

1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **TOWN OF MESILLA**
3 **MEETING**
4 **MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011**
5 **6:00 P.M.**

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

12
13 **STAFF:** Nick Eckert, Town Clerk/Treasurer
14 Ashley Echavarria, Special Event Coordinator
15 Jeff Gray, Marshal
16 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
17 Debbie Lujan, Public Works Director
18 Gloria Maya, Recorder

19
20 **PUBLIC:** Priscilliana Sandoval
21

22
23 **OPENING CEREMONIES**

24
25 A. Pledge of Allegiance

26
27 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.
28

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

30
31 **Roll Call.**

32 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Mayor Pro Tem Caro, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Flores.
33

34 **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

35
36 Trustee Arzabal asked to place item #13 on the consent agenda.

37
38 Mayor Barraza stated Trustee Flores shared the grammar corrections she had with Mr. Eckert who will
39 make those corrections. Those corrections will not change any of the meanings of the handbook.

40
41 Trustee Flores asked if Case #011040 is approved with the conditions placed by the Planning and Zoning.

42
43 Mayor Barraza responded the case is approved with the conditions.
44

45 **Motion:** To accept the agenda as amended, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem
46 Caro.

47
48 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

49 **Yes:** Mayor Pro Tem Caro, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Flores.
50

51 **ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**
52

1 **Motion:** To accept the consent agenda as amended, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro
2 Tem Caro.

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

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

6
7 **BOT MINUTES:**

8 1. Regular Meeting 5-23-11 *Approved by consent agenda*
9

10 **PZHAC BUSINESS:**

11 2. Case 011053; 1950 Calle del Norte, Allen Hayes, Sign Permit for Hayes Agency, LLC. Zone: HC.
12 *Approved by consent agenda*

13 3. Case 011052; 2015 Glass Road, Teresa Benedicto Monastery, Building Permit for an addition. Zone
14 RF. *Approved by consent agenda*

15 4. Case 011040; 2521 Avenida de Mesilla, Ellen Schwartz, Sign Permit for Unique Health Boutique.
16 Zone: HC. *Approved by consent agenda*

17 5. Case 011054; 1724 Tierra de Mesilla (vacant lot), David Sudimack, Sign Permit for Meson de Mesilla
18 overflow parking. Zone: C. *Approved by consent agenda*
19

20 **NEW BUSINESS:**

21 6. Presentation of One Valley, One Vision 2040. *Paul Michaud, Senior Planner City of LC.*
22

23 Mayor Barraza introduced presenters.

24
25 Mr. Paul Michaud and Mr. Roger Hendrick gave a presentation of One Valley, One Vision 2040.
26 PowerPoint available in the Town Clerk's office.
27

28 Mayor Barraza stated once the Board of Trustees has had an opportunity to review the document it will be
29 brought to the board for discussion and if needed will invite the presenters to answer questions. Asked if
30 we would include this with our Comprehensive Plan. The town is currently seeking funding to update our
31 Comprehensive Plan.
32

33 Mr. Michaud responded the Comprehensive Plan and the Regional Plan need to be addressed as separate
34 projects. The Regional Plan will be used as guidance for the Comprehensive Plan.
35

36 Mayor Barraza indicated it will come back to the board as a resolution to include the plan.
37

38 7. **For approval/disapproval: request by Community Options to host a 5K Run in Mesilla on Saturday,
39 Feb. 11, 2012. *Ashley Echavarría, Events Coordinator. Approved by consent agenda*

40 8. **For approval/disapproval: a request by Shawn Robinson to hold a free concert on the Plaza Monday,
41 July 4, 2011 from 9 to 10:30 p.m.. *Ashley Echavarría, Events Coordinator. Approved by consent*
42 *agenda*

43 9. **For approval/disapproval: School resource officer contract between LCPS and Town of Mesilla. *Jeff*
44 *Gray, Marshal. Approved by consent agenda*

45 10. **For approval/disapproval: Southwest Disposal rate increase in the Consumer Price Index from April
46 2010 to April 2011, which translates to a 3.2% increase effective July 1, 2011. *Debbie Lujan, Public*
47 *Works Director. Approved by consent agenda*

48 11. **For approval/disapproval: Writing-off off specific accounts over 4-years old per the allowance for
49 doubtful accounts resolution. *Nick Eckert, Town Clerk/Treasurer. Approved by consent agenda*

50 12. Appointment of Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commissioner (PZHAC) member(s).
51 *Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.*
52

53 Mayor Barraza indicated she received letters of interest for the 3 Planning and Zoning Commission
54 positions; Mr. Dennis Burn resigned, Chairman John Sullivan and Mr. David Rockstraw positions are up
55 for re-appointments. She had an opportunity to interview the 2 applicants and is making a recommendation

1 to the board. Ms. Georgina Ramirez who will replace Mr. David Rockstraw, 2 year position, is a 5th
2 generation Mesillera and an educator with the Las Cruces Public Schools; Priscilliana Sandoval will fill
3 Mr. Dennis Burn, 1 year remaining on appointment, she has been in Mesilla for 13 years and is very active
4 in the Dia de Los Muertos, the Farmer's Market and does tours for the tourists. She has not had the
5 opportunity to meet with Mr. Sullivan to see if he will be appointed for another 2 years.

6
7 **Motion:** To approve the appointment of Planning, Zoning and Historical Appropriateness Commissioner
8 (PZHAC) member(s), **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Mayor Pro Tem Caro.

9
10 Trustee Flores stated she has indicated before she supports Mr. John Nelson who has a lot of experience
11 and knowledge of the ordinances. She will approve the Mayor's recommendation but urges the mayor to
12 consider Mr. Rockstraw's and Mr. Nelson's experience. She would like assurance that they are going to
13 try to follow the laws, statutes, and ordinances in place.

14
15 Mayor Barraza responded she made them aware of that Mesilla has ordinances in place that need to be
16 followed. She has instructed Ms. Gentile to hold worksession with the newly appointed members as well
17 as the current members to review and study the ordinances since there have questions regarding
18 interpretation. She did tell them that the ordinances need to be followed and asked them how they view the
19 Planning and Zoning Commission. Felt very confident with these 2 appointments. Stated the Historical
20 Preservation Ordinance is being currently being worked on.

21
22 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked if there is a third selection.

23
24 Mayor Barraza responded she does not have a third selection so Mr. John Sullivan will remain on the board
25 for now. Mr. Dax Contreras and Mr. Kim Siefert have 1 more year on their appointments. Reiterated Ms.
26 Ramirez will be a 2 year appointment and Ms. Sandoval will be a 1 year appointment.

27
28 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked if Mr. Contreras is working out of town.

29
30 Mayor Barraza responded Mr. Contreras is working out of town as an intern.

31
32 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked if it would be a good suggestion to have someone on the commission that is
33 able to attend meetings.

34
35 Mayor Barraza responded she needs to speak to him what he plans to do with the Planning and Zoning. He
36 is very knowledgeable and gets to the point at the meetings.

37
38 Ms. Ramirez thanked the board for the privilege of serving on the Planning and Zoning. In her letter of
39 interest she expressed how important preservation is for the Town of Mesilla. She is very committed to the
40 Town of Mesilla because it is very important to her, her family and the future.

41
42 Ms. Sandoval thanked the board for their confidence and she will not let you down. She will give her mind
43 and her heart.

44
45 Mayor Barraza stated Ms. Sandoval is also an artist. Ms. Gentile will be scheduling a worksession and/or
46 worksessions until they feel comfortable. She will notify Mr. Sullivan who is the chairperson. If they so
47 do chose a new chairperson can be selected. If they have any questions we have very good, reliable staff
48 that is always willing to help.

49
50 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

51 **Yes:** Mayor Pro Tem Caro, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Flores

52
53 13. For approval/disapproval: changes to article 11 – employee benefits section of the personnel rules and
54 regulations. *Nick Eckert, Town Clerk/Treasurer. Approved by consent agenda*

1 14. Update on drought conditions, burn and fireworks ban. **Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief.**
2
3 Fire Chief Hoban gave a presentation on the drought situation. PowerPoint available in the Town Clerk's
4 office.
5
6 Mayor Pro Tem Caro agrees to the Fire Chief Hoban's recommendation of remaining as it is currently due
7 to the drought condition.
8
9 Trustee Flores asked who he will meet with on a weekly basis.
10
11 Fire Chief Hoban responded he will review the reports every Monday and any changes will be forwarded to
12 the board. If the moderate range is reached he will request an emergency meeting to lift the restrictions.
13
14 Trustee Arzabal asked if the display will take place.
15
16 Fire Chief Hoban responded he feels they can put enough safety in place in order to hold the display. His
17 last desire is to cancel the display. We have to be flexible but wants to keep it in place.
18
19 Mr. Jimmy Nevarez indicated he agrees the proclamation should be extended. Asked if the property
20 owners have been notified of the display. He will get in touch with Mr. Binns regarding the display.
21
22 Mayor Barraza stated the other business owners will be notified of the firework display by town staff.
23 Asked Mr. Nevarez to coordinate with Ms. Ashley Echavarria and Fire Chief Hoban on what is being plan
24 for the firework display.
25
26
27 Mr. Nevarez responded he will organize that with Fire Chief Hoban to insure everything is to his liking.
28
29 Mayor Barraza indicated the town will include the information in the newsletter. Stated the parks are
30 looking very sad due to the drought; only 2 of our parks have a sprinkler system. The town will be
31 receiving 1 watering this year which will be on July 4th. Also, she has asked code enforcement to go
32 around the community to ensure that the trimmings are being disposed and not kept on the properties
33 becoming a fire hazard.
34
35 Mr. Nevarez stated he believed restrictions prohibit fireworks use on the parks.
36
37 Mayor Barraza responded we are leaning in that direction due to the situation.
38
39 Mr. Nevarez indicated he is willing to hire security for the last 3 days who will be stationed at the parks to
40 prevent firework use since he has as much to loose as the Town of Mesilla.
41
42 Fire Chief Hoban stated that was discussed at the department head meeting but we are hopeful that the
43 parks will improve after the watering.
44
45 Mayor Barraza reiterated we need to enforce residents removing debris from their yards.
46
47 Fire Chief Hoban stated he has been asked by residents when the fire restriction will be lifted; he has
48 informed them it is their responsibility to keep their yards clean. The town cannot provide for disposal of
49 private waste. The Lawn and Yard Waste Recycling Center located past Mountain View Hospital is
50 available for disposal of trimmings at no charge and also gives away compost for free. He asked if that
51 information could be added to the newsletter.
52
53 Mayor Barraza asked him to forward that information to Ms. Echavarria.
54
55 Mayor Pro Tem Caro recommended making the parks "no smoking" due to the current conditions and
56 asked that they be monitored.

1 Fire Chief Hoban responded vehicles have been stopped where drivers are tossing cigarettes out of car
2 windows. This weekend there was an unauthorized burn and the individual conducting the burn almost lost
3 a tractor in the process.

4
5 Mayor Barraza stated everyone is being very vigilant. Asked him to report on the Wallow Fire.

6
7 Fire Chief Hoban indicated the Wallow Fire has burned 433,000 acres and is only 6% contained. The east
8 zone of New Mexico is now on fire; Catron County remains on alert. The fire is about 15 miles away from
9 the transmission line. If the fire remains stable for the next few days we will be out of danger. On Friday
10 there was a sudden loss of communication due to an electrical problem with MRVDA's 911. The 911
11 phone lines automatically transfer to the State Police so there was no loss of 911 services. The systems that
12 have been in place to roll over due to certain situations did work. We will get an update from MRVDA
13 Some services have been lost but not critical functionality.

14
15 Mayor Barraza indicated we have been in contact with El Paso Electric daily. The Town of Mesilla is
16 prepared for the rolling blackouts if they should occur. We have taken as much precautions as we can to be
17 ready.

18
19 15. Closed session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H) (2) for the purpose of discussing limited personnel
20 matters pertaining to the Marshals Department. *Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.*

21
22 **Motion:** To enter closed session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H)(2) due the purpose of discussing limited
23 personnel maters pertaining to the Marshal's Department, **Moved by** Trustee Arzabal, **Seconded by** Mayor
24 Pro Tem Caro.

25
26 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

27 Mayor Pro Tem Caro Yes

28 Trustee Arzabal Yes

29 Trustee Flores Yes

30
31 Entered closed session at 7:07 p.m.

32
33 **Motion:** To enter regular session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H)(2) after discussing limited personnel maters
34 pertaining to the Marshal's Department, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Caro, **Seconded by** Trustee Arzabal.

35
36 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

37 Mayor Pro Tem Caro Yes

38 Trustee Arzabal Yes

39 Trustee Flores Yes

40
41 Enter regular session at 7:36 p.m.

42
43 **STAFF REPORTS**

44 16. Community Development Office *Approved by consent agenda*

45 17. Community Programs *Approved by consent agenda*

46 18. Finance Department *Approved by consent agenda*

47 19. Fire Department *Approved by consent agenda*

48 20. Marshal Department *Approved by consent agenda*

49 21. Public Works Department *Approved by consent agenda*

50
51
52 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

53
54 No Public Comments

1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS:**

2
3 Mayor Pro Tem Caro Inaudible

4
5 Mayor Barraza responded we do need to be more vigilante and pro active.

6
7 Trustee Flores stated the 5K Fun Run was listed under Las Cruces; asked it should be listed under Mesilla.

8
9 Ms. Ashley Eschavarria responded that she did notice that and she will mention it to them. She also found
10 out they are merging it with El Paso so this year it is going to be big.

11
12 Trustee Flores indicated last year there were 300 participants and El Paso had around 80 participants. She
13 asked the trustees to participate in the event which is held in February.

14
15 Ms. Echavarria responded the run will begin at the plaza instead of the Community Center and they are
16 willing to pay the non-profit fee.

17
18 Mayor Barraza indicated we are attempting to get 2 newsletters out to the community on department
19 updates. We will continue with the 4th of July activities, firework display and the music on the plaza, if
20 everything goes as planned. We have asked South Central Council of Government (SCCG) to look for
21 funding to hire a firm to work on the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan cost around \$50,000.
22 Maria Rios has qualified for the Housing Rehab project. Staff is in the process of completing all the
23 paperwork and we are hoping to rehab on her home in the fall. Mesilla received CDBG money to complete
24 Phase 4 at the Community Center. She will be attending required information training this week. The
25 University Avenue project, pedestrian sidewalks, is 2nd on the tip; if funding available we can get that
26 project going. There will be an increase in the Solid Waste rates. Mr. Eddie Binns has donated gravel and
27 Representative Joni Gutierrez has donated her time to landscape town hall. On the newsletter we will be
28 asking residents if they would like to donate foliage. Ms. Echavarria applied for a New Mexico Plain and
29 Beautiful Grant to help with landscaping projects and we were awarded \$1,000.

30
31 Mayor Pro Tem Caro asked what is the latest on the sidewalk projects; easement. Some of the cacti are
32 getting bad.

33
34 Mayor Barraza responded if cacti are on the town's easement the Public Work staff has trimmed or
35 removed it. We have not moved forward on the ordinance to see how it will be enforced. We are also
36 address the "No Parking" signs, railroad ties, etc. that are put up in front of residents during fiestas. That
37 cannot be done since the easements belong to the town. We are addressing it in different ways but have not
38 moved forward in addressing the ordinance.

39
40 Mayor Pro Tem Caro indicated there are more and more animals on the plaza during events.

41
42 Mayor Barraza responded staff is informing the pet owners that pets are not allowed on the plaza when they
43 see them. Mr. Carlos Castaneda is doing pictures and would like to do a picture of the trustees for free; so I
44 will be scheduling that.

45
46 **ADJOURNMENT**

47
48 **Motion:** To adjourn, **Moved by** Mayor Pro Tem Caro, **Seconded by** Trustee Arzabal.

49
50 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

51 **Yes:** Mayor Pro Tem Caro, Trustee Arzabal, Trustee Flores

52
53 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:46 P.M.**

54
55 **APPROVED THIS 27TH DAY OF JUNE 2011.**

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Nora L. Barraza
Mayor

ATTEST:

Nicholas Eckert
Town Clerk/Treasurer