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6 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
7 **TOWN OF MESILLA**
8 **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**
9 **MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2018**
10 **6:00 P.M.**

11
12 **TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
13 Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem
14 Jesus Caro, Trustee
15 Linda L. Flores, Trustee
16 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee (absent/excused)

17
18 **STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
19 K.C. Alberg, Marshal
20 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
21 Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
22 Gloria Maya, Recorder

23
24 **PUBLIC:**

25
26 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

27 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

30 **Roll Call.**

31 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Trustee Caro, Trustee Flores.

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

35 **Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**
36 **Flores.**

37
38 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).**

39 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

40 **Trustee Caro Yes**

41 **Trustee Flores Yes**

42
43 **4. CLOSED SESSION** – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2): discussion of
44 limited personnel matters for the hiring of employees in the Public Works Department. –
45 **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.**
46

47 **Motion: To enter Closed Session – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2):**
48 **discussion of limited personnel matters for the hiring of employees in the Public Works**
49 **Department, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

50
51 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).**

52 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

53 **Trustee Caro Yes**

54 **Trustee Flores Yes**

55

56 **Entered Closed Session at 6:03 p.m.**

57

58 **Motion: To enter Regular Session after limited discussion pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter**
59 **10-15-1(H)(2) of personnel matters for the hiring of employees in the Public Works**
60 **Department – no action taken, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**
61 **Flores.**

62

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

64 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

65 **Trustee Caro Yes**

66 **Trustee Flores Yes**

67

68 **Entered Regular Session at 6:12 p.m.**

69

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

71 Ms. Gwendolyn McCann stated she is running for State Representative District 33. She is a

72 native of Las Cruces where she and her family attended New Mexico Public Schools. Education

73 is very important to her. Teachers are who we are not doing right by in New Mexico and

74 therefore, we are short changing our students. We are making teachers responsible for every

75 aspect of a student’s life. We have created an evaluation system that is one of the strictest in the

76 country instead of recruiting, attracting and maintaining good teachers. It is their passion to get

77 our kids ready to meet the demands of the world. We need to see how we allocate and spend

78 funds and put money back into the classroom because that is where learning is happening. She

79 has a Bachelor’s in Government, Master’s in Public Administration and is also an artist. We are

80 generating an art environment to help us become an art destination in Southern New Mexico.

81 Galleries are opening up. As we work with the Organ Mountain Peak Monument we can create a

82 way to bring tourism to the area. She looks forward to working with everyone as their

83 representative.

84

85 Ms. Mary Martinez-White stated is running for State Representative District 33. She is a native

86 of New Mexico, born and raised in Tularosa. She received her Bachelor’s and MBA from New

87 Mexico State University. Her experiences have been in local and state government as well as

88 judiciary; Court Chief Executive Officer for the Seventh Judicial District a four county

89 jurisdiction; Chief Financial Officer for the Third Judicial District; state wide Magistrate DWI

90 Drug Court Coordinator. Issues dear to her heart are drug courts and trying to find a way to keep

91 people with mental illness or non-violence offenders out of jail where they are placed with

92 violent offenders creating more criminals. She is for treatment and has been working on those

93 issues since she retired. There have been some deaths of mentally ill individuals in our

94 community because they were in crisis. Money is available and it is cost affective to treat people

95 as oppose to jailing them. This starts with early childhood education while their brains are being
96 formed.

97
98 Mayor Barraza thanked the speakers for their platform presentations.
99

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

103 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by**
104 **Trustee Flores.**

105
106 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3).**

107 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

108 **Trustee Caro Yes**

109 **Trustee Flores Yes**
110

111 **a. *BOT MINUTES – Regular Meeting of Monday, January 8, 2018. *Approved by***
112 ***consent agenda***

113 **b. *PZHAC Case 060672 w/conditions – 1680 Calle de Alvarez, Suite C1, submitted**
114 **by Stefan C. Schafer, a request for a building permit to modify part of a**
115 **medical/office building to house a craft distillery at this address. Zoned: General**
116 **Commercial (C). (*added 1/19/18*) *Approved by consent agenda***

117 **c. *PZHAC Case 060674 – 1988 Calle del Norte, submitted by Rocky Burke; a request**
118 **to for a building permit to renovate a dwelling on the property line at this address.**
119 **Zoned: Historical Residential. (HR) (*added 1/19/18*) *Approved by consent agenda***

120 **d. *PZHAC Case 060675 w/conditions – 2337 Calle de Guadalupe, submitted by**
121 **Gilbert Madrid of Sun Vista Construction, Inc. for Eric Sanchez; a request to for a**
122 **building permit to replace six windows on a commercial structure at this address.**
123 **Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC). (*added 1/19/18*) *Approved by consent agenda***

124 **e. *PZHAC Case 060653 w/conditions – 2169 Calle de Medanos, submitted by Martin**
125 **Serna for Little Fawn Boland, a request for a building permit to construct an addition**
126 **to a dwelling at this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). (*added 1/19/18*)**
127 ***Approved by consent agenda***
128

129 *****Applicants must show proof they have adhered to conditions prior to coming for permit*****
130

131 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

132 **a. For Approval: the hiring of a Public Works Foreman, a Groundskeeper/Facilities I**
133 **Worker, and a Maintenance/Water Operator I Worker. – **Debbie Lujan, Public****
134 ****Works Director.****

135 **Motion: To approve agenda the hiring of a Public Works Foreman, a**
136 **Groundskeeper/Facilities I worker and a Maintenance/Water Operator I Worker, Moved**
137 **by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**
138

139 Mayor Barraza stated the recommendations are Jack Younker, Public Works Foreman; Lorenzo
140 Astorga, Groundskeeper/Facilities; Nestor Esparza, Maintenance/Water Operator I Worker.
141

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

143 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

144 **Trustee Caro Yes**
145 **Trustee Flores Yes**

146
147

148 **b. For Discussion:** going out for a loan for the purchasing of Public Works Vehicles. –
149 **Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director.**

150 Ms. Lujan stated we have spent \$31,000 in vehicle repairs the last five years. We have been
151 looking at purchasing five trucks. The trucks will be purchased through the Water Fund where
152 the Asphalt Zipper was purchased and we continue to budget money in. Also, there is \$267,000
153 budgeted in the Meter Replacement Program that will be completed this year which will be used.
154 This year we have already spent \$5,419.00 in repairs.

155
156

Mayor Barraza asked how old the vehicles are.

157
158

Ms. Lujan responded the oldest is a 1996 and newest one is a 2005.

159
160

Mayor Barraza stated this is not an increase to the budget; it is money that is budgeted for the
161 Asphalt Zipper and the Meter Replacement Program. There will be money left from the
162 grant/loan to cover the remaining replacement cost of the vehicle payments for five years.
163 Money will also be left in the Meter Replacement Program to replace fire hydrants.

164
165

Ms. Lujan responded hydrants will be replaced or repaired this year.

166
167

Mayor Barraza reiterated we are not asking for a budget increase.

168
169

Trustee Flores asked does this mean fiscal year ending in June or the end of 2018.

170
171

Ms. Lujan responded fiscal year ending June, 2018.

172
173

Mayor Barraza stated this is just the beginning stages and seeing how the board would like to
174 proceed.

175
176

Trustee Caro asked why you are going through the extra expenses of police lighting.

177
178

Ms. Lujan responded it is not police lighting it is the amber lights for Public Works.

179
180

Trustee Caro stated it seems high for the lights. As close as we are to elections he would say
181 wait until June or July. The list shows the cost of one, two, three, four, five trucks; what is it you
182 are looking at.

183
184

Ms. Lujan responded she is looking at the five trucks at a yearly payment for five years is
185 \$30,472.00. It is broken down so the board can see the cost per truck.

186
187

Trustee Caro stated there are so many things that come up; rain, flooding, broken lines. To go
188 and make this expense even though you have the money, I say wait until after the election and no
189 more than two trucks.

190
191

He is not willing to go with it at this time.

192

193 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he does not feel the election has anything with buying vehicles.
194 He asked if we need the five trucks.

195
196 Ms. Lujan responded yes we do. We will keep the Silverado; the other trucks will be auctioned
197 off.

198
199 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal asked if the money from the auction would go back into the Water
200 Fund. It does seem five trucks are a lot, we should start with three or four. He understands the
201 prices will go up.

202
203 Ms. Lujan responded we will not know what it will be until we apply for the loan. The cost is
204 from the state procurement. The quads were cheaper than a single cab by \$8,000.

205
206 Trustee Flores stated she was elected to serve during this time period so if an issue comes up she
207 is going to deal with it now; the next people that come can make a decision on what they see.

208
209 Mayor Barraza stated we are starting the budget process in February and will need to look at
210 expenses for the coming year. We will start our worksessions in March in order to be able to
211 submit our paperwork to the state in May. She wonders how those vehicles start in the morning
212 since they are in such bad shape. We have spent enough in four years to purchase a vehicle.
213 Surprisingly it is \$8,000 less for a quad than a single cab.

214
215 Trustee Flores asked if the extra fuel cost has been considered since it is a bigger vehicle.

216
217 Ms. Lujan responded she has a budget for fuel.

218
219 Fire Chief Hoban stated Dodge has a big incentive to push the quads making them cheaper.
220 Regarding fuel these vehicles have smart engines; fuel will improve. The lighting is call police
221 lighting because of the connections. The lighting package includes the amber light bar and
222 corner lights. He has been concerned that the trucks are not visible at night; we need to protect
223 our Public Works employees.

224
225 Mayor Barraza asked that they meet with Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez and Ms. Lujan for further
226 clarification. This is something we need; provide tools and equipment for staff to do their jobs.
227 Safety is our number one concern. It will be brought back to the board for direction on how to
228 proceed or for a vote at the next meet.

229
230 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated we received the okay to print for our audit. There were zero
231 audit findings. We are hoping to have our auditor here in February.

232
233 Mayor Barraza stated that was something to very proud of, Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez.

234
235 Fire Chief Hoban stated we contracted to test 171 hydrants and will compile a report which he
236 will forward to the Board of Trustees. This was a cooperative venture to support Public Works
237 in their attempt to improve the infrastructure of the water system. This was paid through the
238 Water Fund with permission from the state. This is in attempt to lower our ISO rating.

239
240

8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS

241 Trustee Flores stated she saw Ms. McCann at the Women’s March and felt what she had to say
242 was important. Ms. Martinez-White came to her home. She wished them the best and
243 appreciates them willing to do the work for the community. She thanked Fire Chief Hoban for
244 helping the Public Works Department. We all need to work together because we do not have
245 much of a budget. She appreciates the department heads working together.

246
247 Trustee Caro no comments

248
249 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated when we gave Public Works a pay raise we made a promise that
250 we were going to look at all employees in January. He feels it should be on the next agenda. We
251 owe it to the employees to look at the budget to see if we can give them a raise for the remainder
252 for this fiscal year. He reiterated that we owe it to the employees.

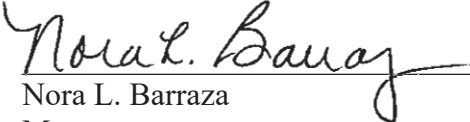
253
254 Mayor Barraza stated next week we will be in Santa Fe attending Municipal Day, February 2nd,
255 and meeting with our legislators, February 1st. She has had an opportunity to meet with both
256 candidates; learned a lot. Thanked them for their interest in running for District 33 and wished
257 them luck. She advocates for the Town of Mesilla to see what they can bring to the town. For
258 The Love of Art will be on February 10th. Ms. Parra is working on getting vendors for the event.
259 She has seen such an increase of tourism on the plaza. It brings pride to her in terms of the
260 community and that people come to our area to see what we have. We treasurer the things we
261 have in our community; the cultural events and our plaza. Ms. Parra has done a great job in
262 promoting Mesilla. It is important that we continue to promote that because that is what brings
263 the people. Father Christopher has brought change to the church which has brought more people
264 into our community. It brings such warmth and pride that we can showcase our community.
265 The item requested by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal will be on the agenda for the next meet as well as
266 the vehicles for Public Works for more direction. Our next meeting will be February 12th.

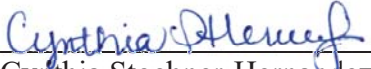
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268 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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272 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:49 P.M.**

273
274 **APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2018.**

275
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278 
279 Nora L. Barraza
280 Mayor

281
282
283 **ATTEST:**
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285
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287 Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez
288 Town Clerk/Treasurer

