Mesilla and some residents in that area are connected to our water system and  
8 the children attend schools in Mesilla. As far as he is concerned our department has more  
9 application to responded to their needs than to all the calls they get for Fairacres, Dona Ana,  
10 Mesquite or other outlying areas. He asked that the MOA with the county be rescinded and help  
11 ensure that Mesilla has the availability of our Fire Department instead of taking a chance of being  
12 without their services when we most need them.

13  
14 Trustee Flores congratulated the four explorers that graduated from high school, happy to see they  
15 are coming in as fire cadets and the cadets that passed Fire Firefighters II and Fire Firefighter I  
16 training. Thanked Fire Marshal Alberg for bringing Aspen. She was very saddened to hear about the  
17 passing of Chad's wife. Thanked Ms. Parra for her work and is looking forward to the Food Trucks.

18  
19 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick extended her condolences to the Zecha family. She did drive out to  
20 the brush fire. She heard one story and wants to pull the 911 dispatch records and find out the Fire  
21 Chief's side. This was an out of control fire. She thought there was an MOU Cooperative  
22 Agreement that we would assist. It could have factored in loss of life. There was an article in the  
23 paper where there are eight library stands; three of those in Mesilla that are distributing books. She  
24 asked if we are planning to have meetings with the business owners and Mercado vendors.

25  
26 Mayor Barraza responded the meetings have been held.

27  
28 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked why the trustees were not notified; she would have liked to  
29 have been included.

30  
31 Fire Chief Hoban stated on the date in question a 911 call was received; the Fairacres and South  
32 Valle Fire Departments were dispatched to Belen Place for a brush fire. Our brush truck observed a  
33 heavy volume of smoke; they asked if they could assist. They were the second unit on scene and  
34 took control of the western side of the fire and were able to prevent it from getting to the home.  
35 Property was lost. There was a command unit on the scene; Fairacres brush truck. When his  
36 presence was observed our brush truck was already on scene. He brought an additional person to  
37 assist and Captain Emery had responded in his own vehicles before the Fairacres units arrived. He

1 is so upset but he will maintain his professionalism. He did not go into the fire because there were  
2 enough personnel handling the fire. He remained available along with three other firefighters to  
3 cover the town; the town was not uncovered during our response into the county which he is often  
4 accused of. In addition, we sent the engine to bring water to the firefighters, at their request,  
5 because it was a hot fire. He also advised the command unit on scene where the nearest fire  
6 hydrant was as they were waiting for a tanker and were running out of water. The times can be  
7 checked, Lieutenant Gil has done a report. We used the Mutual Aide Agreement as it is written.  
8 The county in 2006 decided not to call Mesilla automatically to assist; they only call when they have  
9 run out of resources or need assistance. Up until December, 2006 we were automatically  
10 dispatched and would have been dispatched to this call as a primary response unit. The county  
11 made the decision not Mesilla. He has tried to rescind that as there could be children, people  
12 trapped and residents. They have rejected those offers. He has entered into negotiation to redo our  
13 Mutual Aide Agreement with the county in October, 2015 when they finally agreed to meet with him.  
14 As of date we have not been able to come to an agreement. I do know how to drive the large trucks;  
15 if you like I'd come over and give you a rodeo. His job to be the paramedic, pick up his firefighters  
16 when they are put down by public comments that are erroneous and ill spoken. He gives his life to  
17 this town. He responds at all hours of the day or night as does his staff. He gets paid for an 8 to 5,  
18 Monday to Friday job; not for the calls he goes to on weekends and nights. His door is always open;  
19 if anyone has questions regarding the fire department he invites everyone to take advantage of that.  
20 To sit here and be vilified in public with no prior knowledge, no warning is very unprofessional and  
21 beyond the pale of acceptable behavior.

22  
23 Mayor Barraza thanked the firefighters and cadets for their service to the town. There is a library  
24 stand on Capri Arc in Mesilla Park Manor. She asked Ms. Parra to inform the trustees on future  
25 meetings.

26  
27 Ms. Parra stated there were six business owners who attended the meeting. We discussed current  
28 activities and received great feedback in terms of ways we can continue working together. We are  
29 looking at holding a quarterly small business event. There were about twenty Mercado vendors. We  
30 discussed ways to increase marketing, advertising and increasing participation. There are about  
31 forty Summer Recreation participants. We have scheduled two field trips; Southwest Exhibition and  
32 Mesilla Valley Bosque.

33  
34 Mayor Barraza stated we will be scheduling a Public Hearing regarding the Colonia designation.  
35 Staff notifies her when incidents happen in the community. She was aware of the incident and the  
36 attendance of Trustee Caro at the fire off Glass Road. If the trustees have questions, feel free to call  
37 her and the Fire Chief's door is always open. The Food Truck Fiesta will be on Wednesday from

1 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Music on the Plaza begins Friday with Unlyshed from 8:00-10:00 p.m. There will  
2 be Mercado vendors and food trucks during that event. We will be discussing the ideas that came  
3 forth during the meetings with the business owners and Mercado vendors. One thing brought up is  
4 they would like to put up signs show there are business on the side of the plaza. The next Board of  
5 Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

6  
7 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

8  
9 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4)**

10  
11 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:04 P.M.**

12  
13  
14 **APPROVED THIS 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2016.**

15  
16  
17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Nora L. Barraza  
19 Mayor

20  
21  
22 **ATTEST:**

23  
24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez  
27 Town Clerk/Treasurer