



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015
5:30 P.M.**

TRUSTEES: Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem
Sam Bernal, Trustee (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)
Linda L. Flores, Trustee
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, 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: Christine Logan
Benjamin Arguello
Laurie Hannah
Silver Studio .925
Erick Robinson
Jennie Lucero
Charles Bourger
William Mudd

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 (arrived at 5:40 p.m.), Trustee Flores, Trustee Johnson-Burick.

3. CLOSED SESSION –pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) for the purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**

Motion: To enter closed session pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) for the purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become a participant, **Moved by** Trustee Flores, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

Trustee Flores Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

Entered Closed Session at 5:36 p.m.

Motion: To enter regular session pursuant to NMSA 10-15-1(H)(7) for the purpose of discussing threatened or pending litigation in which the public body is or may become participant, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

Trustee Bernal Yes

Trustee Flores Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

Entered Regular Session at 6:16 p.m.

4. RECESS UNTIL 6:00 P.M.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2015 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE MESILLA TOWN HALL, 2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA.

1. CALL TO ORDER AT 6:16 P.M.

2. PRESENTATION

- a.** A presentation regarding the pros of adopting a Local Economic Development Act Ordinance – **Christine Logan, NMEDD**

Ms. Logan gave a presentation on the Local Economic Development Act Ordinance. She will assist staff if the town is interesting in adopting the ordinance.

Mayor Barraza stated Trustee Flores and Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez have met with Ms. Logan with regards to the town's Comprehensive Plan. She asked what LEDA could do for our local businesses.

Ms. Logan responded the community could waive some fees. If the community could get funding through the state or EDA for infrastructure improvements it would help when business need to hook up for services. LEDA would help provide that improve resource or enlarge a business. The community

could access state or federal funds if it has LEDA. Some of Mesilla's public facilities are cultural facilities where the town could secure funding to help with tourism. LEDA can help with research for specific suppliers or customers; tie events into their businesses.

Mayor Barraza stated one of the problems that the businesses experience is lack of parking. We would like funding to purchase lots for public parking.

Ms. Logan stated that could be something the businesses and town can partnership on. If the town has LEDA funding, which needs to be tied to job creation, the town would not be creating more jobs but the businesses would be able to increase sales due to the extra parking. LEDA funds can only be used for capital.

Mayor Barraza thanked Ms. Logan and stated they would be in touch. This will be a discussion item at the next meeting.

Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if board could be provided with the statute that ties into LEDA.

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

No public comments

4. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve the agenda, **Moved by** Trustee Bernal, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

Trustee Bernal Yes

Trustee Flores Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

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** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

Trustee Bernal Yes

Trustee Flores Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

- ***BOT MINUTES** - Regular Meeting of Monday, January 26, 2015 *Approved by consent agenda.*

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. For approval: audit report for fiscal year 2013-2014 by **Erick Robinson of Integrity Accounting, LLC.**

Mr. Robinson reviewed the audit report for fiscal year 2013-2014. This was a good audit and the findings are manageable. We do want to get the cash receipt corrected.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated that upon reviewing the audit she was deeply concerned that some of the findings were repeat findings. She asked if the town has made steps forward to correct these errors which some kind of reflect general accounting principles and practices.

Mr. Robinson responded yes but some not enough to mitigate the finding, i.e. Cash control. The town has made definite strides. The town did not degrade; go the other direction, which is important. If the town had back slid it would have changed his audit approach. There is always room for improvement. His job is to look out for things like that and to make management aware.

Trustee Johnson-Burick responded she feels better hearing Mr. Robinson explanation. An audit is to bring out the errors and help us correct and identify going forward. She read and asked for clarification on page 2; Other Matters, Required Supplementary Information.

Mr. Robinson responded it is required for standard. Management Discussion Analysis is managements opportunity to restate in their own words what is in the financial statement. If it had been there, the paragraph would have read that everything is fine.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she wants to insure that the town is not violating anything.

Mr. Robinson responded the town is not violating anything. Many communities add it and many do not. He would advocate that it is added and he will work with management. This is a great instrument; it sell the entity. From an audit perspective it does not affect the audit. We can work towards this.

Mayor Barraza read the rest of the paragraph.

Mr. Robinson responded that it is why it is worded the way it is. It is limited.

Trustee Johnson-Burick responded she was concerned were read that it was required.

Mayor Barraza thanked Mr. Robinson for his work. She knows he has worked closely with Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez and Mrs. Maya. Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez continues to call your office for assistance and guidance. We will continue to resolve the prior findings; current year findings have been resolved.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated she wants to assure the board that she is working with staff that they are being corrected and will be corrected as we move along.

Motion: To approve audit report for Fiscal Year 2013-2014, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Johnson-Burick.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

Trustee Bernal Yes

Trustee Flores Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

b. Update on the Local Government Road Funding - Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director

Ms. Lujan stated that a match waiver application was submitted in July for Phase 2 of Calle de Principal. We received documentation that the waiver was approved; New Mexico Department of Transportation will fund the whole project of \$71,339. The Environmental clearance from SHIPO is still pending, once done it will go to RFP.

Mayor Barraza asked if the \$17,000 match amount is part of the \$71,339.

Ms. Lujan responded yes.

Mayor Barraza asked if we will go all the way to Calle de Colon.

Ms. Lujan responded there are two phases. The good thing is most of the intersections are completed so we are looking at mostly straight-a ways.

c. Update on the Public Safety Building project – Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director

Ms. Lujan stated the pre-bid was on Thursday. The bid opening will be held on February 12th. She does not have an award date as of yet so a special meeting may need to be held.

Mayor Barraza stated on February 12th at 2:00 p.m. the bids will be opened. At that the time bids will be opened by Molzen-Corbin. Once they review the bids it will come to the Board of Trustees for approval.

7. *STAFF REPORTS

Community Programs

Finance Department

Fire Department

Marshal's Department

Public Works Department

8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS

Trustee Flores stated she has a copy of Local Economic Development Law for Trustee Johnson-Burick.

Mayor Barraza stated if anyone would like a copy copies will be made for them tonight.

Mayor Pro Tem no comment

Trustee Bernal no comment

Trustee Johnson-Bruick no comment

Mayor Barraza stated the Cupid Run will be at 10:00 a.m. this Saturday. Our offices have been understaffed due to illness. She is considering closing the front doors on Friday around 3:30 p.m. so we can disinfect the offices. There was a meeting held with MPO, DOT, Las Cruces Public Schools and the town to discuss the widening and addition of sidewalks for University Avenue. MPO will be working with all the stakeholders to see if we qualify for funding. This is an accident waiting to happen. We are also looking at adding sidewalks to part of McDowell. She and Trustee Johnson-Burick attended a meeting with the DAV Chapter of the Town of Mesilla. They are proposing putting a wall of honor

named after Mr. Phil Schneider to put names of people they felt met the requirements. We asked the chapter to bring something to the Board of Trustees to see if the trustees are in agreement with what they are proposing.

Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the chapter would place a plaque on the monument.

Mayor Barraza responded we have requested the guideline requirements what would qualify a person to have their name added to the monument. Constituents have brought forth concerns regarding the traffic and parking at Los Leones Park. Molzen-Corbin has come up with a plan making it a one-way or loop going around the park and/or exiting two streets. The problem is obtaining funding for this. This preliminary plan should be considered when we do the ICIP this coming year. A newsletter will be sent out within the next month or so. She would like a summary of the audit included in the newsletter.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

Trustee Bernal Yes

Trustee Flores Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

MEETING ADJOURNED AT

APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2015.

Nora L. Barraza

Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Stohner-Hernandez

Town Clerk/Treasurer