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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2014
6:00 P.M.**

TRUSTEES: Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem
Sam Bernal, Trustee
Linda L. Flores, Trustee (via phone/not voting)
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee

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

PUBLIC: Jeannie Lucero Tyler Bourger
Charles Bourger Kim Seifert
Gilbert Chavez Mark Schwartz
Chris Alexander Mary F. Lucero

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 Johnson-Burick, Trustee Flores (via phone/not voting).

3. PRESENTATIONS:

Recognition of Dr. Kim Seifert for his service on Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission.

Mayor Barraza recognized Dr. Kim Seifert for his 4 years of service on the Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commission.

Dr. Seifert thanked the board and indicated he enjoyed serving on the commission.

1 **PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes. The Board will take
2 all comments under advisement for potential action at a later date if warranted.
3

4 Ms. Evelyn Madrid-Earhart stated she will continue to express her concern regarding the property on the
5 corner of University and Avenida de Mesilla. We, as citizens, need to look at what direction we want our
6 community to go. It took her an hour to travel on Candelaria Street in Albuquerque. She passed six
7 churches with their own separate facilities that they require. She is also against large scale stores. We
8 need to see our town and our streets. She hopes the board is concerned about this and agrees we need to
9 do something special.
10

11 Ms. Patricia Lozano stated she understands that Stonegarden has been taken away and would like to know
12 why.
13

14 **4. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

15

16 **Motion:** To approve the agenda, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-
17 Burick
18

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

20 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

21 Trustee Bernal Yes

22 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
23

24 ***ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA** – The Board will be asked to approve by one motion
25 the following items of recurring or routine business. **The Consent Agenda is marked with an asterisk**
26 ***:**
27

28
29 ***PZHAC CASE 012268 w/Conditions** - 2404 Avenida de Mesilla. Submitted by Gilbert Chavez
30 for ‘Tis the Season de Mesilla; a request for an amendment to a previously approved sign permit
31 to allow a 15 sq. ft. wall sign to be placed at the north side of the property, along with a
32 freestanding sign to be placed along a handicap ramp parallel to Avenida de Mesilla. Zone:
33 Historical Commercial (HC).
34

35 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal asked if the applicant has met the conditions.
36

37 Mr. Lawrence responded the applicant has made contact with Department of Transportation. They have
38 revised the application and have been approved by the Planning and Zoning.
39

40 Mayor Barraza asked that the Department of Transportation approval be in writing and attached to the
41 application.
42

43 **Motion:** To approve consent agenda with conditions, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by**
44 Trustee Bernal.
45

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

47 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

48 Trustee Bernal Yes

49 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

1
2 **5. NEW BUSINESS:**

3 A. Report South Central Regional Transit District – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**
4

5 Mayor Barraza gave history of South Central Regional Transit District.

6 Mr. Jack Valencia stated there are six route, with some having connections at the Las Cruces Modal Hub;
7 Elephant Butte to Hatch; Alamogordo to Organ and stopping at various roads on the east mesa; Las
8 Cruces south on Highway 28 stopping at different little towns to Sunland Park; Chaparral to the Anthony
9 Center. The City of Anthony was incorporated after the initial intergovernmental contract and is not part
10 of this. This gives everyone the opportunity to travel east, west, north and south. These four routes are
11 run with six buses which are contracted with Rio Grande Transit that from Truth or Consequences and Z
12 Transportation which provides services on the east mesa. The ridership is growing as well as the website
13 hits and phone calls. This transportation is free to the riders. There are statistics showing the benefits.
14 We are on the Dona Ana County Commission's agenda to request placing our question on the November
15 ballot for consideration of Gross Receipt Tax.
16

17 Mr. Chris Alexander asked what it costs each community to participate. He asked how many riders
18 utilize this program.
19

20 Mr. Valencia responded this is a pilot program which was done in May. The cost is a .50 per resident
21 assessment. The total amount allocated is \$400K; the Town of Mesilla has attributed \$1,800K based on
22 the 2010 Census. Mesilla's next payment for 2015 will be \$2,800K. He does not have the ridership data.
23 The medium income in Dona Ana County is \$36K per household. NMSU Department of Economics has
24 come up with a figure of less than .10 cents a day. The Board of Director will need to determine what
25 approach they would like to take to embrace public transportation.
26

27 Mayor Barraza indicated there are informational flyers available and we hope residents take advantage of
28 this public transportation.
29

30 Trustee Johnson-Burick indicated she has brochures for distribution.

31 B. Discussion of project committees – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**

32 Mayor Barraza stated she would like to come up with project committees to get the trustees more
33 involved and also since we do not have the manpower to continue on some projects. Mayor Pro Tem
34 Arzabal would oversee the Ethics Committee, Trustee Johnson-Burick would oversee volunteers for the
35 library and the Visitor Center, Trustee Bernal would oversee the Vecino a Vecino Project; Trustee Flores
36 would work with Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez on seeking funding to update the Comprehensive Plan. We
37 need to enhance what is available in the town. She would also like to get a committee to work on the
38 playground equipment that is out of compliance.
39

40 Trustee Bernal stated he will look at Ms. Lujan for her support.
41

42 C. Discussion and update on drought conditions – **Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief.**

43 Mayor Barraza stated Fire Chief Hoban is fighting a fire and is unable to attend the meeting.
44 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated she does not know what the Fire Chief was going to report on.
45

46 Mayor Barraza stated we are hoping the Monsoon Season kicks in to help with the dry weather.
47

1 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he would like for the vendors to pay their possession fees in intervals. He
2 hopes the trustees set a date for the vendors to pay their permit fees and not be dragged out for months.
3 For example, July 5th is the last day to sell so permit fees should be paid three days after the last day to
4 sell.

5
6 Mr. Nevarez asked for at least five days after the final day to sell. Their permit fees are usually paid by
7 the 10th of July.

8
9 Mayor Barraza responded there should not be a problem sending that information to the vendors.

10
11 Mr. Nevarez stated City of Las Cruces and Dona Ana County use different indexes. According to the
12 Palmer Index we are in moderate drought so there are no restrictions. Last year at this time we were in
13 extreme drought. It is always best to use the same index. We are self-imposing all the items that were
14 restricted last year.

15
16 Mayor Barraza thanked Mr. Nevarez for working with Fire Chief Hoban in order to have a safe 4th of
17 July. We appreciate the two firework vendors for working with the town. She thanked Mr. Nevarez for
18 hosting the 4th of July activities.

19
20 Trustee Bernal responded there is always a concern regarding the drought. He thanked Mr. Nevarez for
21 hosting the display; everyone enjoys it. This information eases him a lot. He thanked Mr. Nevarez and
22 Mr. Tindal because the town could not host a display.

23
24 Mr. Nevarez stated safety is our number one concern. We also pick up trash around the town; last year
25 the residents had it piled up for us.

26
27 Trustee Bernal stated it all about working together. This is a win-win situation when we put safety first.

28 **6. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

29
30 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated residents can request information from Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez by filling
31 out a form.

32
33 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated Commissioner Garrett recommended inviting The Dona Ana County's
34 Planning Department to speak about the Unified Development Code. They would like to spread
35 awareness as to what they are trying to achieve.

36
37 Mayor Barraza asked Trustee Johnson-Burick to let her know when they are ready to make a presentation
38 and they will be placed on the agenda.

39
40 Trustee Bernal wished everyone a happy 4th of July.

41
42 Mayor Barraza stated there will be a 4th of July display at 9:30 p.m. with other activities going on
43 throughout the day. There is parking available on Calle de Mercado behind the Las Cruces Academy.
44 She is not aware of Stonegarden being suspended.

45
46 Marshal Mangusing stated the Marshal's Department has moved from the Public Safety Building to the
47 Community Center until the renovation is completed.

48
49 Mayor Barraza stated Fire Chief Hoban is still at the Public Safety Building until he is asked to leave. He
50 is having a hard time finding a place to store the apparatuses. All phone cable lines have been set up at
51 the Community Center. The \$83K which was reauthorized is being used to stabilize the building. We
52 have received approval for 2013 appropriation and are awaiting 2014 appropriations to become available

1 so we can submit one bid instead of in two phases; money will go further. The stabilization will be
2 completed by June 30th.

3
4 **7. ADJOURNMENT**

5
6 **Motion:** To adjourn, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

7
8 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary: Yes = 3**).

- 9 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes
- 10 Trustee Bernal Yes
- 11 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

12
13 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:43 P.M.**

14
15
16 **APPROVED THIS 14TH DAY OF JULY, 2014.**

17
18
19 _____
20 Nora L. Barraza
21 Mayor

22 **ATTEST:**
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27 _____
28 Cynthia Stohner-Hernandez
29 Town Clerk/Treasurer