



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
TOWN OF MESILLA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017
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
Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
Irene Parra,
Larry Shannon, Community Development Coordinator
Gloria Maya, Recorder

PUBLIC: John Wright Marty Howell
Derek Lujan Brandon Ramos

Mayor Barraza recognized Derek Lujan and Brandon Ramos, Arrowhead Early College High School students, who are doing a class project of attending a government meeting.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Derek Lujan and Brandon Ramos 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.

Mayor Barraza held a Moment of Silence for Patriot Day, the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Jose, Katia and the earthquake in Mexico. She also held a Moment of Silence for Mr. Laun Smith and Mr. Ken Dahlstrom. We also ask that the first responders to be safe.

3. CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Trustee Flores, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-Burick

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

1 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**
2 **Trustee Caro Yes**
3 **Trustee Flores Yes**
4 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

5
6 **4. PUBLIC INPUT** – The public is invited to address the Board for up to 3 minutes.
7 **No Public Input**

8
9 **5. *APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA** – The Board will be asked to approve by
10 **one motion the following items of recurring or routine business. The Consent**
11 **Agenda is marked with an asterisk *:**
12 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal, Seconded by**
13 **Trustee Caro.**

14
15 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**
16 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**
17 **Trustee Caro Yes**
18 **Trustee Flores Yes**
19 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

20
21 **a. *BOT MINUTES – Regular Meeting** of Monday, August 28, 2017. *Approved by*
22 *consent agenda*

23
24
25 **b. *PZHAC CASE 060621** – 2523 Calle del Norte, submitted by Michele Rasch; a
26 request for a building permit to replace a wire fence on the property with a stucco
27 wall. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR). *Approved by consent agenda*
28

29
30 **6. OLD BUSINESS:**

31 **a. PZHAC CASE 060619** – 2188 Calle del Norte, submitted by John Wright; a request
32 for a building permit to allow repair work and painting, as well as minor alterations
33 and landscaping, to a dwelling at this address. Zoned: Historical Residential (HR).
34 Mr. Shannon stated Mr. Wright is willing to install a wood fence instead of a chain link.
35 (*Showed photos*) The fence will not block clear site triangle. The wood fence will stop at the
36 tree with the chain link fence continuing the rest of the way. The current chain link fence will
37 not be replaced. If that is not adequate the fence will stop at the house.

38
39 Mayor Barraza stated their answers and questions have been answered.

40
41 Trustee Caro stated looking east from the house you can see right through the chain link fence.
42 They still will have to be careful backing up. It looks good to him.

43
44 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked Mr. Wright for coming to our meeting and providing further
45 clarification. She looks forward to seeing the final result.

46
47 Mayor Barraza thanked Mr. Wright for making his home here and for working with staff in
48 addressing our questions. Wood is an appropriate material for the historical area.
49

1 **Motion: To approve PZHAC Case 060619 – 2188 Calle del Norte, submitted by John**
2 **Wright; a request for a building permit to allow repair work and painting, as well as minor**
3 **alterations and landscaping, to a dwelling at this address, Moved by Trustee Johnson-**
4 **Burick, Seconded by Trustee Caro.**

5
6 **Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).**

7 **Mayor Pro Tem Arzabal Yes**

8 **Trustee Caro Yes**

9 **Trustee Flores Yes**

10 **Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes**

11
12
13 **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

14 **a. Update on Codes Enforcement. – Larry Shannon, Community Development**
15 **Coordinator.**

16 Mr. Shannon stated he has spent a lot of time in the field due to the rain. There are several areas
17 with large weeds and standing water which has increased our mosquito problem. He has written
18 twelve (12) tickets. The ticket is issued with an arraignment date; if the resident complies by the
19 arraignment day the ticket is dismissed. Out of the twelve (12) tickets seven (7) or eight (8)
20 have complied as they are working on clearing the property; one (1) may go to court, two (2) he
21 has not heard from. There are more tickets to be issued as well as numerous warnings. The
22 ticket is his calling card. Residents are told through a letter what they need to do to bring
23 properties into compliance, i.e. removing items from their yards. He and Mr. Lee, Vector
24 Control, are coordinating efforts in dealing with the issues. Ms. Lujan will be giving them door
25 hangers regarding Zika Virus. He will continue doing field work for the next few weeks. If
26 anyone sees an issue, contact the office. Residents on Snow Road have come into compliance;
27 will continue to check to see if they stay in compliance. He has issued tickets to property owners
28 who are selling vehicles on the property.

29
30 Mayor Barraza thanked Mr. Shannon for his attention on the weeds. She has received calls from
31 residents regarding the weeds. She understands the citation portion of this to repeated offenders.

32
33 Trustee Caro stated before a ticket is issued make sure the town's property is taken care of.
34 Calle de Norte, Calle de Sur, Highway 28, Calle de Oeste and around the plaza are the streets/
35 areas where there a lot of people walking. We need to take care of the core first. He has been
36 going around helping people who need help with their weed issue.

37
38 Mayor Barraza responded Ms. Lujan has contact EBID to take care of their properties. Town
39 staff has been doing their job by keeping the parks mowed and sprayed.

40
41 Ms. Lujan stated there will be an extra dumpster during the fiesta for residents to use.

42
43 Trustee Caro stated he saw a septic truck near Mr. Hudson's house emptying his truck into the
44 drainage ditch.

45
46 Mayor Barraza responded that is illegal and is an environmental issue. The town contracts with
47 Ledesma's Company to pump out the water on Calle de Norte and Calle de Picacho after the

1 heavy rains which is emptied in the to ditch. We are assured that it is done with a clean tank.
2 She asked that those things be called in so that it may be investigated.

3
4
5 **b. Update on the McDowell Sewer Project. – Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director**
6 **and/or Souder, Miller & Associates.**

7 Mr. Marty Howell stated they are working on the design for the sewer line for McDowell from
8 Union to University. The town received \$4K from the state to do design and construction. The
9 preliminary design was done to get survey data to see what kind of sewer system would work in
10 that area. We decided to go with a low pressure sewage system like the one on Calle de
11 Guadalupe and Calle de Sur. These are low maintenance with a good warranty. He provided the
12 preliminary design for Ms. Lujan’s review. This will also be a review done internally, as well as
13 a review by the state. Surveyors were sent to the properties to see the location of the lich lines
14 and septic tanks. We have some residents that do not want to be connected, some were ready to
15 be connected and some that may want to hook up in the future.

16
17 Mayor Barraza asked how many homes are in the area that could hook up to the system.

18
19 Mr. Howell responded there are twenty-four (24) homes off McDowell that could hook-up.
20 Some homes off University are connected to the city but once you get to the drain the residents
21 on neither side have sewer. The residents on the left are served by the county. The residents on
22 the right are served by the Town of Mesilla. He asked what the city requirements will be;
23 hydrogen sulfide which causes health concerns. We will collect the sewer on McDowell Road
24 and placed in a manhole that belongs to Mesilla which will be monitored for hydrogen sulfide. It
25 will then drain into the city manhole. Another question was billing; they will be doing average
26 water use rate for the homes along the streets.

27
28 Trustee Caro asked if there are any plans to go west to Snow Road; we will probably have to
29 seek funding. We would be able to get away from septic tanks.

30
31 Mayor Barraza responded the Environmental Department would like us to eliminate septic tanks.
32 The Mesilla core has a sewer system but the outside area does not. There has to be a certain
33 amount of acreage to have septic tanks as to not impact the ground water. She would like to see
34 everyone hook up to the sewer system.

35
36 Trustee Flores stated the City of Las Cruces is worried about it piling up and sitting there. She
37 asked what assurances we have that it will not become a health hazard. Is it possible to flush it
38 out with water to prevent that?

39
40 Mr. Howell responded we do small 2” lines and increase to 3” line which moves the water down
41 the street very quickly. The buildup is when it is a large lift station that sits for a day which
42 causes the issues. We feel very confident there will not be any time for hydrogen sulfate to build
43 up.

44
45 Ms. Lujan stated the city checks the town on a monthly basis. When she first started we were at
46 444 parts per million, we are now at 5 parts per million. It is important to keep it down....

1 Mr. Howell responded there are chemicals that can be added to inhibit the hydrogen sulfate
2 which means you have to have pumps and storage which is not cheap. We are confident that that
3 will not be need.
4

5 c. Update on the Mesilla Valley Bosque/Department of Game and Fish transfer. – **Nora**
6 **L. Barraza, Mayor.**

7 Mayor Barraza stated there was a newspaper article regarding where the Game and Fish
8 Department wanted to take over the state parks. It caught us off guard; no one had been
9 contacted regarding the transfer they were proposing. She spoke to the representatives and
10 senators regarding our concerns. The Fire Department receives \$109K in additional funding for
11 housing the brush truck and sub-station at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park which was
12 dedicated in 2006 or 2008. Legislators put \$3 or \$4 million dollars into the state park which
13 worked with the Town of Mesilla to make it what it is today. She did not know what the
14 relationship was between the Game and Fish Department and the state parks. She was asked to
15 be on a panel that consisted of Mr. Kevin Bixby, Southwest Environmental, Senator Cervantes,
16 Secretary and Deputy of State Parks and Mrs. Sandoval, Director of Game and Fish, to present to
17 a group of legislators. Mr. Bixby gave his speech as to why it should continue being a state park.
18 She expressed her economic concerns as people come to the town to eat and shop after they visit
19 the Mesilla Valley Bosque, as well as preservation and investments. The legislators had
20 questions for the State Parks Secretary and Deputy Secretary that she had not even thought of.
21 The concern was the legality of the transfer since Capital Outlay money had been used. State
22 Parks did not have an answer.
23

24 Ms. Stoechner stated the next Open House is scheduled for October 1st; she has not seen it
25 published anywhere.
26

27 Mayor Barraza stated the legislators were concerned that the Open House was not advertised as a
28 Public Hearing. Senator Cervantes encouraged us to let people know that now is the time to
29 make comments prior to the October 1st Open House. Senator Steinborn asked if it was a done
30 deal since he was getting mixed messages. They responded that it is proposed transfer. She
31 encourages all the trustees to submit their comments to the Department of Game and Fish.
32 Senator Cervantes will send the contact information which will be sent to everyone; it will be
33 posted on the website as well.
34

35 **8. *STAFF REPORTS:**

36 Community Development
37 Community Programs
38 Finance Department
39 Fire Department
40 Marshal's Department
41 Public Works Department
42
43

44 **9. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMENTS**

45 Trustee Flores warned about purchasing a car that is being sold on corners. Many people whose
46 cars were flooded during hurricanes are not worth buying. The article said the State Parks
47 Department is short of funding whereas the Department of Game and Fish has a lot of funding.
48 She asked if they would still honor our arrangement.

1
2 Mayor Barraza stated she never commented on the MOA. There are several MOAs out there
3 that have not been addressed. It is a fact that State Parks does not have very much funding
4 unlike Game and Fish. They are willing to give up a state park for \$20,000. They asked what
5 other state parks are experiencing what Mesilla is experiencing. They also asked about staffing;
6 there is a volunteer group at the Bosque.

7
8 Trustee Johnson-Burick thanked the mayor for the Moment of Silence. This has been a sad and
9 hard week.

10
11 Trustee Caro asked Ms. Parra how the fiesta is coming along

12
13 Ms. Parra responded we are on track for another successful fiesta. All vendor slots are filled;
14 there are twenty (20) parade participants. Opening Ceremonies will begin at 12 noon. The
15 Deputy Consulate will be joining us for Opening Ceremonies. She also has found it hard to find
16 the joy in celebration with all that has been going on. We can use this event to gather donations
17 for the victims of the hurricanes and as well for the victims in Mexico. The Fire Department is
18 having a dunking booth which could be used to that cause.

19
20 Trustee Johnson-Burick responded that is a great idea; send out a press release or have a box to
21 gather donations.

22
23 Ms. Parra stated she is scheduled to go on 101 Gold to promote the fiesta where she can also
24 mention the donations.

25
26 Fire Chief Hoban stated our support and our prayers for the 9/11 responders that have been killed
27 or died.

28
29 Ms. Maya asked if there is anyone that is a veteran or knows of a veteran that should have their
30 name added to the Veteran's Park plaque to forward that information to her. The deadline for
31 that information is September 15th in order to have the plaque ready for the Veteran's Day event.

32
33 Mayor Barraza stated this is for residents who served in the military and asked that names be
34 submitted to Ms. Maya so we can honor them. She met with Senator Smith and Representative
35 McCamley to go over ICIP in the event that there is any Capital Outlay Allocation. They will
36 meet with other legislators later. Senator Papen and Representative McCamley indicated she
37 would put money into the Bowman project if available. The Diez y Seis de Septiembre Fiesta is
38 this weekend. She asked that the trustees be at the parade site by 10:30 a.m. She, Ms. Stoechner,
39 Mr. Shannon and some of the commissioners will be attending the Zoning Conference in
40 Ruidoso next week.

41
42 Ms. Stoechner-Hernandez stated there will be a worksession at 5:00 p.m. prior to the next board
43 meeting on September 25th to review the Comprehensive Plan. A hard copy has been made
44 available and asked that any questions be sent to her.

45
46 Mayor Barraza indicated that if needed another worksession will be scheduled. The worksession
47 will be in conjunction with Planning and Zoning Commission. There will be a worksession and a

1 Public Hearing at the October 10th board meeting with possible approval on the October 23rd
2 meeting. She thanked everyone for all the great work they do for Mesilla.

3
4 **10. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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7 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:02 P.M.**

8
9 **APPROVED THIS 25th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2017**



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Nora L. Barraza

Nora L. Barraza

Mayor

ATTEST:

Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez

Cynthia Stoechner-Hernandez

Town Clerk/Treasurer