



Town of Mesilla, New Mexico

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) OF THE TOWN OF MESILLA

PUBLIC HEARING AT THE MESILLA TOWN HALL,
2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025

~ 5:00 P.M.~

MINUTES

TRUSTEES:

Russell Hernandez, Mayor
Adrianna Merrick, Mayor Pro Tem
Biviana Cadena, Trustee
Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee
Gerard Nevarez, Trustee

STAFF:

Lorenzo Astorga, Public Works Director
Gloria S Maya, Town Clerk/Recorder
Cole Morris, Fire Captain
Edward Salazar, Economic & Community Development Director
Greg Whited, Fire Chief

PUBLIC:

Joe Foster	Elaine Foster
Robert C May	Irma Chavez May
Amanda Dawes	Kent Davies
Francine Schnieder	Susan Krueger

1. BUSINESS LIQUOR LICENSE #1303: 2461 Calle de Principal

Mr. Salazar gave an update on Business Liquor License #1303.

Opened Public Hearing

Mr. Foster stated he supports the business.

Ms. Krueger commented on the impact and the difficulty finding the business.

Ms. Schneider stated she supports the business.

Mr. Davies stated there are two entrances to the business: Principal and Guadalupe.

Closed Public Hearing

Trustee Nevarez commented

Mr. Salazar stated Google shows the exact location of the business, prior business had a liquor license issued to that address.

CLOSED PUBLIC HEARING 5:11 P.M.

1 THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT) OF THE TOWN OF MESILLA

2 REGULAR MEETING AT THE MESILLA TOWN HALL,
3 2231 AVENIDA DE MESILLA

4 MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025

5 ~ IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING Public Hearing ~ 5:19 p.m.

6 MINUTES

7
8 **TRUSTEES:** Russell Hernandez, Mayor
9 Adrianna Merrick, Mayor Pro Tem
10 Biviana Cadena, Trustee
11 Stephanie Johnson-Burick, Trustee
12 Gerard Nevarez, Trustee
13

14 **STAFF:** Lorenzo Astorga, Public Works Director
15 Gloria S Maya, Town Clerk/Recorder
16 Cole Morris, Fire Captain
17 Edward Salazar, Economic & Community Development Director
18 Greg Whited, Fire Chief
19

20 **PUBLIC:** Joe Foster Elaine Foster
21 Robert C May Irma Chavez May
22 Amanda Dawes Kent Davies
23 Francine Schnieder Susan Krueger
24 Trina Witter Mary H Ratje
25 Eric Walkinshaw Rafael Geck
26 Catherine Walkinshaw
27

28 **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

29 Mayor Hernandez led the Pledge of Allegiance.
30

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

32 **Roll Call.**

33 **Present:** Mayor Hernandez, Trustee Johnson-Burick, Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Trustee Nevarez
34

35 **3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA & APPROVAL**

36 **Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.**
37

38 Mayor Hernandez requested placing Action Item #7 and Item #9 (before #7) after Item #11.
39

40 **Amended Motion: To approve agenda, Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem**
41 **Merrick.**
42

43 **Amended Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

44 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
45 Trustee Cadena Yes
46 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
47 Trustee Nevarez Yes
48

49 **Original Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

50 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
51 Trustee Cadena Yes

1 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
2 Trustee Nevarez Yes

3
4

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

7 a) **WORKSESSION & BOT MINUTES** – Minutes of 01.13.2025 Meetings *Approved by*
8 *consent agenda with the noted comment*

9 b) ***PZHAC CASE** – Business License #1302 – 2489 Calle de Principal. Submitted by
10 Chantelle Thompson. Requesting permission to run a business in a portion of an established
11 restaurant. Zone: Historic Commercial (HC). *Approved by consent agenda*

12 c) ***APPROVAL:** Purchase Requisition- A Mountain – Calle de Picacho - \$428,141.00
13 *Approved by consent agenda*

14 d) ***APPROVAL:** Purchase Requisition – ESA Construction – PSB Renovation - \$24,657.09
15 *Approved by consent agenda*

16 e) ***APPROVAL:** Purchase Order – CES (A Mountain) – Mesilla Lateral Extension -
17 \$110,867.06

18 f) ***APPROVAL:** Purchase Requisition – Molzen Corbin – Calle de Picacho - \$8,090.49

19 g) ***APPROVAL:** Purchase Requisition – Molzen Corbin – Lateral Improvements –\$16,205.38
20

21 **Motion: To approve consent agenda, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Johnson-**
22 **Burick.**

23
24 Trustee Johnson-Burick noted the information was not made available to the trustees as it stated on the
25 01.13.2025 agenda.

26
27 **Amended Motion: To approve agenda as noted, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick, Seconded by Trustee**
28 **Cadena.**

29
30 **Amended Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

31 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
32 Trustee Cadena Yes
33 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
34 Trustee Nevarez Yes
35

36 **Original Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

37 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
38 Trustee Cadena Yes
39 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
40 Trustee Nevarez Yes
41

42 **5. PUBLIC INPUT ON CASES** – The public is invited to address the Board as allowed by the
43 **chair.**

44 Ms. Witter commented

45
46 Ms. Kruger commented

47
48 Ms. Ratje commented

49
50 Ms. Krueger commented

51
52 Mr. Davies commented

53
54 Ms. Foster commented
55

1 Ms. Chavez May commented
2

3 **6. ACTION AND CONSIDERATION**
4 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 5 a) **APPROVAL – Business Liquor License #1303 – 2461 Calle de Principal, submitted by**
6 **Irma Chavez** Requesting approval to sell beer, wine and spirits with on-premise consumption
7 and patio service. Historical Commercial ZONE: (HC).

8 **Motion: To approve Business Liquor License #1303 – 2461 Calle de Principal, submitted by Irma Chavez**
9 **May. Requesting approval to sell beer, wine and spirits with on-premise consumption and patio service.**
10 **Historical Commercial ZONE: (HC), Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.**
11

12 Trustee Nevarez commented the location had a restaurant that served alcohol.

13
14 Trustee Cadena stated it is appropriate to have a restaurant that serves alcohol in that area.

15
16 **Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

17 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
18 Trustee Cadena Yes
19 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
20 Trustee Nevarez Yes
21

22 **7. APPROVAL - Short Term Rental Ordinance**

23 **Motion: To approve Short Term Rental (STR) Ordinance as amended, Moved by Mayor Pro Tem**
24 **Merrick, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.**
25

26 Mayor Hernandez stated the board may place conditions, approve as presented, revisit with
27 recommendations or postpone. A reason must be given for choosing the way the board wants to proceed.
28

29 Trustee Nevarez requested information on setting a percentage or a specific number on STRs.
30

31 Mr. Salazar reviewed the process that was followed and recommendations made.
32

33 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick asked what the current number of STRs in Mesilla is.
34

35 Mr. Salazar responded at lasts count it was 35; there are some operating without a license which he is
36 investigating.
37

38 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated percentage is the fairest way to go.
39

40 Trustee Cadena stated she would like to incorporate Ms. Walkinshaw comments. Recommended a \$100
41 fee which would include the Business License.
42

43 **Amended Motion: To approve Short Term Rental (STR) Ordinance, with the incorporation the email**
44 **sent on January 12th by Ms. Walkinshaw, Moved by Trustee Cadena, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem**
45 **Merrick.**
46

47 Mr. Salazar stated he felt he had incorporated Ms. Walkinshaw’s corrections.
48

49 Trustee Cadena stated some of the corrections are missing. Referenced the email sent on Sunday, January
50 12th.
51

52 **Amended Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

53 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes
54 Trustee Cadena Yes

1 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes
2 Trustee Nevarez Yes

3

4 **2nd Amended Motion: To approve Short Term Rental (STR) Ordinance, fees to be \$35 for the Business License and \$65 for the STR permit, Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.**

5

6 Trustee Cadena asked that the two fees be combined.

7

8 Mr. Salazar responded that State Statute sets the Business License fee at \$35.00.

9

10 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated business are required to pay a Business License fee and an additional fee depending on the type of business.

11

12 **2nd Amended Motion: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

13 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

14 Trustee Cadena Yes

15 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

16 Trustee Nevarez Yes

17

18 **3rd Amended Motion: To approve Short Term Rental (STR) Ordinance, setting the total number of STRs at 100 across all zones, Moved by Trustee Nevarez, Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Merrick.**

19

20 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated recommends using a percentage to keep it fair.

21

22 Mayor Hernandez stated the STR Ad hoc committee has done a lot of leg work.

23

24 Mr. Salazar stated percentages are creating a density issue of STR in that area.

25

26 Trustee Cadena stated a percentage makes more sense.

27

28 Trustee Johnson-Burick: Called for the Question

29

30 **3rd Amended Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion failed (summary: Yes-1; No-3)**

31 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick No

32 Trustee Cadena No

33 Trustee Johnson-Burick No

34 Trustee Nevarez Yes

35

36 **4th Amended Motion: To approve Short Term Rental (STR) Ordinance, with final draft go to legal for review before being codified, Moved by Mayor Hernandez, Seconded by Trustee Nevarez.**

37

38 **4th Amended Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

39 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

40 Trustee Cadena Yes

41 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

42 Trustee Nevarez Yes

43

44 **Original Motion Roll Call Vote: Motion passed (summary: Yes-4)**

45 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick Yes

46 Trustee Cadena Yes

47 Trustee Johnson-Burick Yes

48 Trustee Nevarez Yes

49

50 **8. DISCUSSION – Items are for Discussion Only – no decisions made**

51 **a) Ordinance Updates**

52

- 1 i) Public Art/Murals
- 2 ii) Cell Phone Tower
- 3 iii) Signage
- 4 b) 2025-2026 Budget Planning

5
6 Mayor Hernandez reviewed the discussion items.

7
8 Trustee Nevarez asked for clarification on what type of Public Arts

9
10 Mayor Hernandez responded all forms of Public Arts.

11
12 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick stated there is a need to re-evaluate the different zones as well as planning for the
13 future. Insure that ordinances are incorporated with the Comprehensive Plan.

14
15 Trustee Cadena commented on incorporating ordinances with the Comprehensive Plan, cell towers.

16
17 Trustee Nevarez provided information on cell towers.

18
19 Mayor Hernandez encouraged the trustees to provide input and to work with staff and the public. Trustees
20 are to provide goals they would like to see for the town during the budget cycle.

21
22 **9. PUBLIC INPUT – The public is invited to address the Board as allowed by the chair.**

23 Ms. Walkinshaw commented

24
25 Ms. Bausova commented

26
27 Mr. Geck commented

28
29 **10. BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

30 Trustee Johnson-Burick: MPO meeting February 12th

31 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick: MPO meeting February 12th

32 Mayor Hernandez: Community, Committee and liaison will now be written reports and included in the
33 packets. Meetings: SWTR, Public Arts Ad hoc, Lodger's Tax, Visitor Center.

34
35 **11. BOARD OF TRUSTEE/STAFF COMMENTS**

36 Mr. Astorga gave a department (Public Works) update.

37
38 Trustee Nevarez asked about underground utilities.

39
40 Mr. Astorga stated that it will be looked at in the future.

41
42 Mr. Salazar gave a department (Economic & Community Development) update.

43
44 Trustee Johnson-Burick commented

45
46 Trustee Cadena commented

47
48 Mayor Pro Tem Merrick commented

49
50 Mayor Hernandez commented

51
52 **12. ADJOURNMENT**

