

1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **MEETING**
3 **MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2011**
4 **6:00 P.M.**

5
6 **TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
7 Jesus Caro, Mayor Pro Tem
8 Carlos Arzabal, Trustee
9 Sam Bernal, Trustee
10 Linda L. Flores, Trustee

11
12 **STAFF:** Nick Eckert, Town Clerk/Treasurer
13 Jeff Gray, Marshal
14 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
15 Gina Gentile, Inspector
16 Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
17 Gloria Maya, Recorder

18
19 **PUBLIC:** David Boswell Stacey Boswell
20 Diana M. Johnson Paul Pompeo
21 David Fierro Kim Allbright
22 Olga Turk Jan White
23 Richard Turk J.C. Johnstone
24 Ed Allbright Catherine Martinez
25 Linda Montoya Lewis E. Garrett
26 Harvey White Geri Bustos
27 Pauline Bustos Larry Ray
28 Kim Seifert Mary Helen Ratje
29 J. Paul Taylor Jayne Hoover
30 Joel Rice Rosie Martinez
31 John Nelson Ella Nelson
32 Trina Witter Enrique Vigil
33 Paul Robson Ken Martin
34 Michael Cadena Chris Alexander
35 Stephanie Johnson-Burick Ella Nelson
36
37

38 **OPENING CEREMONIES**

39
40 A. Pledge of Allegiance

41
42 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance

43
44 B. Moment of Silence for Alex Matteucci (Trustee from 1982 to 1990)

45
46 Mayor Barraza held a moment of silence for Alex Matteucci.

47
48 C. May is National Bike Month Proclamation. *Trina Witter, Mesilla Valley Bicycle Coalition*

49
50 Ms. Trina Witter read the proclamation making May National Bike Month. She invited the
51 trustees to the Ride of Silence on May 18th and a walk at 6:30 p.m. May 20th is Ride Your Bike to

1 Work.

2

3 Mayor Barraza proclaimed May National Bike Month and the week of May 16-20 Mesilla Ride
4 Your Bike. Encouraged everyone to attend the Ride of Silence on May 18th.

5

6 D. Day of Support and Solidarity for the People of Mexico Proclamation, *Ella Nelson*

7

8 Ms. Ella Nelson read the proclamation making May 8th Day of Support and Solidarity for the
9 People of Mexico. There is a group organizing an event on May 8th at the Community Center
10 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. and invited the Board of Trustees.

11

12 Mayor Barraza proclaimed May 8th Day of Support and Solidarity for the People of Mexico.
13 Encouraged everyone to attend.

14

15 **ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

16

17 **Roll Call.**

18 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Caro, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores.

19

20 **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

21

22 **Motion:** To approve the agenda, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Caro, **Seconded by** Trustee Flores.

23

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

25 **Yes:** Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Bernal, Mayor Pro Tem Caro, Trustee Flores.

26

27 **ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

28

29 **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Caro, **Seconded by** Trustee
30 Flores.

31

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

33 **Yes:** Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Bernal, Mayor Pro Tem Caro, Trustee Flores.

34

35 **BOT MINUTES:**

36 1. Regular Meeting 4-11-11 *Approved by consent agenda*

37

38 **NEW BUSINESS:**

39 2. Closed session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H) (7) for the purpose of discussing threatened litigation regarding
40 Case #011013. *Mayor Nora L. Barraza.*

41

42 **Motion:** To enter closed session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H) (7) for the purpose of discussing threatened
43 litigation regarding Case #011013, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Trustee Bernal.

44

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

46 Trustee Arzabal Yes

47 Trustee Bernal Yes

48 Mayor Pro Tem Caro Yes

49 Trustee Flores Yes

50

51 Enter closed session 6:11 p.m.

1 **Motion:** To enter regular meeting pursuant to 10-15-1 (H) (7) after discussing threatened litigation
2 regarding Case #011013, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Caro.

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

5 Trustee Arzabal Yes

6 Trustee Bernal Yes

7 Mayor Pro Tem Caro Yes

8 Trustee Flores Yes

9
10 Enter regular meeting at 6:55 p.m.

11
12 3. Case 011013 Approval/disapproval by resolution, Corner of Old Farm Road and University
13 Ave., Faith Lutheran Church of Las Cruces, Special Use Permit for a church pursuant to
14 MTC 18.55.020 B and 18.85.190. **Gina Gentile, Community Development Coordinator.**

15
16 Mayor Barraza explained the process that will be followed. She stated that the case will not go
17 back to the Planning and Zoning; it is in the hands of the Board of Trustees who will take action.

18
19 Ms. Gina Gentile indicated she didn't have anything new to add since the last meeting but will
20 address any new concerns or questions.

21
22 **Motion:** To approve Case 011013 by resolution, Corner of Old Farm Road and University Ave.,
23 Faith Lutheran Church of Las Cruces, Special Use Permit for a church pursuant to MTC
24 18.55.020 B and 18.85.190, **Moved by** Trustee Bernal, **Seconded by** Trustee Arzabal.

25
26 Mayor Pro Tem Caro read 18.55.010 and believes the Comprehensive Plan has everything to do
27 with it.

28
29 Ms. Gentile responded 18.55.010 is referring to land uses which are described in the section; read
30 18.55.010, 18.55.020, 18.85.190. The reason the consideration for special uses is more limited
31 typically when special uses are listed for a zone they are already determined to be compatible
32 with the zone they are listed for with the idea that a special use is required because there needs to
33 be closer scrutiny to the uses. It is not to say that the Comprehensive plan is obsolete. When the
34 zoning regulations were drafted and continued to be revised through the years; the special uses
35 18.55.020 undoubtedly gave consideration to the Comprehensive Plan or they would not have been
36 written into the ordinance. In 18.55.010 there are certain ones that were excluded for certain
37 uses. The Comprehensive Plan was taken into consideration when the Special Use section of the
38 ordinance was written. On page 34 of the Comprehensive Plan there is a description of the RF
39 Zone which is for the purpose of preserving the green belt; the RA zone is for the purpose of
40 single family use along the higher density area of the community and it does not describe that the
41 purpose is for preservation of the green belt. The fact that it is RA indicates that agriculture is a
42 permitted and encouraged use; the Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives do not say that it is
43 for preservation of the green belt.

44
45 Mayor Pro Tem Caro read the Comprehensive Plan. Read statement. Inaudible

46
47 Mayor Barraza stated that is why there are 2 categories Land Use and Special Use Permits which
48 does have allowable uses.

49
50 Mayor Pro Tem Caro stated that before a special use permit they need to show.

51

1 Mayor Barraza responded it talks about the uses and that is the reason it is broken up into 2
2 categories.

3
4 Ms. Gentile stated the Comprehensive Plan is a guide for decision making. Page 34 will help
5 with that consideration. The size, traffic and the character and they feel are part of the
6 Comprehensive Plan are not unanswered questions; they have been brought up in prior meetings
7 and should be considered when making a decision. One of the considerations: is it a problem
8 because it is a church of that size or would there also be a problem if it was a home of that size
9 being built.

10
11 Mayor Pro Tem Caro responded the resident would have to go through the application and he
12 does not believe it would be that size since it is a 3 acre plot.

13
14 Ms. Gentile indicated there is not limitation of a permitted structure in the RA zone. The
15 application needs to be given the same weight of consideration that you would a residence built at
16 that size. Read the Institute of Transportation Survey results. Read the letter from Mr. Harry
17 Hansen regarding no negative impact on property appraisal.

18
19 Mayor Pro Tem Caro stated no one has attempted to buy the property. It depends who paid for
20 the appraisal. After reviewing code 18.85.190 it does not say that the Planning and Zoning has 40
21 days to make a decision. Read statement.

22
23 Ms. Gentile responded the February 22nd meeting was posted for a public hearing. Before the
24 public hearing was closed she advised the Planning and Zoning that they may wish to continue
25 the public hearing and set a date and time before closing. That would have extended the public
26 hearing, the minutes and the recording reflect that the hearing was closed and later on in the
27 meeting another public hearing was set. This information was provided to the town attorney and
28 his opinion is that the 40 days if from the close of the public hearing which occurred on February
29 22nd.

30
31 Mayor Pro Tem Caro stated the continuation of public hearings was until April 4th.

32
33 Mayor Barraza stated this was already discussed; copies of the minutes were also made available
34 to the trustees. The public hearing was posted on the agenda; public hearing was opened up at the
35 meeting; public input was heard; there was talk about postponing Ms. Gentile recommended
36 extending the public hearing instead they closed the public hearing. It is reflected on the minutes
37 and the Planning and Zoning approved the minutes. The town attorney stated the public hearing
38 was opened and closed which constitutes the start of the 40 days. The Planning and Zoning had
39 the opportunity to act on this case. They had the option of holding special meetings and/or
40 worksession which they did where all this was discussed.

41
42 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked why any of the members of that commission aren't in agreement with
43 what is being said. Have they been asked I am sure they have something to say?

44
45 Mayor Barraza indicated they have interpreted it differently they say that the hearing was on
46 going. If we say that a public hearing is on going; there would never be closure.

47
48 Trustee Flores stated she had wanted to look at public safety and welfare. She investigated the
49 traffic issue and she cannot complain about the traffic. She is uncomfortable with the way it was
50 done. Even using the extreme from both sides she does not feel she can deny it based on the
51 traffic. After reviewing section 18.55.010 she feels we can consider the Comprehensive Plan

1 based on welfare which is based on well being and that is what the community wants. She agrees
2 that the RA does not read green belt. She does not feel someone will buy the land for agriculture
3 use with the prices in Mesilla. That is a judgment call for all of us to make. Open space can be
4 something we can look at when making the decision.

5
6 Mayor Barraza stated homes are taking over the agriculture land. The Town of Mesilla has done
7 a very good job in preserving agriculture land.

8
9 Mr. Pompeo summarized his position. He reviewed the handout which addressed concerns and
10 questions brought forth during prior meetings and the worksession. We are following the
11 Comprehensive Plan. The large homes being developed taking up the green belt.

12
13 Mr. John Nelson stated the idea that you can decide the land is too valuable for agricultural use;
14 the Comprehensive Plan does not give you the right to make that decision. It is not the board's
15 decision to make. The board is supposed to follow the Comprehensive Plan and it was put in
16 there to maintain agricultural land. It is not a consideration that should be given. If you want to
17 change the Comprehensive Plan because of land value in Mesilla, that can be done. Read the
18 ordinances. It does imply that it has to follow the Comprehensive Plan. He believes 18.55.010
19 applies to this case.

20
21 Mr. Chris Alexander stated there is a rural farm zone and in trying to make everyone happy we
22 are allowing spot zoning which is not allowed. RA does lend it self to agricultural use. We have
23 done the best that we can to facilitate the development of that land. The Comprehensive Plan
24 does lean to what we call layered buffers. He advises that we do not do approve. He was on the
25 commission during the last review of the Comprehensive Plan and encourages the board to turn
26 down the Special Use Permit.

27
28 Mr. Larry Ray distributed and reviewed the minutes of the 2010 board meeting where they
29 approved the property. 18.55 is like the constitution and everything else a variance there after.
30 Traffic is based on University Avenue. The traffic in our neighborhood has not been discussed
31 and the traffic will become an issue on our streets also. We are being told to live with whatever
32 comes next.

33
34 Ms. Alexandra Hall indicated she is concerned that any applicant be treated fairly. The elected
35 officials are to represent the best interest of Mesilla.

36
37 Mayor Barraza stated those are the same comments she made before and asked if she had new
38 comments.

39
40 Ms. Hall responded she hopes so. She asked if there if there are any other properties in Mesilla
41 suitable for a church that would not impact the issues being discussed. It is important to have 2
42 sides to the traffic issue. She did not see traffic numbers for special events at the church, the
43 current population; is growth factored into these numbers. She drove through the neighbor hood
44 to get familiar.

45
46 Mr. David Fierro asked if the mayor would be reclusing herself from voting.

47
48 Mayor Barraza responded she had already said she would.

49
50 Mr. Fierro asked if this is approved would we be opening the door for other church sites.

51

1 Mayor Barraza responded according to our ordinance anyone can apply for a Special Use Permit
2 for anything that falls within the categories.

3
4 Ms. Ella Nelson stated Mesilla is a special place, it may not have been special in the 40's, 50's,
5 and 60's but it was special to the people that lived here. Mesilla was red lined and people were
6 not loan money to improve their homes. Then Mesilla was incorporated and the ordinances were
7 written and it started to maintain and preserve the character of Mesilla. Mesilla is now a very
8 desirable place to live. The ordinances made us what we are today. A 15,000 square feet building
9 with asphalt parking lots would not look as nice as a 15,000 square feet home with a lot of green
10 space. The ordinances are who and what we are. If we do not fight to follow them to the letter
11 of the law we are going to loose what we have. If you think we don't have tax revenue from the
12 tourist just wait until we look like Las Cruces and then see who is going to come to walk around
13 the plaza.

14
15 Mayor Barraza stated the people make Mesilla then our ordinances.

16
17 Ms. Susan Krueger stated looking at the church as a positive thing; the church could look at the
18 Mercado as another location which would benefit Mesilla. Agrees with Ms. Hall's idea of
19 looking at other location around Mesilla.

20
21 Ms. Stacey Boswell asked if a person wants to build a home in Mesilla do they have to go
22 through the application process. Feels it is not realistic that someone could build a 4 story home
23 in Mesilla.

24
25 Mayor Barraza responded all applicants must go through the process beginning with the Planning
26 & Zoning.

27
28 Ms. Boswell asked if the residents also have the 40 days.

29
30 Mayor Barraza reiterated this is a Special Use Permit which has different guidelines and
31 procedures. If the Special Use Permit is approved then the proposed building will go through a
32 different process for approval.

33
34 Mr. Ronald Johnson asked if the owner can close a private road.

35
36 Mayor Barraza responded yes an owner can close a private road. Mesilla had been sending the
37 crew out to clean the road thinking it belonged to Mesilla.

38
39 Mr. Richard Turk stated our church is the daughter congregation of Mission Lutheran Church.
40 We are affiliated with Missouri Lutheran Church which there is a website that explains who we
41 are and what we stand for. We the mission got too big they created a daughter congregation
42 which is what we are they did not abandon us. And if we get too big we will also not abandon a
43 daughter congregation. We do hope to grow but at our Easter Service there were 17 cars in the
44 parking lot.

45
46 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked if is true that the Lutheran Church has a 3 acre track at the Field of
47 Dreams along with another 18 acre track down that way.

48
49 Mr. Turk responded 5 years ago they attempted to purchase the land but the deal fell through so
50 the answer is they do not own any of that property.

51

1 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked if with the parking egress there is a stipulation that they have only
2 one entrance or do they have to have a second access.
3
4 Marshal Gray responded there can be one entrance/exit as long as the egress allows for a turn
5 around emergency vehicles.
6
7 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked does the design allow for that.
8
9 Fire Chief Hoban responded that will be addressed if it is approved.
10
11 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked if they are required to have access to a fire hydrant.
12
13 Fir Chief Hoban responded they are required to have a sprinkler system and if approved they
14 must have a sprinkler system and if approved the fire hydrant must be closer to the vicinity.
15
16 Mayor Pro Tem Caro stated he understood from Ms. Lujan that they will not have access to town
17 utility service and asked if they will have their own wells and septic system.
18
19 Ms. Debbie Lujan responded it will be done the same as it was done for Los Reyes subdivision.
20 They will provide their own infrastructures. We have water all the way down University Avenue.
21 It will be on the cost of the development.
22
23 Mayor Pro Tem Caro indicated he understands many of the residents in that area have to have
24 wells and septic tanks since we are not providing services.
25
26 Ms. Lujan responded we are not providing water in that area because of the cost.
27
28 Mr. Eckert indicated the church will be required to hook up to the town water but there is no
29 sewer service in that area.
30
31 Mayor Pro Tem Caro stated he understood new structures would be required to hook up to sewers
32 due to health concerns.
33
34 Mr. Eckert stated University Avenue is a Department of Transportation road so any driveways
35 will need to go through their process.
36
37 Ms. Lujan indicated the water will also need to go to Department of Transportation.
38
39 Trustee Bernal asked if the church has plans to install basketball courts or playgrounds.
40
41 Mr. Pompeo responded the plans reflect gardens on the property. He feels there would be
42 gathering areas and/or a playground. Reiterated they are not operating a school. There are open
43 spaces and areas in the current site plan.
44
45 Mayor Barraza stated a roll call will be taken and the trustee must give a reason why he/she voted
46 the way he/she did so it can be added to the resolution.
47
48 **Roll Vote:** Motion denied passed (summary: Yes = 1; No 3).
49 Trustee Arzabal Yes: The ordinance reflects Special Use Permits are permitted in any zone. There is no
50 environment pollution. He did not see the safety of the children being jeopardized.
51 He did not see where the property value would go down.

1 Trustee Bernal No: He supports the Comprehensive Plan and the safety and traffic impact that is coming
2 with it.

3 Mayor Pro Tem Caro No: Read statement. He is under the opinion that the location, size and nature of
4 this SUP is not under the betterment of the public's overall welfare. And is a
5 deterrent to the community's goals and objects identified in Mesilla's
6 Comprehensive Plan. The value of both improved and unimproved property would
7 also be adversely affected as far as he is concerned as well (inaudible). As
8 representatives of our community we have taken in to consideration that numerous
9 opinions and concerns that have been expressed by our constituents. And also be
10 cognoscente of the fact that approval will be felt beyond the boundaries of Mesilla.
11 The relevant question is if the approval of this request will be beneficial to the general
12 welfare of the public as specified in the Comprehensive Plan or will it only benefit an
13 individual owner or special group. Based on comments and facts presented to the
14 board on both sides and due to the size of the building and increase in traffic I have
15 concluded that approving the REP I would be going against the will of the people as
16 evident in the Comprehensive Plan and it would disrupt the quality of life and harmony
17 once compressive neighborhood hence in this matter is Nay.

18 Trustee Flores No: Comprehensive Plan Policy B; going with maintaining the open space because of the
19 parking lot situation. She may have voted a different way 10 minutes ago.

20

21 Mr. Eckert stated the resolution will outline the process that has taken place to date, the various meetings
22 date; attachment A will outline the trustees vote and comments.

23

24 Mayor Barraza asked how the resolution will be stated.

25

26 Mr. Eckert responded Ms. Gentile took notes and the minutes which will be added to the format of the
27 resolution.

28

29 Mayor Barraza asked if the approval of the resolution would reflect the nay.

30

31 Mr. Eckert responded yes.

32

33 Mayor Barraza thanked Ms. Gentile for all her research and hard work.

34 **4. Presentation on drought conditions. *Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief.***

35

36 Fire Chief Hoban reported on the current drought conditions. Presented various charts and maps
37 related to the drought conditions. The Powerpoint presentation will be attached to minutes if
38 necessary for further review.

39

40 Mayor Pro Tem Caro Inaudible

41

42 Fire Chief Hoban responded it depends on who owns the land. We are currently talking with the
43 County Fire Marshal's about enacting fire restrictions in the county and doing it all at the same
44 time. BLM has enacted restriction for public lands. Fires affect people in ways that we don't
45 even appreciate until it happens to us.

46

47 Mayor Barraza asked if he feels the fireworks will be banned due to the drought situation.

48

49 Fire Chief Hoban responded yes but according to state law we can only ban aerial and ground
50 audibles. A resolution banning those fireworks will need to be done 20 days from the sale period.
51 The vendors have stated their support for enacting these types of restrictions. We did do a
52 drought restriction in 2008 but were lifted the restriction about a week before the 4th of July. The
53 board has to approve and rescind the restriction.

1 Ms. Susan Krueger indicated we are not likely to get EBID until mid May. She stated that the
2 last time the ordinance had a clause under extreme conditions.

3
4 Fire Chief Hoban responded by state law it is by resolution and it is a temporary ban; 30 days
5 from after the resolution is enacted. If done by the end of May it will extend through June and if
6 need be done to cover through July. It does not allow us to ban all fireworks. EBID is not
7 scheduled to release any water until mid June.

8
9 5. For adoption: An ordinance amending the sign regulations regarding signage for more than
10 one business in a building 18.65.050 & 18.65.220. **Gina Gentile, CDC.**

11
12 Ms. Gina Gentile stated there was a loop hole in the sign resolution so this is to amend that
13 ordinance. Reviewed the definitions that have been added and changes made.

14
15 **Motion:** To adopt an ordinance amending the sign regulations regarding signage for more than
16 one business in a building 18.65.050 & 18.65.220, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Second by**
17 Mayor Pro Tem Caro.

18
19 Mr. Chris Alexander asked if the 4 businesses in the one building are divided by a wall are all
20 those businesses going to have separate entrances.

21
22 Ms. Gentile responded no.

23
24 Mr. Alexander asked how the situation will be handled in the event of a fire.

25
26 Mayor Barraza responded the building may be operating 2 businesses out of the same office or
27 space.

28
29 Mr. Alexander stated so separate entrances will not be needed. Asked if in the Mercado where
30 there are 4 or 5 businesses those could feasibly be broken down into 15 different businesses
31 within those 4 or 5 rooms.

32
33 Mayor Barraza responded it could be possible. That is where the sign ordinance will come in.

34
35 Mr. Alexander stated the huge sign would advertise the main structure but each individual
36 business will not be allowed to have a sign.

37
38 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (summary: Yes = 4).

39 Trustee Arzabal Yes

40 Trustee Bernal Yes

41 Mayor Pro Tem Caro Yes

42 Trustee Flores Yes

43
44 6. Finance department update. **Nick Eckert, Town Clerk/Treasurer**

45
46 Mr. Nick Eckert gave a Finance department update. The Powerpoint presentation will be
47 attached to minutes if necessary for further review. There will be one worksession the first week
48 of May to determine where we stand with the budget. Trustee questions and concerns will be
49 addressed. At the May 9th and May 23rd Board of Trustees meetings there will be a public hearing

1 as mandated by the state. If the Board of Trustees request a worksession after the May 23rd
2 meeting please let him know so that he can schedule that.

3
4 Mayor Barraza stated it is important that the trustees attend all the meetings and worksessions.

5
6 Mr. Eckert stated the worksession will be May 4th at 5:30 p.m. At that worksession more detailed
7 information will be provided. Any questions or concerns that may arise will be researched or
8 answered. Overall it is great that we have had funds come in above the projected revenue but we
9 still need to manage the budget quite wisely. We need to continue to budget very conservatively
10 to build up the reserve incase of emergencies. Feels this will come to light once we work with the
11 budget and he looks forward to working with the board during the budget process.

12
13 Mayor Barraza stated the department heads have been very good job of staying within their
14 budget and should be commended. We have had some unforeseen expenses and are fortunate we
15 have had the money to take care of those.

16
17 7. Acknowledgement of Leavitt Group Southwest for their contribution to the Mesilla summer
18 recreation program. *Ashley Echavarria, Events Coordinator.*

19
20 Ms. Ashley Echavarria acknowledged the Leavitt Group Southwest for their contribution to the
21 Mesilla summer recreation program and thank you letters have been sent.

22
23 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked how the fiesta is coming along.

24
25 Mayor Barraza responded that is the next item on the agenda.

26
27 8. Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Update. *Ashley Echavarria, Events Coordinator.*

28
29 Ms. Ashley Echavarria provided a report on the Cinco de Mayo fiesta status. It has been a
30 challenge as well as a learning experience.

31
32 Mayor Pro Tem Caro Inaudible

33
34 Mayor Barraza responded that is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees when we assign
35 duties.

36
37 Ms. Echavarria indicated she will provide water. Continued with Cinco de Mayo report.

38
39 Trustee Flores asked what the charges are to the vendors.

40
41 Ms. Echavarria responded it varies based on what they are selling; \$425 for food and drinks, \$50
42 for a non-profit, \$150 for arts and crafts. Appreciates all the help she has been receiving from
43 everyone. Since there are additional components we need additional help.

44
45 Mayor Barraza stated we need help with the ticket booth since the town will receive some of the
46 proceeds. She has asked to schedule the trustees a time to help with the fiesta.

47
48 Ms. Echavarria stated she is hoping for more volunteers but it is not looking good. The schedules
49 will be sent out and if they personally cannot help a family member may help.

50

1 Mayor Barraza stated the trustees are willing to help. She will be there the whole weekend so she
2 will help where needed. It will be there responsibility to get a sub if they are unable to help that
3 weekend. She would like for all the trustees to be present at each of the openings of the fiesta for
4 introductions.

5
6 Ms. Echavarria indicated she will get the schedule out this week so the trustees can plan
7 accordingly.

8
9 Trustee Flores indicated her daughter will be performing at 1:30 p.m. so asked that she not be
10 scheduled to work at that time.

11
12 Mayor Barraza stated Ms. Echavarria has put in a lot of time and effort into the fiesta. Thanked
13 her for all her hard work. She feels the rides will add to the fiesta.

14
15 Mayor Pro Tem Caro inaudible Cinco de Mayo.

16
17 Ms. Echavarria stated and that is something to keep in mind for the last fiesta.

18
19 Mayor Barraza indicated Ms. Echavarria has been contacted by someone who has a mechanical
20 bull and has a million dollar liability insurance but we have not decided.

21
22 Ms. Echavarria stated at first she was adamant to say yes but we need to look at the safety aspect
23 of it.

24
25 Fire Chief Hoban stated we did speak to New Mexico Self Insurer and we found where it would
26 be safe to do but it is a space issue. The town is not insurer for mechanical amusement devices
27 we would have to have him add the town to the policy.

28
29 Mr. Chris Alexander stated he feels it is great the fiestas are going so well. Maybe the town can
30 solicit all the businesses for a sponsorship at different levels. This will also give the business
31 advertizing. Our family businesses would donate.

32
33 Mayor Barraza stated she would like for our local businesses to get more involved with the
34 fiestas.

35
36 Trustee Bernal thanked Ms. Echavarria for the direction the fiesta is taking.

37
38 Ms. Echavarria stated she could not do that with out everyone's support especially Public Works.

39
40 Mayor Barraza stated the department head meetings are very worthwhile and we have come up
41 with some good ideas.

42
43 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

44
45 Mr. Chris Alexander commended the Board of Trustees on the way they voted on the Special Use
46 Permit. He hopes this has opened their eyes on what could happen when you create spot zoning
47 and the whole integrity of our ordinance is based on layered zoning. Keeping with the
48 Comprehensive Plan is the most important part of the growth or the Town of Mesilla.

1 Mayor Barraza stated it is not spot zoning; the zoning was not going to change. The property had
2 been illegally subdivided.

3
4 Mr. Alexander indicated that is why it is so important that town consider private and public roads.
5
6

7 BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS:
8

9 Mayor Pro Tem Caro commented that the status of Los Arenales needs attention with regards to
10 trees, benches and the plaque has been removed.
11

12 Ms. Debbie Lujan responded the plaque has been graffitied and she has to have it redone. They
13 are currently finishing up the sprinkler system for that park. The benches were replaced last year.
14 They are working on it.
15

16 Mayor Barraza stated we have looked at the price of replacing benches and the town can not
17 afford to replace benches or playground equipment. It is difficult since there are a lot of needs
18 and we just cannot afford so we have to prioritize everything.
19

20 Trustee Flores stated the park across from the Community Center is filthy. It disgusts me that
21 parents teach their children that it is okay to leave their messes. The equipment is smeared with
22 feces.
23

24 Mayor Barraza stated she is so sorry to hear that. Last night she saw people picking up trash.
25

26 Ms. Lujan stated that is what was happening to our public restrooms so now they are locked up.
27

28 Trustee Bernal stated Vecino a Vecino is on hold due to financing.
29

30 Mayor Barraza asked if we are going to have a dumpster for the fiesta.
31

32 Ms. Echavarria responded yes.
33

34 Mayor Barraza stated at the last meeting one of the trustees mentioned they had not received their
35 packet. It is up to us, we know we are going to have a meeting, if you have not received the
36 packet by Thursday or Friday please call the town hall. Staff provides the packet. If we are not
37 prepared for the meeting it is kind of embarrassing for us to sit here and you say you haven't
38 gotten your packet. Staff knows they sent out the packet. And if we are doing something wrong;
39 please let us know if you do not receive your packet. I can't understand how you can come to a
40 meeting and not have your packet and not be informed of what is going on. It is your
41 responsibility; if you don't have your packet or if you want a hard copy one will be placed in your
42 mailbox. Many times you are asking staff questions at the meeting after we have asked you to
43 present those questions to staff prior to the meeting so they can answer/research your questions or
44 concerns. So we are not sitting here making obstacles of ourselves. Staff and department heads
45 feels they do not have the support of the Board of Trustees. Please take that into consideration.
46 Staff is there to provide you with the information that you need. If they don't have the answer
47 they will do the research and get that answer to your. Staff has gone over and beyond their
48 duties. We are so fortunate to have such dedicated staff that gives 110%. Please support the staff
49 and department heads. She hopes to see everyone at the Cinco de Mayo.
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ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Caro

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

Yes: Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Bernal, Mayor Pro Tem Caro, Trustee Flores.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:55 P.M.

APPROVED THIS 9TH DAY OF MAY 2011.

Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:

Nicholas Eckert
Town Clerk/Treasurer