



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

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

STAFF: Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
K.C. Alberg, Marshall
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC: David Gallegos L. Montana Bencomo
Frank Torres Susan Krueger
Mike Bell

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 Caro, Trustee Flores, Trustee Johnson-Burick.

3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Caro.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes

Trustee Caro Yes

Trustee Flores Yes

Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

4. PROCLAMATION: A Proclamation declaring March 2018 as “Athletic Training Month in the Town of Mesilla.” – **Andy Krentz, Southwest Sport and Spine Center**

Mr. Gallegos read the proclamation declaring March 2018 as “Athletic Training Month in the Town of Mesilla”. Mr. Bencomo is here to answer questions.

1 Mayor Barraza stated her daughter wanted to be an Athletic Trainer but decided that was not what she
2 wanted but still uses what she learned in her everyday life.

3
4 Trustee Flores thanked Mr. Gallegos for his advice during her rehab.

5
6 Mayor Barraza thanked him for allowing the Town of Mesilla to be a part of this recognition.

7
8 Trustee Caro stated every summer we hire recreation specialist to take care Summer Recreation staff and
9 get the kids involved in sports.

10
11 Mr. Gallegos responded the bigger benefits are not the treatment but the education for prevention. They
12 would be willing to assist the Summer Recreation staff. He appreciates the culture of Mesilla.

13
14 Mayor Barraza responded they will forward that information to Ms. Parra who oversees the Summer
15 Recreation program. This may be something we can coordinate with the Fire Chief.

16
17 Trustee Flores asked if this is a service that is provided for free.

18
19 Mr. Gallegos responded there would not be a fee. His goal is to educate coaches on injury prevention.
20
21

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

23 Ms. Krueger stated she will donate the box and shipping to the town if the town agrees to install the
24 neighborhood libraries.
25

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

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

31
32 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

33 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

34 **Trustee Caro Yes**

35 **Trustee Flores Yes**

36 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**
37

38 Trustee Johnson-Burick reviewed corrections in the minutes of February 20th: Case #060688 addressed
39 should reflect 2631; Case #060689 should reflect one story and not a two story.
40

41 Mayor Barraza responded those clerical errors will be corrected.
42
43

44 **a. *BOT MINUTES – Regular Meeting of Monday, February 12, 2018. *Approved by***
45 ***consent agenda***

46
47 **b. *PZHAC Case 060687 – 1981 Calle de Correo, submitted by Positive Energy, Inc. for Gail**
48 **Forrest; a request for a building permit to allow the installation of solar photo-voltaic panels**
49 **on the roof of a dwelling at this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by***
50 ***consent agenda***

51
52 **c. *PZHAC Case 060688 w/conditions– 2631 Calle Tercera, submitted by Francisco Torres; a**
53 **request for a building permit to construct an upstairs addition, a covered patio, and a wall**

1 along a property line on a dwelling at this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR).
2 *Approved by consent agenda*

- 3
4 **d. *PZHAC Case 060689 w/conditions** – 2310 Avenida de Mesilla, submitted by Morgan
5 Switzer; a request for a building permit to add an entry, concrete patio and fencing to a
6 structure at this address. Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC). *Approved by consent agenda*
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10 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 11
12 **a.** For discussion: a little lending Neighborhood Library. – **Stephanie Johnson-Burick,**
13 **Trustee.**

14 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated four years ago she was intent on bring back the library to the community
15 but she began to understand that that would be difficult due to the budget restraints, finding volunteers,
16 etc. Mrs. Krueger mentioned the Neighborhood Libraries. She also had read a magazine article that
17 discussed the Neighborhood Libraries. There are two in Mesilla Park; one on Conway & Capri Arc and
18 one on Calle de San Albino. Mrs. Krueger has offered to purchase the library and pay for the shipping
19 and she will pay the registration. Mrs. Krueger has offered books to supply it. She feels it would be a
20 neat idea for the community; recommends placing it outside the Community Center. There is currently a
21 bench and she will look at purchasing another bench. We could have Ms. Sandoval do some art work on
22 the benches. The seniors can pick up books when they go eat. There might be concerns with vandalism
23 but she has not seen anything at the one on Calle de San Albino. She would like to get support from her
24 fellow trustees. She and Ms. Krueger will be the stewards. There are over 50,000 Neighborhood
25 Libraries in the world. People log in to see where the libraries are when they are traveling.

26
27 Mayor Barraza responded this is a wonderful idea. She asked when it is registered who will be
28 responsible for the box, will there be a group overseeing the library for appropriate material, vandalism,
29 repairs. Town staff is maxed out in terms of responsibilities. She has no qualms but will need to work out
30 all the details. We can look into in it and have the attorney review what is put forth for any liabilities.

31
32 Trustee Flores stated she is excited about the idea. She has used the lending library. When people see
33 something that is really nice there isn't vandalism. We can maybe get an artist to decorate the library or
34 we can create our own.

35
36 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated the libraries at the schools give away books.

37
38 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she envisions people gathering to read to their children while playing at the
39 park.

40
41 Trustee Flores stated there could be a sign at the plaza directing them to the park and the library.

42
43 Ms. Krueger stated it is hard to steal something that is free. She has a library that needs to be recycled.
44 Thanked the board for the positive comments. She asked if it is possible to engage another attorney as the
45 current attorney is running for governor and this may not be high on his lists.

46
47 Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Cervantes contracts with Mr. Darden to read over contracts who responds in a
48 day or two.

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51 **8. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/ STAFF COMMENTS**

52 Ms. Stoechner no comment
53

1 Ms. Lujan stated the town requested \$283,000 from Capital Outlay for Bowman Street; on February 19th
2 the town received \$325,000 for Bowman Street. This still need to be approved Governor Martinez.
3 Questionnaires are being sent out because the governor wants projects that are ready to go for bond sale.
4

5 Mayor Barraza stated the whole amount will go to Bowman Street; extra money cannot be used for any
6 other project.
7

8 Fire Chief Hoban stated he has books that he would donate. He would like to see some of our local
9 authors donate books. A community book drive would be a great way to kick this off.
10 It is Red Flag Day tomorrow and asked if they see anyone burning to call 911.
11

12 Trustee Flores stated we would love to give raises to our employees. We should do something for our
13 employees to show our appreciation such as Employee of the Month, giving half or full day off for their
14 birthday. She wants to thank all the employees for their hard work. They do more than their job; they
15 pull together and she really appreciates them. She feels so good that we are well taken care of. Thanked the
16 mayor for all she does. We have an election and both candidates care about the town. She has seen
17 everyone advocate for the town. She had received a letter which she will leave with Ms. Stoechner-
18 Hernandez, regarding leash laws, dogs that are stuck on their properties. We are in a better position to
19 change the law and hopes something can be done.
20

21 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated it has been his privilege and honor to have worked with Trustee Flores.
22 There is a lot of respect for each other on the board even if we do not agree. There were individuals
23 murdered on Valentine's Day and he hopes the town is doing what they need to do regarding active
24 shooters.
25

26 Trustee Caro stated he appreciates having worked with Trustee Flores.
27

28 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated employees voiced their concerns with other departments getting raises.
29 She was concerned and why she was opposed to giving one department a raise as this would create a
30 negative impact on employee morale. Thanked staff for working with the legislators in getting Capital
31 Outlay for Bowman Street; residents will be so thrilled. Thanked the board and Ms. Krueger for the
32 support of the lending library. It is nice to do something that will directly impact the residents as well as
33 fun and educational. She would like to work on the Animal Control Ordinance that needs to be redone.
34 She thanked Ms. Bateman for her service to the town. Thanked Trustee Flores who taught her so much.
35 It has been a pleasure and she will be missed.
36

37 Trustee Flores stated the bids for projects and roads have been coming in too high to work on them. It is
38 sad to say that the cost of roads will be going up.
39

40 Mayor Barraza stated we will say our goodbyes to Trustee Flores at the next meeting. She hopes Trustee
41 Flores will continue to attend meetings and give input. She has such valuable information and ideas and
42 has represented the town with such dignity. She was planning on to do something for the staff on
43 Employee Appreciation Day which is March 2nd. Let her know if the trustees would like to join her in
44 recognizing the staff. Trustee Flores put forth some good ideas. It is our goal to look into giving our
45 employees an increase next year. We will not be adding increases to the operation process Good ideas
46 It is our goal to look into giving our employees an increase next year. There will not be any increases to
47 the operation process in order to accommodate an increase in salaries. Ms. Bateman is retiring, her last
48 day is Wednesday, if you have an opportunity stop by and say thank you to her. Tomorrow we will be
49 having a luncheon for her. We have made great strides in address Animal Control. Mr. Rivera has done
50 an excellent job. He has attended numerous trainings and is a good strong advocate for animals. The
51 Marshall will be looking at the ordinance. Ms. Parra applied for funding to address a dog run. She has
52 two bids for fencing and turf. We are hoping to put a dog run outside the Public Safety Building to
53 exercise the dogs. Mr. Rivera has done a great job in addressing the feral cat situation. She and the

1 marshal agree that they need to educate the residents. She cannot believe the number of residents that are
2 feeding the cats that are not theirs. There are kittens being born with deformities; it is a problem and we
3 need to take a good strong look at it. It was a terrible week for the Las Cruces Public Schools; there was a
4 lock down at Mesilla Elementary, Rio Grande Prep and Zia Middle School. We do have one or two staff
5 members who are furthering their education in active shooter. We will be having Active Shooter training
6 for all employees. She thanked the legislators who appropriated money to Bowman Street. There was a
7 bill passed at the last minute which she is not in favor of proposing a tax free Saturday after
8 Thanksgiving. It would only be for businesses with less than 20 employees which are most of our
9 businesses in Mesilla which would have an impact on the town's gross receipts. She would like to send a
10 letter asking Governor Martinez to veto the bill. She looks forward to see what comes forth on the
11 library; it is wonderful idea for our community. She is a strong advocate for reading.

12
13 Trustee Flores stated she feels the Neighborhood Library is going to be successful so we should have a
14 long term plan. We need to be conscious of the signage on the plaza.

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16 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

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


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19 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:52 P.M.**

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21 **APPROVED THIS 12th DAY OF MARCH, 2018.**

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Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez
Town Clerk/Treasurer

