



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014
6:00 P.M.**

TRUSTEES: Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem
Sam Bernal, Trustee
Linda L. Flores, Trustee
Stephanie Johnson-Burick Trustee

STAFF: Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
Chris Mangusing, Marshal
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC: Alexandra Nason Hall

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Roll Call.

Present: Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores, Trustee Johnson-Burick.

3. PRESENTATION:

a. Presentation regarding the Big Kitty Fix Program – Anne Markman

Ms. Markman gave a presentation regarding the Big Kitty Fix Program.

Mayor Barraza stated the Town of Mesilla and surrounding area does have a cat problem. The marshal and I have been working to see what can be brought forth to help take care of the problem. She hopes the trustees support this program. They will be looking for funding to help with the clinics.

Trustee Flores inaudible

Ms. Markman stated she believes there are 60 to 70 cats or it may be the same cats that wonder around; 2 clinics will be needed. You have no way of knowing until they are ear clipped; cats are unwilling to go

1 into the traps. If we run a clinic and trap only 10 feral cats we can then offer spots for companion cats.
2 There is a product called Feral Stat which will prevent the female cat from going into heat and stop
3 reproduction.

4
5 Mayor Barraza asked what is done with the cats once they have the procedure done.

6
7 Ms. Markman responded clinics will be held at the fire station. The cats could be monitored in a service
8 garage and monitored until 12:00 the next morning; released where they were picked up.

9
10 Trustee Flores asked if the cost is for the complete package.

11
12 Ms. Markman responded it is for the complete package; rabbi shot, sterilization, microchip, and ear
13 clipping.

14
15 Trustee Flores asked how long would this take receive funding.

16
17 Ms. Markman responded funding takes time but during that time Feral Stat can be used. It takes one sand
18 grain of the Feral Stat to prevent the cat from going into heat.

19
20 Mayor Barraza indicated there is money for animal control and in her budget to hold a clinic. Also we
21 can reach out to our constituents. We do not want to get to a point where it is out of control; measures
22 need to be taken now. She asked if Ms. Markman's organization would make contact with residents that
23 are feeding the cats.

24
25 Ms. Markman responded they would be happy to go out in the community but will ask for someone to go
26 with them.

27
28 Trustee Bernal stated he is in support of this program. We want to help this from escalating. He believes
29 people from outside of Mesilla will bring their cats to the clinic.

30
31 Ms. Markman responded they believe everyone that wants to come may come. If it is a companion cat
32 the owner should pay for it. Grant money could pay for cats that come from outside of Mesilla also. We
33 can tier the cost according to income.

34

1 Trustee Bernal stated we just need to put a plan together to support this program.

2

3 Ms. Markman stated traps need to be prepped.

4

5 Mayor Barraza stated we can start by advertising the clinic. Traps could be provided to the residents to
6 trap feral cats which will give us an idea on what we can expect at a clinic.

7

8 Ms. Markman stated if funding is awarded a clinic can be held for community cats; a second clinic for
9 companion cats.

10

11 Mayor Barraza stated the town can hold one clinic and if funding is award a second clinic can get held.
12 The one clinic will cost \$1,600 for either 10 cats or 30 cats.

13

14 Ms. Markman indicated companion cats cannot be fed after 10:00 p.m. and can fill up the 10 slots.

15

16 Trustee Flores recommended calling residents when a slot becomes available. She feels using the Feral
17 Stat may give us some time. During the first clinic we can require proof of Town of Mesilla residency.
18 You cannot stop all the cats. We need to get the word out.

19

20 Ms. Markman responded micro chipping will help.

21

22 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated this is the same program that was presented to the county. She supports
23 this program and the education portion of neutering and spaying. Grant funding.....

24

25 Ms. Markman stated that SNAP has very low guidelines.

26

27 Mayor Barraza stated they will be looking into hosting a clinic and also look at applying for funding.
28 They will also look at purchasing Feral Stat for the residents.

29

30 Ms. Markman indicated the town will need to go through her to purchase Feral Stat.

31

32 Judge Frieze stated you need to be careful when trapping as you may pick up a skunk.

33

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

1 Ms. Alexandra Hall stated there are a lot of feral cats in the Town of Mesilla. She is asking that if anyone
2 sees her dog, Sancho Panza who was stolen, to report it. She is very upset of the service at the shelter
3 which operates under the City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County.

4
5 Mayor Barraza informed her she had 30 seconds.

6
7 Ms. Hall stated if you don't give a resident opportunity to talk when there is no one in the room, to hear
8 when they come out on their own time to talk to you about, she is really sorry. She wanted to talk to your
9 about how wonderful Halloween was. She thinks that is unconscionable.

10
11 **5. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

12 Mayor Barraza asked to add a closed session; no action will be taken.

13
14 **Motion:** To approve the agenda as amended, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee
15 Bernal.

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

17 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

18 Trustee Bernal Yes

19 Trustee Flores Yes

20 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

21
22 **6. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one**
23 **motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked**

24 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal asked to place item 8a and 8b under new business on the consent agenda.

25
26 **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as amended, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by**
27 Trustee Flores.

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

29 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

30 Trustee Bernal Yes

31 Trustee Flores Yes

32 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

33

1 a. ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting of Tuesday, October 14, 2014 *Approved by consent*
2 *agenda*

3 7. ***PZHAC Case #012310** – 2134 Calle de Principal; submitted by Eric Walkinshaw, a request for
4 approval of a building and demolition permit for the first phase of the repair and alteration of
5 several existing dwellings and structures; and demolition and replacement of a garage at this
6 address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR) *Approved by consent agenda*

7 **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

8 a. Resolution 2014-15 – Approval of a resolution establishing dates for Holiday Observance
9 for the Town of Mesilla in 2015 – **Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.**
10 *Approved by consent agenda*

11
12 b. Resolution 2014-16 – Approval to submit a revised resolution requesting a time extension
13 from the Local Government Road Fund (LGRF) Program for Phase I Calle Principal from
14 Calle de Parian South to Calle Santa Ana. – **Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director.**
15 *Approved by consent agenda*

16
17 c. Closed Session

18
19 **Motion:** To enter closed session pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1 (H) (2) related to personnel
20 matters of the Public Works Department; no action will be taken, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal,
21 **Seconded by** Trustee Bernal.

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

23 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

24 Trustee Bernal Yes

25 Trustee Flores Yes

26 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

27
28 Entered closed session at 7:11 p.m.

29
30 **Motion:** To enter closed session pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1 (H) (2) related to personnel matters of
31 the Public Works Department; no action will be taken, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded**
32 **by** Trustee Bernal.

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

34 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

1 Trustee Bernal Yes
2 Trustee Flores Yes
3 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

4

5 **Motion:** To enter regular session after limited discussion in closed session pursuant NMSA 10-15-1
6 (H) (2) related to personnel matters of the Public Works Department; no action was taken, **Moved by**
7 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Flores.

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

9 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

10 Trustee Bernal Yes

11 Trustee Flores Yes

12 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

13

14 Entered regular session at 7:28 p.m.

15

16 **9. *STAFF REPORTS**

17 Community Development

18 Community Programs

19 Finance Department

20 Fire Department

21 Public Works Department

22 Marshal's Department

23

24 **10. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

25 Trustee Flores no comments

26

27 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated it does not look for the board if no action is taken regarding the lights at
28 the church.

29

30 Trustee Bernal asked if the Veteran's program being held tomorrow.

31

32 Trustees Flores stated the trustees will do the Pledge of Allegiance.

33

1 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked everyone and congratulated Ms. Irene Parra on the very successful
2 Halloween Carnival. She indicated she was disappointed that the last Board Meeting was cancelled due
3 to lack of new business and hopes that if that happens again that possibly a worksession be scheduled do
4 discuss items of importance. She asked for the status on policies regarding volunteers, drug testing and
5 the Open Meeting Act training; is unable to move forward on her projects. She became aware that an
6 invitation was left at the Town Hall inviting the board to Adventure Travel's Open House which was not
7 shared with the board. She asked that such information be emailed to the board. Residents are concerned
8 with the high volume of speeders on Calle de Norte and are asked the speed limit be changed to 25 mph
9 and that patrolling be stepped up.

10
11 Marshal Mangusing responded the speed marker will be placed on Calle de Norte.

12
13 Mayor Barraza stated there is an issue with merchants not adhering to the ordinances which Mr. Shannon
14 is enforcing. The trustees may receive calls regarding this. We need to be consistent in enforcing the
15 ordinances. The Halloween Carnival was a huge success. She will ask Mr. Shannon to enforce the sign
16 ordinance. Mr. Shannon does an excellent job in communicating with the merchants. She will ask Mr.
17 Shannon on the Board of Adjustment status with regards to the church lights. The Veteran's Day
18 program will be on Tuesday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. at Parque de los Veteranos; Andele's will be
19 providing lunch. She asks that the trustees be there by 11:00 a.m. Agrees it is a great idea to hold a
20 worksession on days when a regular meeting is cancelled. The volunteer policy needs more direction.
21 She will ask Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez to schedule a worksession in December on the Drug Test as Mr.
22 Cervantes needs more direction. Scheduling an Open Meeting Act Training has been difficult since we
23 are having problems having the Attorney General's office to commit. They are encouraging us to attend
24 the trainings they hold in different areas of the state. We are working on holding a Parliamentary
25 Workshop for the trustees. She was not aware Adventure Travel's Open House; will ask Ms. Stoechner-
26 Hernandez speak to staff regarding distribution. She is also concerned with the high volume of speeders;
27 ask deputies to step up patrolling.

28
29 Marshal Mangusing indicated officers will continue patrolling those streets. The speed machine will be
30 rotated around the town.

31
32 Mayor Barraza stated the office will be closed in honor of Veteran's Day. Tuesday, November 18th there
33 will be a Community Outreach at the Community Center at 6:00 p.m. An inspection of the playground
34 equipment was done and it was recommended to be removed since it is out of compliance. She asked for

1 some bids for the Community Center Park and Los Arenalas. She will be meeting with Mr. Tom Murphy
2 to discuss the widening of University Avenue; the public schools are willing to work with us. She asked
3 Marshal Mangusing if there is an improvement on the traffic at Zia.

4
5 Marshal Mangusing responded the traffic has improved; traffic is low. There has not been anything done
6 with the parking at the school.

7
8 Mayor Barraza stated she also has not seen an improvement; the public school is taking too long.

9
10 **11. ADJOURNMENT**

11
12 **Motion:** To adjourn, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Bernal.

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

14 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

15 Trustee Bernal Yes

16 Trustee Flores Yes

17 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

18
19 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48 P.M.**

20
21 **APPROVED THIS 24TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2014.**

22
23
24 _____
25 Nora L. Barraza
26 Mayor

27
28 **ATTEST:**
29
30
31 _____
32 Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez
33 Town Clerk/Treasurer