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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TOWN OF MESILLA**

**WORK SESSION**

**MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017**

**5:00 P.M.**

**TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jesus Caro, Trustee  
Linda L. Flores, Trustee  
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee (5:10 p.m.)

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

**PUBLIC:**

**1.** Discussion on the Town of Mesilla 2017-2018 Budget.

Mayor Barraza opened the work session at 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez reviewed the budget changes.

Mayor Barraza asked if the projected revenue stayed the same.

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded we are expecting a 2% decrease in revenue and expenditures. She and Mayor Barraza attended a budget workshop and most of the entities are going with a flat budget next year.

1 Mayor Barraza stated Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez included the experience modifier percentage and the  
2 increase in utilities based on the CPI. At the beginning of the fiscal year there was an increase in Gross  
3 Receipts received by the Town and in December they started decreasing. We have seen an increase of  
4 tourism on the plaza and have been told by the restaurants that business is good; we cannot pinpoint what  
5 is happening. She checked with Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez to see if we can increase the Gross Receipt Tax.  
6

7 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded we can increase the Municipal GRT by .25%.

8

9 Mayor Barraza stated that GRT would be collected from the consumers. This is one way of increasing  
10 revenue for the town. We are open for ideas on how to raise town revenue.

11

12 Trustee Caro stated he feels the town needs to do away with the take-home vehicles in the Marshal's  
13 Department as things are not going to get better. He sees no reason they cannot drive their own vehicles  
14 to work and pick up their unit. He sees the cars everywhere, all around the town.

15

16 Mayor Barraza responded the take-home vehicles were part of the negotiation in the union contract.

17

18 Trustee Caro asked when the union contract will be renegotiated.

19

20 Mayor Barraza responded it will be revisited in 2018.

21

22 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he has the same concern as Trustee Caro. Marshal Mangusing made a  
23 presentation which showed take-home vehicles was beneficial for Public Safety. He feels La Colonia  
24 should come back to the board. It will not be popular, but it's better than raising property tax. The .25%  
25 is not a good fit. We can see what they survey brings forth.

26

27 Mayor Barraza stated it is just a thought; something to be considered in the future in terms of generating  
28 revenue for the town.

29

30 Trustee Arzabal stated he thought the GRT was at the highest it could be.

31

32 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded there are several GRT categories. We are capped out in Capital  
33 Outlay and Infrastructure but not in Municipal GRT.

34

35 Mayor Barraza stated May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for the surveys. She asked how they are coming in.

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Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez responded the box is full and she has received several phone calls; people are interested.

Mayor Barraza stated she is thinking of the future of the town and that Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez brought up a good point. When there are projects going on in town our GRT goes up. This coming year we will have the McDowell project and a small Local Government Road project. We also took a hit this year in Small City Assistance. The culvert on Parian is being done; the pipe removed was completely corroded. The town had to put \$30K toward the project. There have also been water line repairs. The infrastructure in the town is starting to break down. At the next Board Meeting, May 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have the results of the survey on the agenda.

Closed meeting 5:17 p.m.

1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
2 **TOWN OF MESILLA**  
3 **REGULAR MEETING**  
4 **MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017**  
5 **6:00 P.M.**  
6

7 **TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor  
8 Carlos Arzabal, Mayor Pro Tem  
9 Jesus Caro, Trustee  
10 Linda L. Flores, Trustee  
11 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee  
12

13 **STAFF:** Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
14 Kevin Alberg, Marshal  
15 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief  
16 Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director  
17 Gloria Maya, Recorder  
18

19 **PUBLIC:** Chris Alexander Lori Jurado  
20 Xavier Jurado David Armijo  
21 Daphne Baca Lori Miller  
22 Len Gambrel Teresa Phillips  
23 Mary Helen Ratje Stefan Schaefer  
24 Pat Taylor Susan Krueger  
25 Manuel J. Lopez Pete Harbe  
26 Margee McIlvoy Rick Depreytas  
27 Marty Rennat  
28

29  
30 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

31 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance  
32

33 **2. ROLL CALL & DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

34 **Roll Call.**

1 **Present: Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Trustee Caro, Trustee Flores, Trustee Johnson-**  
2 **Burick.**

3  
4 Mayor Barraza held a Moment of Silence for Mr. Jose Bertoldo.

5  
6 **3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

7 **Motion: To approve the agenda, Moved by Flores, Seconded by Arzabal**

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

10 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

11 **Trustee Caro Yes**

12 **Trustee Flores Yes**

13 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

14

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

16 Mr. Pat Taylor read letter regarding the parking on their property.

17

18 Mayor Barraza stated we will not be yielding time at this time.

19

20 Mr. Jerry Garcia stated after they harvest their pecans people are allowed to pick whatever is on the  
21 ground. The marshal and deputies stopped around nine (9) people and asked them for their status. Then  
22 the people were told they were stopped because there was a complaint that they were stealing pecans. He  
23 could not believe what happened to them. They did not want to come back. It is hard to get people to  
24 work. These people were working they were not stealing.

25

26 Mr. Chris Alexander stated he is in support of the proclamation in opposition for the wall and the Border  
27 Patrol raids. These are things that should not be contemplated taking place in Mesilla. Politically  
28 standing Mesilla has been a topic ever since it became part of the United States. The Town of Mesilla  
29 owes it to the residents to protect everyone from immigration intrusion. It was clear that when this  
30 became part of the United States there would be guarantee passages without taxations and restrictions.  
31 The federal government has chosen not to honor that. He feels the federal government needs to look at  
32 what was promise when they acquired the land. He applauds the town for taking a stand.

33

34 Ms. Mary Helen Taylor Ratje stated EBID and A Mountain who were hired to take care of the ditch on  
35 Calle de Parian and Calle de Arroyo had heavy equipment going down Calle de Arroyo. When the

1 excavator went down the street the earth trembled. She had a conversation with Mayor Barraza and  
2 Trustee Johnson-Burick making them aware of the situation. According to ordinances those types of  
3 vehicles should not be going on small streets. There was damage done to the building.

4 There was damage to the new construction on the adobe walls of the historic building. We should have  
5 brought this up during the Comprehensive Plan Meeting as it is an area we need to look at. She hopes  
6 that this will be resolved in some way.

7

8 Ms. Susan Krueger asked the board to consider submitting the resolution to the town attorney for review.  
9 Mr. Session and the people involved do not have any street smarts about the border. They do not live or  
10 visit here in such a way that they would learn something. Governor Martinez insulted Mr. Trump and  
11 continues to be at odds with him and the administration. The City of El Paso and Las Cruces have  
12 attorneys on staff to review what is being put out. One of the things a court looks at is if there was legal  
13 counsel and if the answer is yes then there is a different attitude. It sees the responsibility and  
14 accountability that a local jurisdiction takes before it passes a resolution. Even the wording in a  
15 resolution can be very important.

16

17 Ms. Teresa Phillips read a letter regarding the resolutions and hopes the board will vote yes on these  
18 resolutions.

19

20 Ms. Daphne Baca stated she agrees with previous comments. She had someone who was driving to El  
21 Paso and an employee of the Bureau of Land Management who was pulled over by the Border Patrol  
22 officer. He asked for the officer's badge number and there were profound consequences for the officer.  
23 There is a Mexican Heritage on both sides of the border. She was raised by a Mexican step-grandmother  
24 and married into Mexican Culture. She prays the board the takes these resolutions very seriously.

25

26 Mr. Peter Harbe stated they would not ask for his paper. Some years ago he was in Finland on the border  
27 with Russia where there is wire, turrets and lights. Russia took people five (5) or more miles on the  
28 Russian side, moved them 2,000 miles to a hell hole and replacing the by other people. The idea was not  
29 only to have a wire and a fence separating people but a culture, language and a sensibility as well. If we  
30 put a wall between New Mexico and old Mexico the same thing will happen. One of the reasons he was  
31 attracted to this part of the world was the people and the mix of cultures that blended to make this a much  
32 better place. He fully supports the resolution before the board.

33

34 Ms. Margee McIlvoy stated this is a wonderful community. We need to pay attention to each other's  
35 anxieties and humanity. She has undocumented clients and friends that's have undocumented families.

1 She feels we forget that all of us as human beings are at our best self when we are protecting people who  
2 are vulnerable. The board cares enough about this community by running for office. One of the hardest  
3 things anyone can experience is having their families ripped apart. Since the election this is now  
4 happening in her yard. We cannot let this happen. When walls come down hearts open up and people  
5 can connect. We need to look at what is the right thing to do which is the law and what is the moral thing  
6 to do which to take care of each other.

7  
8 Dr. Stephan Schafer stated he is in support of the resolutions. When anyone wants to build anything they  
9 need to come before the PZHC; he does not believe the wall is historically appropriate. As he passed by  
10 the plaza there are pictures of the two (2) flags on the band stand; we may have to change that. On Cinco  
11 de Mayo we fly both flags; we may have to change that. It is not historically appropriate and it is not in  
12 keep with the values of the Town of Mesilla. He works as a physician here and his life work has been in  
13 outreach for those less fortunate than him. He is a white male, he does not get profiled. He has patients  
14 who are undocumented and live in fear. We need to send this message locally that we stand in support in  
15 those less fortunate than we are. He remembers while doing outreach work in Juarez; he was standing on  
16 a hill looking at El Paso and thinking what a difference a border makes. He believes it is injustice, does  
17 not keep with our values and encourages the board to vote in support of the ordinances.

18  
19 Mr. David Armijo stated the South Central Regional Transit ridership is doing well, trending 2,000 rides a  
20 month. The routes have been growing due to adding stops and doing advertising. The five (5) rides at  
21 thirty-four (34) trips a day carry 100 people. The Town of Mesilla's blue route has been changed. The  
22 plan is for a morning trip which will come into Mesilla at 8:00 a.m. We are looking at a facility closer to  
23 Anthony to split the deadhead. We are open to suggestions. If grant goes through for the green route to  
24 Hatch there will be community meetings.

25  
26 Mr. Manuel Lopez stated he supports the resolutions opposing the wall and the Border Patrol. He quoted  
27 Vice President Humphrey and Cardinal Mahoney. The City of Santa Fe had a lawyer prepare a  
28 resolution. The resolution language has commitment to the human rights of all people. Affirmative steps  
29 directing their employees not to assist the INS of any alleged immigration laws and to use zero resources  
30 to assist federal immigration laws. He gave the board a copy of the resolution for their review. Just  
31 because President Trump says it is unlawful; it is not the law. The City of Santa Fe did a good job in  
32 preparing the resolution.

33  
34 Ms. Lori Jurado stated she understands everyone's heart in this matter. We love the workers that come to  
35 help and so much of the country next door. She is not in favor of the wall but does want to express

1 caution on how we want to address these issues. Not all Border Patrol agents are out to do harm to people  
2 of other countries. There are Hispanics serving in the Border Patrol and ICE. Some of the problems we  
3 have gotten into are because we do not have good laws in place. We need good laws which are bigger  
4 than Mesilla. We can have better laws so people can come, work and go home when they want. She is  
5 nervous about the town going up against the federal government on a level is there to enforce the laws  
6 that have not been enforced for decades. These laws need to be updated. She is not in favor of the  
7 resolutions as we have it. She is open to suggestions and ideas on how we can make things better. She  
8 does to want to say everything is wrong; does not want to promote that. We need to stand up to things  
9 that are hurting people improperly.

10  
11 **5. \*APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA – The Board will be asked to approve by one**  
12 **motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent Agenda is marked**  
13 **with an asterisk \*:**

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

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

18 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

19 **Trustee Caro Yes**

20 **Trustee Flores Yes**

21 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

22  
23 **a. \*BOT MINUTES – Regular Meeting and Work Session** minutes of Monday, April 10,  
24 2017. *Approved by consent agenda*

25 **b. \*PZHAC CASE 060515 - 2160 Calle del Norte,** submitted by Gary Bell and Saharu Oda; a  
26 request for a building permit to construct a house and casita on a vacant property at this  
27 address. Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda*

28 **c. \*PZHAC AMMENDMENT TO PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SUP15-001 – 1730 Tierra**  
29 **de Mesilla,** submitted by Anna Emerick-Biad; a request to amend for Acton Academy to  
30 allow up to 100 students and 7 staff members for a period of 10 years. Zoned: General  
31 Commercial (C). *Approved by consent agenda*

32 **d. \*PZHAC CASE 060536 – 1930 Calle Pecana,** submitted by Chairez Rock Walls for  
33 Margarita Rodriguez; a request for a building permit to construct a five-foot-high rock wall  
34 around a residential property at this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). *Approved*  
35 *by consent agenda*



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**6. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Resolution 2017-04: A Resolution Opposing the Proposed Border Wall Along the US/Mexico Border. – *Requested by Trustee Jesus Caro.*

Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez read Resolution 2017-04: A Resolution Opposing the Proposed Border Wall Along the US/Mexico Border.

Mayor Barraza stated we had previously held off on this item as we were waiting for Trustee Caro who voiced his support of this resolution. She thanked Mr. Alexander for the information he provided regarding the Gadsden Purchase which was included within the resolution.

**Motion: To approve Resolution 2017-04: A Resolution Opposing the Proposed Border Wall Along the US/Mexico Border, Moved by Trustee Caro, Seconded by Trustee Flores**

Trustee Flores stated there is a typographical error on page 37, second paragraph; economic growing should be economic growth.

Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked everyone who has taken the time to attend these meetings. She appreciates everyone input. As she indicated she was concerned with the first resolution which was vague. She is of firm belief that we should not be interfering with federal law; we have our own struggles in Mesilla. She respects and agrees we need to take care of everyone. We receive federal dollars for Stonegarden which is designed to help aid and secure the border area. What a conflict we take the dollars but are opposing something designed to secure the border. The Gadsden Purchase was designed to secure the stable benefits of said transit ways to the person and merchandise of the citizens of Mexico and United States. That merchandise and transit is done at the Port of Entry, not in the middle of the desert. She appreciates that; this resolution she can support. She was elected to listen to the residents and the majority has expressed their support of the resolution.

Trustee Caro thanked and applauds everyone for standing up in support of the resolution. It is so important; our culture and history. We tell other countries what to do and now we are doing it. Even now people think that New Mexico is part of Mexico. People make decisions on what they do not even know about. Why waste millions of dollars to put up a wall when there are so many other things that need attention. Mexico has been a good ally. His family put their lives on the line for their country. Inaudible In our hearts we are American. The United States is different from other countries.

1 Trustee Flores stated she thinks of the humanity and respecting the people that come to our country. She  
2 also sees it from an economic side. The stuff coming from Mexico; parts have been sent from the United  
3 States. We are biting ourselves in the foot with proposed tariffs. This is a federal issue but when there  
4 are communities on the border opposing the wall. There are better things to spend the money on such as  
5 infrastructure. This hurts our bottom line. We need to tell the federal government that it is against our  
6 grounds and we do not support it. Mr. Barela was talking about the reality on the ground. We depend on  
7 our ties with Mexico. It is a serious situation to thing about putting tariffs, walls, and to build distrust.  
8 She supports this resolution whole heartedly

9  
10 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he has a strong view on this. Outreach work means a lot when you donate  
11 your time to the less fortunate. The town does receive federal funding for public safety. The Town of  
12 Mesilla is part of the county who has already passed a resolution. The City of Sunland does not want to  
13 touch this.

14  
15 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated the resolution passed by the county is for the second resolution before us.

16  
17 Mayor Barraza thanked the people for bringing forth things she would not have thought of. Everyone has  
18 beautiful stories on why you are supporting this resolution. She understands we receive Stone Garden,  
19 federal funding through Dona Ana County, to enforce the laws. This resolution is to oppose the border  
20 wall. She does not think by receiving Stonegarden funding we are breaking the law. She appreciates the  
21 support. She does not vote unless there is a tie vote but she does support the resolution.

22  
23 Mayor Pro Tem Johnson-Burick stated the City of Las Cruces passed this resolution.

24  
25 Trustee Flores asked if our town attorney reviewed the resolution.

26  
27 Mayor Barraza responded yes.

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

30 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

31 **Trustee Caro Yes**

32 **Trustee Flores Yes**

33 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

34

35 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

1           a. Resolution 2017-06: A Resolution Opposing Immigration and Customs Enforcement Raids. –  
2           *Requested by Trustee Linda Flores.*

3 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez read Resolution 2017-06: A Resolution Opposing Immigration Customs  
4 Enforcement Raids.

5  
6 **Motion: To approve Resolution 2017-04: A Resolution Opposing Immigration and Customs**  
7 **Enforcement Raids, Moved by Trustee Johnson-Burick, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

8  
9 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal stated he does not know how the town can make a resolution saying that the  
10 immigration system is broken. Las Cruces Public Schools just approved a resolution that a student  
11 should not be scared to enter a school. There is a process in hand when entering the United States.  
12 Whether you like it or not there is a process. We are saying we are opposing customs doing their job. It  
13 is great to live the American Dream but there is a process to follow. He feels some people do not want to  
14 go through the process.

15  
16 Trustee Flores stated she believes it takes fourteen (14) years to follow the process. There are a lot of  
17 legal fees as well. That is a long time to begin earning money that is why people on both side of the  
18 aisles agree there needs to be a better process. She had toyed with the idea of putting with unreasonable  
19 raids on the last page. She is open to adding that if that is what the board wishes. She understands if  
20 there is a crime no one would object for ICE coming in. Two years ago someone came in speaking about  
21 ICE raids being detrimental to the community; people were afraid to report crimes. This is another  
22 avenue that says we are opposed to the excess ICE raids that are bringing fear to the community. It is  
23 helpful to make people aware that we do care about what is happening and we are opposed to it. The Las  
24 Cruces Public Schools made a statement that they would not allow ICE on the premises unless there is a  
25 warrant.

26  
27 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated she was not going to be in fair of this resolution. She did not agree with  
28 the passing. In this resolution it does not delineate; does not separate those that pose a threat to our  
29 community. We have a right to protect our community. Read the resolution written by the county  
30 commission. ICE on a routine daily basis does the enforcement raids. She is not for targeting, profiling  
31 and hopes that no one wearing in our community that wears a badge goes into the fields asking for  
32 citizenship; that is deplorable. She is for protecting our citizens. On February 15<sup>th</sup> there were six (6)  
33 detained who had warrants. We need to look at individuals who pose a threat to public safety who have  
34 been charged with criminal offenses, who have committed multiple immigration violations or have been  
35 deported and enter the country illegally. Even Governor Martinez stated we should distinguish between

1 undocumented residents who have a criminal record versus immigrants who have lived in the country for  
2 decades, paid taxes and do not have a record. She works with law enforcement; is concerned that the  
3 resolution does not touch those that have broken the law. We should not be telling law enforcement  
4 agencies how to do their job. If we are going to write a resolution, then let's do something that supports  
5 the immigration laws where the problem is.

6  
7 Trustee Flores stated it is a fact that they can get a warrant for not paying traffic fines. She sees a  
8 difference in that; we can disagree respectfully. She feels for people that are poor and can spiral out of  
9 control even for people that are documented. She asked Trustee Johnson-Burick if there are any changes  
10 in the wording that would make this more palpable that may change her mind.

11  
12 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded not at this time.

13  
14 Trustee Caro stated he sees Trustee Johnson-Burick point but also sees law enforcements trying to  
15 enforce the laws that are brought down. They forget what the real object of what they are doing; they  
16 start picking up everybody. We had some officers that were overheard saying to stop old looking  
17 vehicles. He was at Mariachi Restaurant and two (2) separate vehicles were stopped and within second  
18 the Border Patrol was there picking them up. He supports this resolution.

19  
20 Audience Attendee asked what is Stonegarden.

21  
22 Marshal Alberg responded Operation Stonegarden is a FEMA grant that undergerts border security.  
23 Mesilla does not enforce federal immigration laws. We do not participate in the 287G which gives local  
24 agencies the authority to act on the behalf of ICE. We have been approached but have denied it.  
25 Stonegarden targets Human Trafficking and drug interventions. We work in conjunction with HIDTA.

26  
27 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated ICE is not only looking/targeting immigrates from the south; they are  
28 targeting all immigration. Under the previous administration these targeted raids were on the decline and  
29 are now starting to pick up. There should not be racial profiling but looking at the people that pose a  
30 threat to our society.

31  
32 Mayor Barraza stated some of the families came generations ago through the Braceros Program. It is very  
33 expensive to process the papers. There are attorneys that are crooked who take the money and do not  
34 follow through. We are dealing with drug trafficking within our own country; they do not have to be  
35 from Mexico. Not all the people coming from Mexico are bad some are just trying to make a living. She

1 sees the humanity side of these. There is good and bad apples in every bushel. We are an agricultural  
2 community and many are on a working visa. We are grateful to the immigrants that come to work to  
3 make a living for their families. In the event there is a tie she will support the resolution.

4  
5 Trustee Flores asked if she should add to the resolution to differentiate. She stated she would like to add  
6 *indiscriminate* in front of raids. It is not just these poor immigrants coming in. She feels immigrants are  
7 beneficial to our country. We have an aging population and need young people to contribute to Social  
8 Security. Immigrants take more risks. We are shooting ourselves in the foot if we stop the flow of people  
9 coming in.

10  
11 Mayor Barraza stated if the Gadsden Purchase had not existed we would all be Mexican.

12  
13 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 3; no 2).**

14 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal No**

15 **Trustee Caro Yes**

16 **Trustee Flores Yes**

17 **Trustee Johnson-Burick No**

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

20 Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal no comment.

21  
22 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked the residents for attending the Comprehensive Plan meeting. It is critical  
23 to our community that the residents have a voice on how they want to see our community evolve. The  
24 Newsletter spoke about the part-time volunteer Codes/Animal Control individual, she hopes he has gotten  
25 the training and the insurance covers him. She is willing to work on updating the ordinance. If you are  
26 an animal lover as she is she needs to go get a kennel license. She would like to take it a step forward to  
27 address the people problem about these poor cats. She loves the Broken Promises Organization that traps,  
28 fixes and returns the cats. It is not the cat's fault it is a people problem. It's the people not being  
29 educated or even being educated but not being responsible. She wants to do all she can for the cats in the  
30 community that we as humans have failed them.

31  
32 Trustee Flores stated when she ran for office she wonders why it cost so much for road repairs and she  
33 was told that they need to use small equipment because of the narrow roads and old houses. She hopes  
34 we look into that. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and putting forth their comments.

1 Trustee Caro apologized for getting sentimental. Thanked everyone for attending and their comments.  
2 Many people do not come forward because they feel intimidated. He received a complaint about large dogs  
3 on his property. He called the Town Hall and the Marshal's department but did not get anywhere. There  
4 should be a direct line to Animal Control instead of going to Central Dispatch.

5  
6 Mayor Barraza stated people should call 911. We have only one (1) officer patrolling per shift. They will  
7 not get an answer if they call the Marshal's Department. Town Hall is open 8-5 Monday through Friday.  
8 She reiterated they need to call 911 or the non-emergency number; it will be documented so we can  
9 follow up. They will get someone out ASAP. Ms. Stoenner-Hernandez is available to answer questions  
10 regarding the Comprehensive Plan Survey. One resident indicated even though we do the spade and  
11 nurturing we release the back into the community. They are still going into the yard; we will still have  
12 the problem

13  
14 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded there are other programs that will release them elsewhere. The key  
15 thing is we are stopping reproducing. Some residents have taken to keeping the cats. Cats will roam.

16  
17 Mayor Barraza stated feral cats will not get domesticated. We need to address the problem we have in the  
18 community. People are dropping off dogs at the Public Safety Building since the Newsletter went out.  
19 People do not want the responsibility of taking care of their pets. We will discuss that during the  
20 department head meeting.

21  
22 Trustee Johnson-Burick stated Trustee Flores has her payroll loan/people and mine is animals. She  
23 reiterated it is not a cat population problem it is a people problem.

24  
25 Mayor Barraza stated Animal Control officer is a volunteer but has a regular job. He has been going to  
26 training and checked on the liability. We are staying on top of it. He is not in the budget due to our  
27 revenue income. The Comprehensive Plan meeting was well attended and there were wonderful  
28 comments and suggestions were made. There will be a follow-up meeting and invites everyone to join us.  
29 Ms. Lujan has taken measures regarding the heavy equipment. The resident was provided with a tort  
30 claim. She apologizes for that happening. She encourages everyone to fill out the surveys.

31  
32 **9. ADJOURNMENT**

33  
34 **The Town of Mesilla Trustees unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting. (Summary: Yes-4)**

35

1 MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:45 P.M.

2

3 APPROVED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY, 2017

4

5

6



Nora L. Barraza

Mayor

7

8

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10

11 ATTEST:

12

13

14



Cynthia Stoeher-Hernandez

Town Clerk/Treasurer

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19