



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TOWN OF MESILLA

WORK SESSION

MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016

5:30 P.M.

TRUSTEES: Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee (absent)
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:

1. Discussion of the Fiscal Year End Report for the Town of Mesilla. – **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer.**

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez gave a presentation of the Fiscal Year End Report for the Town of Mesilla.

Mayor Barraza stated there was not an increase since the CPI increase would have been less than 1%. The Enterprise Fund is comprised of water, solid waste and waste water.

Trustee Caro stated it looks good.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she is really glad that the Enterprise Fund is being built up. She is shocked in the increase in miscellaneous revenues.

1 Mayor Barraza responded we try to be conservative when estimating revenue. The insurance
2 reimbursement, firework, and restitution cases are in that line item.

3
4 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded some restitution case have gone to that line item. The town
5 overpaid in the unemployment insurance and was reimbursed.

6
7 Trustee Flores indicated it would be nice to pass that back to our taxpayers but we need to continue to
8 build up that line item should an emergency arises.

9
10 Mayor Barraza stated we do not want to lower our prices. There are so many needs in the town such as
11 replacement of vehicles, purchase of equipment to be able to sustain the fund. The money can be used
12 to address emergencies. The money we currently have will not be enough to address a major need. We
13 have been able to save money due to the negotiations with the City of Las Cruces regarding wastewater.
14 We need to be able to continue building up the fund to meet the needs of the town. She reiterated hats
15 off to the Department Heads and Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez who have stayed within their budget; everyone
16 has done a great job. She does not foresee giving that money back. There is always latitude to help
17 departments that go over a line item.

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19 Closed worksession at 5:53 p.m.

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1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **TOWN OF MESILLA**
3 **MEETING**
4 **MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016**
5 **6:-00 P.M.**
6

7 **TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
8 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
9 Carlos Arzabal, Trustee (absent)
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:** Frank Torres Francisco Torres
21 Catrina Torres
22
23
24

25 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

26 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.
27

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

29 **Roll Call.**

30 **Present: Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Trustee Caro, Trustee Flores.**
31

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

33 Mayor Barraza asked to pull the Board of Trustee minutes of July 11, 2016.
34

35 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked to place under New Business items 7c, d, e, f, and g on the
36 consent agenda.
37

38 **Motion: To approve agenda as amended, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by**
39 **Trustee Flores.**
40

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

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

3 **Trustee Caro Yes**

4 **Trustee Flores Yes**

5
6 **4. PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.

7 **No public input**

8
9 **5. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** – The Board will be asked to approve by one motion
10 the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked with
11 an asterisk *:

12 **Motion: To approve consent agenda as amended, Moved by Trustee Flores, Seconded by Trustee**
13 **Caro.**

14
15 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).**

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

17 **Trustee Caro Yes**

18 **Trustee Flores Yes**

19
20 a. ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting minutes of July 11, 2016. ***Removed from the agenda***

21 b. ***PZHAC Case # 06380** – 2280 Calle de Principal, submitted by Deacon Frank for Basilica of
22 San Albino Church; a request to paint the handicap rails white instead of black. Zoned:
23 Historic Commercial (HC). ***Approved by consent agenda***

24 c. ***PZHAC Case #060383** – 1730 Tierra de Mesilla, submitted by Anna Biad; a request to
25 install a wrought iron and rock wall around the property and adjacent lot. Zoned: Commercial
26 (C). ***Approved by consent agenda***

27
28 **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

29 a. **PZHAC Case # 012565** – 1891 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Cali Szczawinski for
30 Mesilla Grill, a request for a building permit to construct a pillar to be placed at the front
31 of her property. Zoned: General Commercial (C). (*Added 7/22/16 at 10:00 a.m.*)

32 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated the Board of Trustees tabled this case at their July 11th meeting.
33 The pole will be placed on her property and not on Department of Transportation right of way.

34
35 Mayor Barraza indicated the trustees requested the type of material that would be used and a
36 description of the artwork.

37
38 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez asked that the questions be made to Ms. Szczawinski.

1 Ms. Szczawinski stated it would be made of metal with a kokopelli, desert lizard, roadrunner, yucca
2 and ristra. They are about 14 inches tall and 12 inches wide; with a stain glass in the back.

3
4 Mayor Barraza reiterated the item will be on her property. The electric bill will be paid by the
5 property owner.

6
7 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case #012565 – 1891 Ave de Mesilla, submitted by Cali Szczawinski**
8 **for Mesilla Grill, a request for a building permit to construct a pillar to be placed at the front of her**
9 **property. Zoned: General Commercial (C), Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Seconded by**
10 **Trustee Flores.**

11
12 Trustee Caro stated it is a nice gesture but he does not think it will go with the area and does not see
13 anything historic. It is not at the entrance of Mesilla. We already have a saturation of signs up and down
14 the street and does not think it will do much for the town.

15
16 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson stated she understands the Planning and Zoning described it as art work. She
17 has not researched the ordinance to see what is allowed. It sounds beautiful but would like to see
18 pictures instead of a sketch. She feels there is already a lot of signage on the property. She is very
19 hesitant at this point.

20
21 Ms. Szczawinski indicated that it is not a sign. On one side it will have Mesilla established 1850 and the
22 side facing the road it will have the symbols. She feels people need to know when they get to Mesilla.
23 Mesilla is a wonderful place and it is hard to tell when you get to Mesilla. She understands the town limits
24 are different on each side of Highway 28; she will be working with the City of Las Cruces to see if we can
25 place something that she will pay for. She believes this will enhance Mesilla. It is hard to show the item
26 to the trustees since it cannot put together until it is on site.

27
28 Mayor Barraza responded the town boundaries are awkward. The proposed site is more less where the
29 Town of Mesilla is. She feels it is a nice gesture that Ms. Szczawinski is willing to pay for the pillar. This
30 pillar is not to promote her business it is letting people know they are in the Town of Mesilla. The symbols
31 that will be on the pillar are a part of New Mexico. She asked what type of material is being used.

32
33 Ms. Szczawinski responded it is all metal; a 1 inch metal frame behind it. The pole will be wrapped in
34 rope lighting. The letters will be cut from metal and will glow at night. The symbols will be glass. It will
35 not be real bright; a warm glow. This benefits all of Mesilla. It is not a sign for her business.

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37 Mayor Barraza asked about the color.

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39 Ms. Szczawinski responded it will be rusted.

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Mayor Barraza confirmed there will be no cost to the town.

Ms. Szczawinski stated there will be no cost to the town whatsoever.

Mayor Barraza stated Planning and Zoning did approve this case.

Trustee Flores stated she understands Trustee Caro's concerns regarding the signage. She feels it is important to have marks and agrees it is nice gesture. This will be on her private property. The symbols are southwestern style. She is concerned with the lights but it may be something you want to see at night. Ms. Hall worked very hard on the lighting in Mesilla.

Ms. Szczawinski responded the lighting is very subtle. The rope lighting is in the middle and a foot away from any opening.

Trustee Flores stated Planning and Zoning has taken time to look at these things.

Ms. Szczawinski indicated it was a unanimous vote.

Ms. Parra stated Ms. Szczawinski has offered to hang banners across the pillars posting our events.

Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick agreed with Trustee Flores regarding the conflict between being historical, being true to our ordinances and the overkill on the commercialism. She is concern with the precedent are we going to set if this gets voted on. Property owners will want to put things on their property and call it art work. We may want to work on an ordinance with conditions. Reiterated what can of precedent we are going to set.

Trustee Caro state he understands the DOT has not received anything in writing.

Mayor Barraza responded we do not have to get approval from DOT since it is on private property.

Trustee Caro inaudible

Mayor Barraza responded that would be if we wanted to put a banner and would be on a case to case basis. What the board has before them is the pillar.

Ms. Szczawinski responded she has never called it art work. She wanted it to be an attractive gateway piece. Mesilla needs something to show when someone gets to the town. She wanted to come to Mesilla before going to the City of Las Cruces. It is a pillar I am giving to the Town of Mesilla.

1 Mayor Barraza stated we currently do not have a sign in that area. There are three signs; Fairacres
2 Road, University and South Highway 28 welcoming people to the Town of Mesilla. There is nothing when
3 you are traveling north to south on Highway 28.

4
5 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick asked if there is one when traveling south to north.

6
7 Mayor Barraza responded there is one at the Cotton Gin.

8
9 Marshall Mangusing stated there is one on 292 near Glass Road.

10
11 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 1; No=2).**

12 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick No**

13 **Trustee Caro No**

14 **Trustee Flores Yes**

15

16 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

17 ****A public hearing must be held prior to action on item A****

18 a. For Approval: a restaurant beer and wine license for on premise consumption only and patio
19 service for Mas Food and Beverage, LLC, doing business as Chala's, 2790 Avenida de
20 Mesilla; application No. 996745. – **Cynthia Stohner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer.**

21

22 **Motion: To close regular meeting, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

23

24 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).**

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

26 **Trustee Caro Yes**

27 **Trustee Flores Yes**

28

29 Closed regular meeting at 6:31 p.m.

30

31 **Motion: To enter Public Hearing, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson, Seconded by Trustee Flores.**

32

33 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).**

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

35 **Trustee Caro Yes**

36 **Trustee Flores Yes**

37

38 Opened Public Hearing at 6:32 p.m.

39

1 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez reviewed the Beer and Wine License application for Chala's. The prior
2 establishment did have a liquor license.

3
4 Mr. Garcia stated he has eaten in that place. A little wine would be good as long as they do not serve
5 hard liquor.

6
7 Mr. Torres stated he feels we are doing good things. He is confident in the process to stay competitive.
8 It is amazing the support the Chala's gets from surrounding businesses. The more businesses you have
9 the better off you. We have continued to grow.

10
11 Closed Public Hearing at 6:37 p.m.

12
13 **Motion: To open regular meeting, Moved by Trustee Caro, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-**
14 **Burick.**

15
16 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).**

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

18 **Trustee Caro Yes**

19 **Trustee Flores Yes**

20
21 **Motion: To approve a restaurant beer and wine license for on premise consumption only and patio**
22 **service for Mas Food and Beverage, LLC, doing business as Chala's, 2790 Avenida de Mesilla;**
23 **application No. 996745, Moved by Trustee Flores, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

24
25 Trustee Caro stated there needs to be a sign indicating Mesilla will not be held liable for accidents that
26 happen while crossing the street. He feels what they are planning is great.

27
28 Mayor Barraza responded she does not believe we have asked that from businesses in the past.

29
30 Trustee Caro stated Mr. Alexander is renting parking spaces to Palacios and something has been signed
31 releasing liability.

32
33 Mayor Barraza responded that is a personal liability issue. In her opinion it opens up a can of worms
34 since many patrons use our parking lots. She asked are we going to be requiring businesses that serve
35 alcohol for this kind of an agreement.

36
37 Trustee Caro stated everyone is getting to be more sue happy. He request that it be looked into. .

38
39 Mayor Barraza stated it is the server's responsibility to not over serve.

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Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).

- Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**
- Trustee Caro Yes**
- Trustee Flores Yes**

b. Approval and Selection of a voting delegate and an alternate for the 2016 Annual Conference. – Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer.

Mayor Barraza stated she would like to continue being a voting delegate.

Trustee Flores recommended Trustee Caro as the alternate voting delegate.

Motion: To approve the selection of a voting delegate and alternate for the 2016 Annual Conference, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Flores

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).

- Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**
- Trustee Caro Yes**
- Trustee Flores Yes**

c. Resolution 2016-07- A resolution approving the 2015-2016 Fiscal Year End Financial Report for the Town of Mesilla. -Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer. *Approved by consent agenda*

d. Resolution 2016-08 – A resolution for FY 15-16 Fourth Quarter Budget Adjustments. – Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer. *Approved by consent agenda*

e. Resolution 2016-09 – A resolution adopting the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year Revenue and Expenditures Budget for the Town of Mesilla. – Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer. *Approved by consent agenda*

f. Resolution 2016-10 – A resolution approving participation in the program of the South Central Council of Governments, Inc. for Fiscal Year 2016-2017. – Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk-Treasurer. *Approved by consent agenda*

- 1 g. Resolution 2016-11 – A resolution authorizing Participation in Local Government Road Fund
2 Program and Request for Match Waiver administered by New Mexico Department of
3 Transportation. – **Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director.** (Added 7/22/16 at 8:57 a.m.)
4 **Approved by consent agenda**

5
6 **8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

7 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated after reviewing the budget she thanked the Department Heads for
8 being diligent and monitoring their budgets. She is pleased to see the Enterprise Fund doing what it is
9 supposed to do; this will benefit the town in the long run.

10
11 Trustee Caro stated reviewed the reasons why the court should have an intern or assistant. Ms. Carbajal
12 was gone to training and when she is gone the judge cannot function. She takes runs the judicial system.
13 When you lose her, you have nothing. He believes it would be a good idea to train someone; we do not
14 realize how much they need to. Not anyone can go in there. The next time there is a budget adjustment
15 we need to take a serious look at that appointment. We are getting away from our night light ordinances.
16 There are a lot of bright lights around the town. There is a bright light at the apartments on Calle de Sur.

17
18 Trustee Flores thanked the Department Heads for working hard to stay on budget.

19
20 Mayor Barraza stated she is very proud and happy to say we are on task and doing what we are
21 supposed to be doing. The Department Heads have done an outstanding job of staying within their
22 budgets and still providing services to the community. She would like to look at giving some kind of
23 increase to the staff in December if the revenue continues to come in. She would like to compensate our
24 employees for the work that they do. The Gross Receipt Taxes for last month were higher than a year
25 ago. She is hoping that businesses are seeing an increase in business. She attended a NMML meeting
26 and Senator Smith is asking for a Special Session regarding a shortfall around the state. She is
27 concerned since they are looking at cutting Capital Outlay. We have to funding sources that Ms. Lujan is
28 working on. One of the comments was that if a project has not been started funding may be pulled. She
29 thanked Ms. Parra for promoting the town and we are reaping the benefit of it. Please let Ms. Stoehner-
30 Hernandez know if you are interested in attending NMML in August so she came do your paperwork.
31 Friday was the last day of Summer Recreation and Summer Music on the Plaza.

32
33 Ms. Parra stated both programs were very successful. She is starting to look for grants to help with
34 funding for the Summer Recreation. She hopes to continue the music series also the Food Truck Festival
35 was a great success. She appreciated the board support in putting money into promoting the town. We
36 need to consider working with the businesses who want to help in promoting the town. It can be
37 rewarding and challenging at the same time. Signs such as the one Ms. Szczawinski is proposing do
38 have an effect on setting precedent but those are the type of precedents we want to have.

1 Mayor Barraza stated we are looking at having the Summer Recreation Program in the morning; it is too
2 warm for the children to be outside in the afternoon. The town has received a Certificate of Occupancy
3 for the Public Safety Building; staff has begun to move in. There are still some issues that need to be
4 ironed out; a full report will be provided once taken care of. We are looking at September for the Grand
5 Opening.

6
7 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

8
9 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-3)**

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11 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:51 P.M.**

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14 **APPROVED THIS 8th DAY OF AUGUST, 2016.**

15
16 _____
17 Nora L. Barraza

18 Mayor

19
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21 **ATTEST:**

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24 _____
25 Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez