



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

**TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jesus Caro, Trustee  
Veronica S. Garcia, Trustee  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee

**STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
K.C. Alberg, Marshal  
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director  
Larry Shannon, Community Development Coordinator  
Gloria Maya, Recorder

**PUBLIC:** Tom Townsend Ella Nelson  
Natalie B. Ogaz Yolanda Lucero  
Chris Alexander Pete Jurado

**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 Garcia, Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

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

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

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

**Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

**Trustee Caro Yes**

**Trustee Garcia Yes**

**Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

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

Mr. Townsend gave a review on Trap, Neuter and Return.

1 Mayor Barraza stated no decision can be made since it is not an agenda item. He can be placed on the  
2 agenda for next meeting. She would like to meet with Mr. Townsend and Marshal Alberg prior.

3  
4 Mr. Townsend asked this would need board approval.

5  
6 Mayor Barraza responded she would like to see what he is requesting and would like to run it through  
7 Marshal Alberg since he is the one that deals with Animal Control.

8  
9 Mr. Townsend stated the marshal was kind enough to write a letter of support of the grant; we included  
10 the Town of Mesilla in the grant as well. He would like to leave the flyers so that the Public Works staff  
11 could distribute them to the residents.

12  
13 Mayor Barraza asked him to leave his contact information with Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez and she will  
14 contact him on Wednesday.

15  
16 Ms. Krueger stated Ms. Markman is an extraordinary animal care taker.

17  
18 Ms. Anne Markman stated she has worked with Marshal Mangusing in the past with the Trap, Neuter and  
19 Return program.

20  
21 **5. \*APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one**  
22 **motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked**  
23 **with an asterisk \*:**

24 **Motion: To approve the consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**  
25 **Johnson-Burick.**

26  
27 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

28 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

29 **Trustee Caro Yes**

30 **Trustee Garcia Yes**

31 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

32  
33 **a. \*BOT MINUTES – Regular Meeting of Monday, March 12, 2018. *Approved by consent***  
34 ***agenda***

35  
36 **b. \*PZHAC Case 060660 - 2729 Calle de San Albino, submitted by Natalia Bustamante; a**  
37 **request for a demolition permit to demolish a dwelling on this property. Zoned: Historical**  
38 **Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda***

39  
40 **c. \*PZHAC Case 060694 - 1985 Calle de Colon, submitted by David and Sylvia Fierro; a**  
41 **request for a building permit to allow the replacement of windows on a dwelling at this**  
42 **address, along with the provision for a water heater to be added to the exterior the dwelling.**  
43 **Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda***

44  
45 **d. \*PZHAC Case 060699 – 2840 Calle Tercera, submitted by Jack and Lisa Kirby; a request**  
46 **for a building permit to allow construction of a single-family dwelling at this address. Zoned:**  
47 **Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda***

48  
49 **e. \*PZHAC Case 060700 - 2410 Calle de Parian, Suite C, submitted by Samuel Garcia for Four**  
50 **of a Kind Ventures, LLC DBA “Adobe Modern”; a request for a sign for a shop to be located**  
51 **at this address. Zoned: Historical Commercial (HC). *Approved by consent agenda***

1           **6. NEW BUSINESS:**

2  
3           **\*\*\*A public hearing will be held prior to action on agenda item “6 (a)” \*\*\***

4  
5           **Motion: To close regular meeting and open Public Hearing, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick,**  
6           **Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal.**

7  
8           **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

9           **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal   Yes**

10          **Trustee Caro    Yes**

11          **Trustee Garcia   Yes**

12          **Trustee Johnson-Burick   Yes**

13  
14          **Open Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m.**

15  
16          Mr. Shannon gave a review of Case Z17-001.

17          -PZHAC met on August 21<sup>st</sup>

18          -Discussion of towers, Comprehensive Plan, effect on surrounding property

19          -Applicant has two cotton gins on the property

20          -Spot Zoning issue; obtained legal opinion

21          -Towers prohibited

22          -Code as written required that a public hearing be held

23          -Legal interpretation addressed the Spot Zoning and not the towers

24          -Code requires every use of a C zone is heard by PZHAC

25  
26          Mr. Alexander stated Spot Zoning is zoning that has been changed with the surrounding abutting  
27          property. The property that is in question is in Rural Farm Zone and does not meet Commercial Zone.  
28          What is across the street has nothing to do with Mesilla. The regulations for Mesilla stand in Mesilla; the  
29          regulations for Las Cruces stand in Las Cruces. There was a reason for layered zoning in Mesilla starting  
30          with Rural Farm, Rural Agriculture and Rural Housing to Historic District. The restrictions in Rural  
31          Farm Zone are the most restricted toward development; they were intended to help maintain the rural  
32          atmosphere for agricultural purposes. The gin came into being when it was zoned Rural Farm and used  
33          for farm production. If the board allows the Rural Farm Zone to open up from the most restricted to the  
34          most lucrative zone you would open the door for any farm to apply for a Commercial Zone. They could  
35          not be denied. Mr. Jurado knew what he bought when he bought it. The presentation by staff that it  
36          meets the criteria is false. He does not understand their interpretation. When something is conjoining;  
37          one property to another in the same zone and change one property within a cluster of the zone – that is  
38          Spot Zoning. The PZHAC approved Spot Zoning. The attorney wrote a letter saying that it would be  
39          Spot Zoning and advised against it. Staff has misled the board because this is the only way the Spot  
40          Zone can occur; all property around it will be Rural Farm. There is not even a designated use that is  
41          being asked for. For a zone change there must be justification. He strongly advises the board not to  
42          approve a zone change. It could eventually become a Commercial Zone when infield from the inside fills  
43          out. It would be a destruction of Mesilla; we would not have any agricultural buffers remaining. Calle de  
44          Norte will ask for a Commercial Zone change. It will be the death of the Rural Farm Zone regarding  
45          protection. It will open up the areas to the possibility of being changed to commercial. He believes  
46          farmers will begin to sell acreage since commercial property in Mesilla is in excess of a \$1 million an  
47          acre. There will not be any preservation for Mesilla because we will not have any buffers. This will be at  
48          an entry point opening up zoning that should not be allowed until it is built from the center of the core  
49          out.

50  
51          Ms. Nelson stated she is confused since it is about a zone change; agricultural to commercial. Our town  
52          ordinances override any zoning requests. She would like for someone on the board to explain how this  
53          zoning change can be considered under our current ordinances. In the 80's there was an individual who

1 bought Mesilla property and developed Mesilla Farms area. He came for a zone change, the board held  
2 out so he sued the town saying our ordinances were unconstitutional. Our ordinances were up held in  
3 court. Our ordinances were established by the people who incorporated the town with long range  
4 thinking. For the history, the ambience, for whatever it is in our heart and soul call Mesilla. For each of  
5 us it is different but we all here together; we all care. She is concerned that the PZHAC has presented this  
6 to the board. She asked if they read the ordinance regarding changing zones. She heard on the streets that  
7 the towers could be grandfathered in. Grandfathered-In means things that were here before the  
8 ordinances. She asked the board to read the ordinances, understand that that is the law of the town. She  
9 would like for someone to explain to her how the PZHAC came up with the recommendation and how  
10 staff, knowing the codes and ordinances, agreed that it could be taken to the trustees. There was another  
11 property owner on Motel Boulevard who wanted to develop farm land into a housing division which did  
12 not pass. It is hard for property owners. We have to decide if we want farmland and ambience or do we  
13 want to have houses. The ordinance will need to be changed at that point. She ask that the board to read  
14 the ordinances and understand why they are there and implement them.

15  
16 Mayor Barraza stated the board will not answer during a public hearing.

17  
18 Ms. Krueger stated she researched in the first zoning ordinance when the gin was brought into Mesilla  
19 under Rural Farm. This ordinance was passed in 1974. There was a clear distinction between Industrial  
20 Use and Commercial Use. There was confusion as it was presented to the PZHAC that the use of the  
21 property had always been commercial which it was not. Spot Zoning should be consistent with the  
22 Comprehensive Plan. Also there is confusion regarding the timeframe on the letter sent by Mr. Cervantes  
23 that came to the town in October, 2017 but was first mentioned and distributed in March, 2018. She  
24 understands that he referenced Spot Zoning but nothing to do with the decision that whether or not it was  
25 appropriate to make a rezone decision. She could not find land uses outside the town's boundary to  
26 justify a zone change in the ordinances. The New Mexico Municipal League put together a Cell Tower  
27 Ordinance that was appropriate for communities across the board. There have not been any amendments  
28 but recommends reading the ordinance to see if there have been changes.

29  
30 Ms. Krueger stated it prohibits expressly which means without ambiguity; does not apply to this kind of  
31 activity. This has to do with safety. If the thought that the tower will never fall down were true then it  
32 would never have been in the ordinance. She recommends the board read the ordinance carefully. The  
33 trustees took an oath of office to uphold the ordinances of the Town of Mesilla. There is no escaping the  
34 Cell Tower ordinance and how it applies to a commercial property; whether it starts as commercial or  
35 there is a request to rezone the property. She did not see a current survey or plan of the lot. The old plat  
36 did not show the Cell Towers which has to have designated access. Now there are two Cell Towers on  
37 the property. There are other uses such as special and unclassified that could be considered for this  
38 property. Mr. Shannon noted in his paperwork that the uses had not been considered. The applicant  
39 changed the application into a Zone Change almost immediately so Mr. Shannon was unable to look at  
40 the other uses. She asked that the board deny the zone change request and change the ordinance if there is  
41 a problem. This would set a precedent which could be dangerous to the town's future zoning. When you  
42 speak out against something it is incumbent to offer something that is positive. Recommends sending it  
43 back to PZHAC so they can explore all the other possibilities for development under Chapter 18.55. It is  
44 not possible to ignore the Cell Tower ordinance. The town must uphold the ordinance.

45  
46 Mr. Arturo Jurado stated we provided a space for the cell towers are on the property since the Town of  
47 Mesilla did not want them. We got a Special Use Permit, so they are there legally. There is a cell tower  
48 at Avenida de Mesilla and Valley Drive, in the middle of town, which is safe and not going to fall. We  
49 have seven acres and they are not going to fall. He thinks they are safe. Ms. Krueger keeps saying there  
50 are other things that can be done on the property. It is easy for her when you don't need to make a living.  
51 The gin has been there since 1934 and you cannot say it was farming; it never has been. What else can  
52 we do, we do not have water rights on that property. Mr. Bustamante wanted to sell produce on the

1 property which could be considered farming; he had to get a Special Use Permit. There are some  
2 regulations in Rural Farming that are ridiculous.

3  
4 Mr. Jurado continued: we have looked at different avenues that would make us any money. We store our  
5 equipment there but he will not be surprised if they are told that even that is not legal. We cannot be  
6 restricted so much just because some residents don't like the idea of being zoned different from what they  
7 want. He asked that the board consider their request. He has been after this zone change since Ms. Rader  
8 was the mayor; how long do they have to wait. They keep the place clean and have done everything  
9 possible and requested from the town. We will not be putting anything that is illegal on the property. We  
10 are at a loss at what to do. We have been asked to show a drawing of what is going to be done but we are  
11 not going to spend money on that until we are granted a zone change. He assured the board that nothing  
12 will be built without their approval.

13  
14 **Motion: To close Public Hearing and open regular meeting, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick,**  
15 **Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

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

18 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

19 **Trustee Caro Yes**

20 **Trustee Garcia Yes**

21 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

22  
23 **Entered regular meeting at 6:53 p.m.**

- 24  
25 a. For approval: **PZHAC Case Z17-001** – 1971 Union Avenue (the NE Corner of Avenida de  
26 Mesilla and Union Ave), submitted by Arthur and Pete Jurado; a request for a Zone Change  
27 from Rural Farm (RF) to General Commercial (C) for a seven-acre property at this address. –  
28 **Larry Shannon, Community Development Coordinator.**

29 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case Z17-001 – 1971 Union Avenue (the NE Corner of Avenida de**  
30 **Mesilla and Union Ave), submitted by Arthur and Pete Jurado; a request for a Zone Change from**  
31 **Rural Farm (RF) to General Commercial (C) for a seven –acre property at this address, Moved by**  
32 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

33  
34 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he is not going to get into it with Mr. Alexander but the letter was dated  
35 October 2<sup>nd</sup> and not August, that is why he shook his head. The cell towers are not up for a vote; we are  
36 voting on the zone change. The applicant will need to come back to address the cell towers.

37  
38 Mayor Barraza responded in the event the zone change is approved; if the cell towers are not allowed in  
39 the Commercial Zone then they will need to come down. They would need to come in for a Special Use  
40 Permit or a variance depending on the ordinances.

41  
42 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated anybody can ask for a zone change. The board will have a say on what  
43 can be on that property. The board (finance) can only count on Gross Receipt Taxes, Municipal Court,  
44 taxes and permits. Mayor Barraza has asked the board to get creative in bringing revenue to the town.  
45 Whatever is built on that property will create new revenue to the town; it is currently not creating any  
46 revenue as is. The Planning and Zoning has made their recommendation.

47  
48 Mr. Shannon inaudible

49  
50 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she wants nothing more than for that property to generate revenue for the  
51 town. She appreciates the work the Planning and Zoning has done with this case. She asked about  
52 procedural items: 1) Public Hearing posting was dated August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2) Zone Change Application was dated

1 August 10<sup>th</sup>, 3) Public Hearing notice was for August 21<sup>st</sup>. Without an application being submitted how  
2 did someone know to post for a zone change in advance?  
3

4 Mr. Shannon responded the applicant came in prior to the request for the SUP (meaning zone change).  
5 There was a worksession to discuss what could be done on the property. It was found that a variance  
6 would not be allowed. He read the requirements from the town code regarding SUP (meaning zone  
7 change). Applicant turned in application on August 10<sup>th</sup> however, he dated incorrectly.  
8

9 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked why we differed to something different.  
10

11 Mr. Shannon stated he does not have a good answer. Typically he uses the date when the applicant pays  
12 for the permit.  
13

14 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded we had it posted August 5<sup>th</sup> and the application was dated five after the  
15 posting went out that there was going to be a request for a zone change. It does not lend itself to a lot of  
16 transparency. She researched the agendas and minutes from the Planning and Zoning.  
17

18 Mr. Shannon responded he will need to do some research.  
19

20 Trustee Johnson-Burick read ordinances 18.05, 18.05.060 and 18.05.080. The resolution in our packet  
21 was dated March 5<sup>th</sup>.  
22

23 Mr. Shannon responded there was a Public Hearing and typically a decision is made then or at the next  
24 meeting. They did not have a legal opinion as to the towers so they determined to postpone a decision on  
25 the case until they had the information.  
26

27 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the information was addressed in the October letter from Mr. Cervantes.  
28 She asked why there was such a lapse of time before it was brought to the board.  
29

30 Mr. Shannon responded we were waiting for an answer on the cell towers.  
31

32 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated and we still don't have an answer.  
33

34 Mr. Shannon responded they decided to hold a meeting without the answer to come up with a decision so  
35 not to keep Mr. Jurado waiting.  
36

37 Trustee Johnson-Burick read Ordinance 18.05.100. She does not feel the 15 days were awarded.  
38

39 Mr. Shannon read Ordinance 18.90.  
40

41 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded it still needs to go to the trustees.  
42

43 Mr. Shannon stated 18.9.050 does not state that. He agrees it does say 15 days. That was done at the  
44 Planning and Zoning. Read the ordinance.  
45

46  
47 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she is at ordinance 18.05.100.  
48

49 Mr. Shannon stated he is reading ordinance 18.90.140.  
50

51 Mayor Barraza stated the resolution is dated March 15<sup>th</sup> the actual date the Planning and Zoning made  
52 recommendation.  
53

1 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked if the resolution was posted indicating the Board of Trustees was holding a  
2 Public Hearing which requires 15 days.

3  
4 Mr. Shannon responded the section he is using does not have requirements for Public Hearing by the  
5 Board of Trustees.

6  
7 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded she is using the General Provisions – Special Use Permit that does not  
8 apply. She asked why we have contradicting ordinances.

9  
10 Mr. Shannon stated the section being referred to by Trustee Johnson-Burick is from the Comprehensive  
11 Plan. He is using the ordinance for a zone change.

12  
13 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked based on that, was there adequate notice.

14  
15 Mr. Shannon responded adequate notice was given based on the code.

16  
17 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked what about the trustees.

18  
19 Mr. Shannon responded the code does not require a Public Hearing by the Board of Trustees.

20  
21 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she wants to make note of the procedural things that she has concern with  
22 to be reviewed. Read ordinance 18.46. It also says that restaurants are permitted in the R code for  
23 industrial use. She wants nothing more than to see this property vibrant and bringing revenue to the  
24 community to help address our needs. She made a commitment that she would protect the greenbelt that  
25 sets us apart from other communities that our fore fathers have blessed us with. She would entertain a  
26 Special Use Permit. It is all green on the buffers on the Comprehensive Plan. There is only one piece  
27 that is purple which is industrial. We could use an ordinance such as 18.85.090. We will not be able to  
28 use Special Use Permit or a variance. She does not think a zone change is the answer. We need to revisit  
29 the ordinances. We have a hardship for this property. We need to look at a Special Use of Variance as to  
30 not set precedent.

31  
32 Trustee Caro stated no matter how you look at it, it will be Spot Zoning. He cannot see how this can go  
33 through. Nothing has been completed since it reads “and”. This needs to go back to the Planning and  
34 Zoning and should be tabled until more research has been done. There are too many holes; we could be  
35 opening up the flood gates. He is reluctant at this time.

36  
37 Trustee Garcia stated this letter from Mr. Cervantes was from October. She asked Mr. Shannon if he  
38 emailed Mr. Cervantes for answers because he did answer any of questions.

39  
40 Mr. Shannon responded we met several times.

41  
42 Trustee Garcia asked what he said.

43  
44 Mr. Shannon responded the information is in the packet.

45  
46 Trustee Garcia responded Mr. Cervantes did not answer any of the questions. You sat on it since you got  
47 it in October.

48  
49 Mr. Shannon stated it was in March.

50  
51 Trustee Garcia stated the letter was from October. There is no clarification on the questions you asked  
52 Mr. Cervantes. She agrees it needs to go back to Planning and Zoning.

1 Mayor Barraza asked if Trustee Caro wants to make a motion to postpone or go forward.  
2 Trustee Caro responded we can go forward but he does not feel comfortable voting for it.

3  
4 Mayor Barraza asked what the wishes of the board are.

5  
6 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded she would like to work with the applicant to prevent a flood gate from  
7 opening. She asked is there something we can do through ordinance.

8  
9 Mayor Barraza responded we cannot hold up a case because we want to change the ordinance to make  
10 things right.

11  
12 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal responded if we are we sending it back to Planning and Zoning then what  
13 direction are we going to give them. The letter does address Spot Zoning and does not address the cell  
14 towers. He understands they would need to go other avenues for the cell towers. He does not feel this  
15 should go back to the Planning and Zoning; they have done their job. We need to give the applicant some  
16 direction. The cell towers in his opinion will need a variance.

17  
18 Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Cervantes letter dated October 2, 2017 has a conclusion on page 16 [in the  
19 board packet] answering the questions.

20  
21 Mr. Jurado stated there is a Special Use Permit for both of the towers. He asked why we have to do it  
22 again.

23  
24 Mayor Barraza responded cell towers are in permitted in the RF Zone so why did they have to have a  
25 Special Use Permit.

26  
27 Mr. Jurado stated the prior administration told them they needed a Special Use Permit.

28  
29 Mr. Shannon responded that is the way the ordinance is written. The ordinance does require a Special  
30 Use Permit.

31  
32 Mayor Barraza asked if the property is rezoned will they need to go for a Special Use Permit.

33  
34 Mr. Shannon responded that will need to be determined by the trustees.

35  
36 Mayor Barraza stated the process was followed correctly. The applicant asks why they would need to go  
37 through the process again for the towers.

38  
39 Ms. Nelson stated Mr. Jurado will either have to move the towers or request another Special Use Permit  
40 since towers are not allowed in the Commercial Zone. She does not feel Planning and Zoning did an  
41 adequate job when they agreed that this case could come to the board. There are a lot of questions and  
42 issues that have not been answered. Now you say it cannot go back to the Planning and Zoning since they  
43 already worked on it, she does not believe they worked on it enough. The ordinances are the legal basis  
44 in which this land was built. Zoning comes under the ordinances, the ordinances does not come under  
45 zoning. She understands the issue but it is a question do we want to maintain what we can and what we  
46 have or do we just open it up. Everyone can make a request for a zone change; her point was that does  
47 not mean you are allowed or entitled to have it. Our ordinances have been challenged in court and have  
48 held up. She asked the board to read the ordinances

49  
50 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal asked if this is approved will it become a non-conforming.

51  
52 Mr. Shannon read section 18.54.63.



1 Mayor Barraza stated she would like to have a worksession to help the board make a wise decision.

2  
3 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she is ready to vote on the zone change.

4  
5 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3; No=2).**

6 **Trustee Caro No**

7 **Trustee Johnson-Burick No**

8 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

9 **Trustee Garcia Yes**

10 **Mayor Barraza Yes - mentioned with conditions set forth by the Planning and Zoning**

11  
12 Mayor Barraza stated whatever is being proposed for the property must come to the Planning and Zoning  
13 and the Board of Trustees. The Jurado's will do what is right and fitting for the Town of Mesilla.

14  
15 Moving on in the agenda: Mayor Barraza stated these appointments are for the different committees and  
16 organizations around the community. It is crucial and important that we have representation at these  
17 meetings. If the appointee cannot attend they are to contact the alternate. Some of these organizations  
18 will drop us if we do not have representation at the meetings.

- 19  
20 **a. Appointment of representative(s) to the Southwestern Area Workforce Development Board -**  
21 **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**

22 Nora L. Barraza

23 Carlos Arzabal, Alternate

- 24 **b. Appointment of representative(s) to the South Central Council of Governments, Inc. - Nora**  
25 **L. Barraza, Mayor**

26 Nora L. Barraza

27 Carlos Arzabal, Alternate

- 28 **c. Appointment of representative(s) to the Lower Rio Grande Water Users Organization - Nora**  
29 **L. Barraza, Mayor**

30 Jesus Caro

31 Debbie Lujan

- 32 **d. Appointment of representative(s) to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) - Nora**  
33 **L. Barraza, Mayor**

34 Carlos Arzabal

35 Stephanie Johnson-Burick

36 Nora L. Barraza

- 37 **e. Appointment of representative(s) to the South Central Regional Transit District (RTD) -**  
38 **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**

39 Veronica S. Garcia

40 Nora L. Barraza

- 41 **f. Appointment of representative(s) to the MPO Technical Advisory Committee - Nora L.**  
42 **Barraza, Mayor**

43 Larry Shannon

44 Debbie Lujan

45 Jack Younker

- 46 **g. Appointment of a representative(s) to the Viva Dona Ana/Camino Real Consortium – Nora**  
47 **L. Barraza, Mayor**

48 Stephanie Johnson-Burick

49 Veronica S. Garcia, Alternate

- 50  
51 **h. Appointment of a representative(s) to the Mesilla Valley MPO Bicycle Committee – Nora L.**  
52 **Barraza, Mayor**

53 Ashley Curry

1 Lance Shepan

2  
3 Mayor Barraza stated the majority of the meetings are held during the day. As a trustee we made a  
4 commitment to represent the town as well as be at all of the town events and committees. Some of the  
5 meetings are monthly or quarterly. The stipends that the trustees receive are to help compensate the time  
6 taken for these meetings or events.  
7

8 **Motion: To approve appointment of representatives to the committees, Moved by Trustee Johnson-**  
9 **Burick, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal.**

10  
11 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

12 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

13 **Trustee Caro Yes**

14 **Trustee Garcia Yes**

15 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

16  
17 Mayor Barraza stated she will have Ms. Stoechner –Hernandez forward the committee information to the  
18 trustees. She will also notify the committees of the appointment.  
19

- 20 i. Appointment of a Mayor Pro-Tem to serve for one year pursuant to MTC 2.15.060 – **Nora L.**  
21 **Barraza, Mayor**

22 **Motion: To approve appointment of Jesus Caro as Mayor Pro-Tem to serve for one year pursuant**  
23 **to MTC 2.15.060, Moved by Trustee Garcia, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal.**

24  
25 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

26 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

27 **Trustee Caro Yes**

28 **Trustee Garcia Yes**

29 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

- 30  
31 j. Submission of names of persons who shall fill the appointive offices of the Town pursuant to  
32 MTC 2.10.060 and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978 - **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**

33 **Motion: To approve the submission of names of person who shall fill the appointive offices of the**  
34 **Town pursuant to MTC 2.10.060 and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978, Moved by Mayor Pro-Tem**  
35 **Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick.**

36  
37 Mayor Barraza read the list of names being submitted to fill appointive offices.  
38

39 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =3; No=1).**

40 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

41 **Trustee Caro Yes**

42 **Trustee Garcia No**

43 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

- 44  
45 k. Submission of names of persons who shall be employed by the Town pursuant to MTC  
46 2.10.060, and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978 – **Nora L. Barraza, Mayor**

47  
48 Mayor Barraza read the list of names being submitted who shall be employed.  
49

50 **Motion: To approve the submission of names of persons who shall be employed by the Town**  
51 **pursuant to MTC 2.10.060 and section 3-88-33 NMSA 1978, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick,**  
52 **Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Arzabal.**

1 Trustee Johnson-Bruick asked when we approved him [referring to Ryan Nanez].

2  
3 Marshal Alberg responded he was presented in closed session. He was previously a reserve.

4  
5 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes =3; No=1).**

6 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

7 **Trustee Caro Yes**

8 **Trustee Garcia No**

9 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

10  
11 **7. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/ STAFF COMMENTS**

12 Trustee Garcia no comments.

13  
14 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal asked when the vacant jobs in public works are going to be filled.

15  
16 Mayor Barraza responded Ms. Lujan is setting up interviews.

17  
18 Trustee Johnson-Burick asked what is being done to address Judge Frieze's letter and what the backlog  
19 that needs to be address is.

20  
21 Ms. Stohner-Hernandez stated she does not know what the backlog is; she will have to ask him. She told  
22 him he has the option to adjust from operations and move money into overtime. She is waiting to hear  
23 back from him.

24  
25 Trustee Caro no comment

26  
27 Mayor Barraza stated the Newly Elected Workshop is April 7<sup>th</sup>. She strongly encourages all the trustees  
28 to attend MOLI institute and Newly Elected Workshop to acquire their certification. She wishes the  
29 legislators would make it mandatory for all elected officials to obtain their certification. The town will  
30 pay per diem, registration fee, lodging and fuel. The trustees have been provided with a copy of the  
31 ordinance regarding the responsibility of a trustee. A survey was sent regarding Las Colonias to all the  
32 residents and we received 42 responses last summer. This is something the board will need to decide if it  
33 is something they wish to pursue. Marshal Alberg has been working with organizations on Animal  
34 Control. We need to update our Animal Control ordianance. We get several complaints from residents  
35 regarding feral cats.

36  
37 Mr. Townson gave an overview of the Vaccinate, Neuter and Chip program.

38  
39 Mayor Barraza stated she looks forward to meeting with Mr. Townson. She would like to schedule a  
40 meeting next week since it is something we are very interested in.

41  
42 Mr. Tomson stated the town's current ordinance does not come close to reflecting what the National  
43 Animal Laws recommend. He recommends that the town puts pressure on the new Animal Shelter  
44 Director Mr. Thacker to be on the review committee as everything we do revolves around the shelter.

45  
46 Mayor Barraza stated we need to educate our residents is a key important element.

47  
48 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

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

50  
51 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:01 P.M.**

52  
53 **APPROVED THIS 23rd DAY OF APRIL, 2018.**

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16

*Nora L. Barraza*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nora L. Barraza  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

*Cynthia Stoenher-Hernandez*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Stoenher-Hernandez  
Town Clerk/Treasurer

