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BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE TOWN OF MESILLA
BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2017
6:00 P.M.

- TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem
Carlos Arzabal, Trustee
Jesus Caro, Trustee
Linda L. Flores, Trustee
- STAFF:** Cynthia Stoehner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer
K.C. Alberg, Marshal
Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
Irene Parra, Special Events Coordinator
Larry Shannon, Community Development
Gloria Maya, Recorder

- PUBLIC:** John Reyes Vanessa Reyes
Robert Parra Rose Garcia

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 Johnson-Burick, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Caro, Trustee Flores.

3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

1 **Motion: To approve the agenda, Moved by Trustee Flores, Seconded by Trustee Arzabal.**

2

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

4 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

5 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

6 **Trustee Caro Yes**

7 **Trustee Flores Yes**

8

9 **4. CLOSED SESSION** – pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2) for the purpose
10 of discussing limited personnel matters in the Marshal’s Department and Public Works
11 Department.

12 **Motion: To enter Closed Session pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2) for the purpose of**
13 **discussing limited personnel matters in the Marshal’s Department and Public Works Department,**
14 **Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Arzabal.**

15

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

17 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

18 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

19 **Trustee Caro Yes**

20 **Trustee Flores Yes**

21

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

23

24 **Motion: To verify that limited personnel matters of the Marshal’s Department and Public Works**
25 **Department pursuant to NMSA 1978 Chapter 10-15-1(H)(2) were discussed during closed session,**
26 **Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick.**

27

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

29 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

30 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

31 **Trustee Caro Yes**

32 **Trustee Flores Yes**

33

34 **Motion: To enter Open Meeting, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Flores.**

35

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

1 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

2 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

3 **Trustee Caro Yes**

4 **Trustee Flores Yes**

5

6 **Entered Regular Session at 6:26**

7

8 **5. PROCLAMATIONS:**

9 a. A Proclamation Commemorating the Town of Mesilla School Choice Week January
10 22 – 28, 2017. *Read by Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.*

11 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez read Proclamation Commemorating the Town of Mesilla School Choice Week
12 January 22-28, 2017.

13

14 Mayor Barraza declared January 22-28, 2017 as Commemorating School Choice Week in the Town of
15 Mesilla.

16 **6. PRESENTATIONS:**

17 a. Presentation to Mr. Manuel Cortez for his promotion to School Resource
18 Officer/Detective in the Mesilla Marshal's Department.

19 Marshal Alberg presented a Certificate of Promotion to Mr. Manuel Cortez to School Resource
20 Officer/Detective in the Mesilla Marshal's Department.

21 b. Presentation to Mr. Enrique Salas for his promotion to Lieutenant in the Mesilla
22 Marshal's Department.

23 Marshal Aberg presented a Certificate of Promotion to Mr. Enrique Salas to Lieutenant in the Mesilla
24 Marshal's Department.

25 c. Presentation to Mr. Robert Parra for his appointment as Professional Standards
26 Officer in the Mesilla Marshal's Department.

27 Marshal Alberg presented a Certificate of Appointment to Mr. Robert Parra as Professional Standards
28 Officer in the Mesilla Marshal's Department.

29

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

31 **No Public Input**

32

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

1 a. ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting minutes of Monday, November 28, 2016.

2 *Approved by consent agenda*

3 b. ***BOT MINUTES** – Regular Meeting minutes of Monday, December 12, 2016.

4 *Approved by consent agenda*

5 Page 7 line 18 check regarding delete a grant

6
7 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Flores.**

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

10 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

11 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

12 **Trustee Caro Yes**

13 **Trustee Flores Yes**

14
15 **9. NEW BUSINESS:**

16 a. For Approval: the hiring of a Public Works Foreman in the Public Works
17 Department. – **Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director.**

18 Ms. Lujan stated there were three (3) applicants for the Public Works Foreman position which has been
19 vacant since August. The interview committee which consisted of Mayor Barraza, Trustee Flores, Ms.
20 Stoechner-Hernandez and herself is recommending Mr. Jose Gonzalez. Mr. Gonzales is a current
21 employee of the Town of Mesilla.

22
23 Mayor Barraza recommended Mr. Jose Gonzalez to be hired as Public Works Foreman.

24
25 **Motion: To approve the hiring of a Public Works Foreman in the Public Works Department,**
26 **Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee Flores.**

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

29 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

30 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

31 **Trustee Caro Yes**

32 **Trustee Flores Yes**

33
34 b. For Approval: a professional services agreement with Souder, Miller and Associates
35 to update the Town of Mesilla's Comprehensive Plan. – **Cynthia Stoechner-**
36 **Hernandez, Clerk/Treasurer.**

1 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez indicated the Town of Mesilla's Comprehensive Plan update which will cost
2 \$46,093 will be paid out of a DFA grant. The Comprehensive Plan has not been update since 2004.
3 Trustee Flores and she were tasked with finding funding for the update. The sub consultant on the
4 contract will be Sites Southwest, LLC; Souder-Miller will be doing the mapping and things of that nature.

5
6 Mayor Barraza stated in their board's packet there is a timeframe outlining the process.

7
8 **Motion: To approve a professional services agreement with Souder, Miller and Associates to update**
9 **the Town of Mesilla's Comprehensive Plan, Moved by Trustee Arzabal, Seconded by Trustee**
10 **Flores.**

11
12 Trustee Caro asked why spend that amount of money to an outside source. There should be a committee
13 consisting of local residents. They would be more on top of what is good for Mesilla and come up with
14 different suggestions. The people in town would be more in approval. SCCOG has also indicated they
15 would be happy to help us. We need to look at that.

16
17 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she hopes it is not set in stone as there are only two (2) public
18 meetings scheduled; feels there should be more public meetings. Also, there will be edits from the
19 trustees and the public regarding the final draft.

20
21 Mayor Barraza stated this is the starting point and it does not read that it is set in stone. We can make
22 amendments at an extra cost, which is fine. We did hire an outside firm to start the groundwork. The
23 Yguado Plan will be looked at as well. Outside firms have been hired to update and work on the
24 Comprehensive Plan. She remembers attending Public Meetings where there were pictures and we were
25 asked to write down comments or recommendations; the current Comprehensive Plan shows that
26 information. It is important that the public is invited to participate in the updating process of the
27 Comprehensive Plan. It will then come to the board for review and recommendations. She assured the
28 trustees the final approval of the Comprehensive Plan will be made by the board.

29
30 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated the Yguado Plan will be a big part as well as our residents. It is
31 phenomenal that the town received a grant for this project. A Comprehensive Plan should be completed
32 every ten (10) years. This update will not come out of the town's budget and thanked staff for getting the
33 grant.

34
35 Trustee Arzabal stated we have experience that public meetings are not well attended. We need to get out
36 in the community to notify them of this project and get them to attend the meetings. There are several

1 experienced and educated residents that we can pick their brains for what they feel the Town of Mesilla
2 needs.

3
4 Trustee Flores stated we have a small town; recommends hitting the pavement with flyers to inform our
5 residents the importance of Comprehensive Plan update.

6
7 Mayor Barraza responded it was her thought to find a way to deliver notices to each home. We can set up
8 a date to get that done; with the help of staff, trustees, and volunteers. It is vitally important to reach out
9 to our residents regarding the Comprehensive Plan.

10
11 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3; Nay=1).**

12 **Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick Yes**

13 **Trustee Arzabal Yes**

14
15 Trustee Caro stated he feels the Comprehensive Plan pertains to the people who need to be more
16 involved. The grant is great. They can come in to make suggestions but he feels it should be done by the
17 town.

18
19 **Trustee Caro Nay**

20
21 Trustee Flores asked if Trustee Caro would be more comfortable if there were more public meetings.

22
23 Trustee Caro responded the residents know what they want for Mesilla and reiterated they need to be
24 more involved.

25
26 Mayor Barraza stated Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated she wants to see the public involved; more
27 public meetings should be held to achieve that.

28
29 Trustee Flores asked if that would be before their required meetings. We could organize our own prior to
30 their meetings. If I say yes they are obligated to two (2) meetings everything else is basically up in the air.

31
32 Mayor Barraza responded we can add to it the price will increase. There is nothing that says we have to
33 go strictly off of this; we can add into it.

34
35 Trustee Flores asked how much it will cost.

1 Mayor Barraza responded page 32 has the breakdown.

2
3 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated the grant was for \$50K. The work scope of a grant can always be
4 amended. When we meet with the Engineer and Sites Southwest we discuss the things we want. We can
5 come up with creative ideas to get people involved.

6
7 **Trustee Flores Yes**

8
9 Mayor Barraza stated Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez will get the process moving.

10
11 **10. *STAFF REPORTS:**

12 Community Development

13 Community Programs

14 Finance Department

15 Fire Department

16 Marshal's Department

17 Public Works Department

18
19 **11. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

20 Trustee Caro wished everyone a Happy New Year and congratulations to the people who received a
21 promotion. He hopes better things come out of it.

22
23 Mayor Tem Johnson-Burick stated it is so important to involve the community in the Comprehensive
24 Plan. Another aspect of the Comprehensive Plan is the technical aspects that a community may be
25 lacking; hazard litigations, Capital Outlay projects. Our community is filled with expertise. With the
26 grant we can get skilled people. We, as the board, can get the public to these meetings as they will be
27 deciding the future of our community. We need to go back to the Yguado Plan which is one of the
28 reasons we are still Historic Mesilla and so special. She wished everyone a Happy New Year. She
29 extended her congratulations on the promotions. Thanked staff for all their hard work.

30
31 Trustee Arzabal stated it is a great thing to be able update our Comprehensive Plan with a grant. He
32 commended the people who sought the grant. We will need an ordinance before the next Food Truck
33 event. Having something in writing will help us in adopting an ordinance.

34
35 Trustee Flores wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked everyone for their hard work. She gave
36 everyone some articles which would be interesting to read. The interest rate on payday loans makes her

1 sick to her stomach. She asked that they tell the legislators that the state cannot afford to waste water and
2 waste money that is getting sucked out of our states since the majority of these lenders do not live here.
3 Ask the legislators what they are doing about payday loans. The borrowers pay for years; there is not
4 limit.

5
6 Mayor Barraza stated the trustees could send them an email voicing their concerns. We had wonderful
7 events in December; well attended. Ms. Parra and Public Works did a great job as well as the Fire and
8 Marshal Departments. We were not very pleased with Las Cruces Mayor Miyagashima's comments
9 during the Menorah Lighting. He told the Rabbi why can't they trade off every year and use the
10 downtown plaza; the Rabbi didn't know what to say. The Christmas decorations have been removed.
11 The offices will be closed January 16 in observance of Martin Luther King. The legislative session opens
12 on January 17th for a 60-day session. We are planning and moving forward on projects this year. There
13 have been two (2) major water leaks. She is asking the board to look for ways to address the
14 infrastructure needs. Funding is going to be very tight this year. She is not anticipating receiving Capital
15 Outlay funding. We need to do creative thinking. She wished everyone a Happy New Year and
16 congratulations to promotions.

17

18 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

19

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

21

22 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:01 P.M.**

23

24

25 **APPROVED THIS**

26

27

28

29 _____
Nora L. Barraza
30 Mayor

31

32

33 **ATTEST:**

34

35

36 _____

- 1 Cynthia Stoeher-Hernandez
- 2 Town Clerk/Treasurer
- 3
- 4
- 5