

1 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
2 **TOWN OF MESILLA**
3 **MEETING**
4 **MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2011**
5 **6:00 P.M.**
6
7

8 **TRUSTEES:** Nora L. Barraza, Mayor
9 Jesus Caro, Mayor Pro Tem (absent)
10 Carlos Arzabal, Trustee (absent)
11 Sam Bernal, Trustee
12 Linda L. Flores, Trustee
13
14 **STAFF:** Nick Eckert, Town Clerk/Treasurer
15 Ashley Echavarria, Special Events Coordinator
16 Jeff Gray, Marshal
17 Kevin Hoban, Fire Chief
18 Gloria Maya, Recorder
19
20 **PUBLIC:** Sean Lucero Jerean Hutchinson
21 Claude Mauldin Mark Valenzuela
22
23

24 **OPENING CEREMONIES**

25
26 A. Pledge of Allegiance

27
28 Mayor Barraza led the Pledge of Allegiance.
29

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

31
32 **Roll Call.**

33 **Present:** Mayor Barraza, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores.
34

35 **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

36
37 **Motion:** To approve the agenda, **Moved by** Trustee Bernal, **Seconded by** Trustee Flores.
38

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

40 **Yes:** Mayor Barraza, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores.
41

42 **ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

43
44 **Motion:** To approve the consent agenda, **Moved by** Trustee Bernal, **Seconded by** Trustee Flores.
45

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

47 **Yes:** Mayor Barraza, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores.
48
49

50 **BOT MINUTES:**

51 1. Regular Meeting 7-25-11 *Approved by consent agenda*

1
2 **PZHAC BUSINESS:**

3 2. Case 011081(a): 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, HM Meson de Mesilla, a certificate of
4 appropriateness for deck extension. Zone: HC. *Approved by consent agenda*

5
6 3. Case 011081(b): 1803 Avenida de Mesilla, HM Meson de Mesilla, a building permit
7 application for deck extension. Zone: HC. *Approved by consent agenda*

8
9 **NEW BUSINESS:**

10 4. Closed session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H) (2) for the purpose of discussing limited personnel
11 matters pertaining to the Public Works Department. *Nora L. Barraza, Mayor.*

12
13 **Motion:** To enter closed session pursuant to 10-15-1 (H) (2) for the purpose of discussing limited
14 personnel matters pertaining to the Public Works Department, **Moved by** Trustee Flores,
15 **Seconded by** Trustee Bernal.

16
17 **Roll Call Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

18 Mayor Barraza Yes

19 Trustee Bernal Yes

20 Trustee Flores Yes

21
22 Enter Closed Session at 6:05 p.m.

23
24 **Motion:** To return to regular meeting after discussing limited personnel matters pertaining to the
25 Public Works Department in closed session, **Moved by** Trustee **Seconded by**

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

28 Mayor Barraza Yes

29 Trustee Bernal Yes

30 Trustee Flores Yes

31
32 Enter Regular Meeting at 6:27 p.m.

33
34 5. For approval/disapproval: hiring of Claude Mauldin in the Public Works Department. *Debbie*
35 *Lujan, PWD.*

36
37 Mayor Barraza stated that Mr. Claude Mauldin was hired on an emergency basis due to the
38 vacancy in the Public Works Department. She recommends hiring Mr. Mauldin on a full-time
39 basis.

40
41 **Motion:** To approve the hiring of Claude Mauldin in the Public Works Department, **Moved by**
42 Trustee Bernal, **Seconded by** Trustee Flores.

43
44 Trustee Bernal thanked Mr. Mauldin for coming and helping us out that we got out situation we
45 got ourselves in. Personally, his wife has commented on Mr. Mauldin's good work. He
46 commended Mr. Mauldin and feels this was the right decision.

47
48 Mayor Barraza indicated that Mr. Mauldin worked with the Town of Mesilla with the Senior
49 Program and we know the work that he does. She is happy to have him on board and he is doing
50 an excellent job.

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

2 **Yes:** Mayor Barraza, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores.

3
4 6. For approval/disapproval: A request from the Old Mesilla Association for a waiver of Plaza
5 usage fees for the 2011 Mesilla Jazz Happening. *Ashley Echavarría, Events Coordinator*.

6
7 Ms. Ashley Echavarría stated the former OMA president stepped down and Ms. Jerean
8 Hutchinson has stepped up to work with OMA. The event is going to be scaled down this year.
9 Basically there will be music on the plaza with the hope that it draws people to the Mesilla
10 businesses.

11
12 Ms. Jerean Hutchinson stated this is the Jazz Happening's 10th year. The event will be held on
13 October 1st and 2nd from 11:00-12:00 noon and 6:00-8:00 p.m. We are encouraging businesses to
14 also hold jazz music at their facility. Advertisizing will be done in the Las Cruces Sun-News and
15 the Bulletin. This event has been held for 10 years and did not want to let it go. They are looking
16 for free use of the plaza, bleachers, trash pick up and what ever the town can do for the event.

17
18 Ms. Echavarría stated she feels the trash cans that are on the plaza should be enough.

19
20 Mayor Barraza asked if there will be any vendors at the event.

21
22 Ms. Hutchinson responded there will not be any vendors during the event. Water and Gatorade
23 will be provided. There will be tents and a sound system provided for the musicians.

24
25 Mayor Barraza stated the event is usually held at the south end of the plaza.

26
27 Ms. Hutchinson responded the focus is at the south end of the plaza. We do encourage the public
28 to bring chairs.

29
30 Mayor Barraza stated she is glad that the event is not being dropped since people enjoy this event.

31
32 Ms. Hutchinson indicated she will get a schedule together to post for public information.

33
34 Mayor Barraza asked if the musicians will be getting paid.

35
36 Ms. Hutchinson responded the musicians come from the Mesilla Valley Film Society; they are
37 soliciting donors for their musicians. She believes they are paid stipends. Also she is requesting
38 for a sound system.

39
40 Trustee Flores asked if there is a cost to the town.

41
42 Mayor Barraza responded there may be for trash collection.

43
44 Mr. Sean Lucero responded the trash was not an issue at last year's event.

45
46 Mayor Barraza asked if the person on call can handle the event.

47
48 Mr. Lucero responded yes.

49
50 Trustee Bernal stated we just approved the Wheel Chair event. Thanked her for trying to keep
51 this event going. He does not see a problem with the request.

1 Mayor Barraza responded the bleachers will already be on the plaza. This is an event we want to
2 keep alive. Hopefully, next year it can go back to the way it was the previous years.

3
4 Ms. Hutchinson stated she is hoping that by encouraging the merchants to collaborate in hosting
5 something at their location to attract the public.

6
7 Mayor Barraza stated she requests that announcements are made to the public to be responsible if
8 they are going to be drinking.

9
10 **Motion:** To approve the request from the Old Mesilla Association for a waiver of Plaza usage
11 fees for the 2011 Mesilla Jazz Happening, **Moved by** Trustee Bernal, **Seconded by** Trustee
12 Flores.

13
14 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

15 **Yes:** Mayor Barraza, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores.

16
17 7. 2011 Summer Recreation Program presentation. *Ashley Echavarria, Event Coordinator.*

18
19 Ms. Ashley Echavarria gave a presentation of the Summer Recreation Program. She indicated the
20 sponsors were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation.

21
22 Mayor Barraza stated her grandsons enjoyed the program and the commadaree helps build their
23 up their self-esteem. She is very happy with the Summer Recreation Program and would like it
24 expanded to the middle school. Mr. Yokult, one of the parents, gave Ms. Echavarria and the
25 programs kudos.

26
27 Ms. Echavarria indicated we tried to make the program educational. The children were required
28 to read for 15 minutes after lunch every day, at first they complained by after awhile it became
29 routine for them. We support the Reading Foundation and encouraged learning throughout the
30 entire summer.

31
32 Trustee Bernal stated he does not know how to say thank you to Ms. Echavarria. She had done
33 everything; Cinco de Mayo Fiesta, Summer Recreation Program and now the Diez y Seis de
34 Septiembre Fiesta. Everyone works together and that is why we love the town so much. We
35 don't get paid enough but we love what we do. Ms. Echavarria gets the bull by the horn and runs
36 with it; that is what is so unique about her. He appreciates and he commends you; it takes
37 everyone's effort to make things happen.

38
39 Ms. Echavarria indicated she needed to thank her staff which was all new this year. This year
40 was a learning situation for everyone involved.

41
42 Mayor Barraza reiterated she was very pleased with the program and the reading program that
43 was implemented. We did not meet the 60 enrollment.

44
45 Ms. Echavarria responded 55 students were enrolled. The attendance dropped after July 4th; there
46 was about 20 students attending daily.

47
48 Mayor Barraza stated it is a wonderful program and reiterated she would like to expand it to the
49 middle school. The middle school students are still not old enough to stay home by themselves so
50 this would give them something to do. She thanked Ms. Echavarria for a great job.

51

1 8. For approval/disapproval: Selection of Mayor Nora L. Barraza as the 2011 NMML Annual
2 Conference voting delegate.

3
4 Mayor Barraza stated there is a business meeting held at the NMML Annual Conference and a
5 voting delegate is needed for the Town of Mesilla. She indicated that she put herself down as the
6 voting delegate for Mesilla if it is okay with the trustees. She has attended the conference for the
7 last 10 years. Last year she was the voting delegate.

8
9 **Motion:** To approve the selection of Mayor Nora L. Barraza as the 2011 NMML Annual
10 Conference voting delegate, **Moved by** Trustee Bernal, **Seconded by** Trustee Flores.

11
12 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

13 **Yes:** Mayor Barraza, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores.

14
15 9. Discussion of the general obligation bond process and of contract with Mark Valenzuela from
16 the George K. Baum & Company Investment Banking Firm. *Nick Eckert, Town*
17 *Clerk/Treasurer.*

18
19 Mayor Barraza stated Mr. Mark Valenzuela has met with the department heads, and the
20 board. The question has always been what we can do as residents, to bring more revenue to
21 the town; what can we do to put back into the town since we are no longer receiving funding
22 from the state. The Town of Mesilla's infrastructures are a dire need; the roads, water lines,
23 sewer lines. The Public Safety Building has about 17 to 19 code violations. We as residents
24 rely on the public safety and the facility they are currently in is in dire need of repair of over
25 1 million dollars. We have spoken to our legislators on a one to one basis before the
26 legislative session and gave them our 3 top priorities; the Public Safety Building, the Kiosko,
27 and Calle de Parian. After much discussion we felt that public safety is what would benefit
28 the residents. Instead of going with the property tax increase we felt the General Bond would
29 be the way to go. Mr. Valenzuela will be giving a presentation on General Bonds.

30
31 Mr. Mark Valenzuela gave a presentation. Presentation is available in the Town Clerk's
32 office.

33
34 Mayor Barraza stated she does support General Bonds 100% as well as Trustee Arzabal. The
35 concern of the board is that they do not want to raise taxes. Our town is deteriorating; money
36 has not been put into infrastructures in a long time. We need to take one project at a time; if
37 we don't do something we are going to have a building that is going to be condemned, Calle
38 de Parian is in dire need of repair and drainage, and our Kiosko is falling apart. She has not
39 had someone come out to look at it for fear that it may be condemned. We as residents need
40 to invest back to Mesilla. Yes we do pay taxes to the state and the county but nothing is
41 coming back to our town. We need to make the stand that this is our community and we need
42 to move forward in fixing it. She has been talking to the Fire Chief and the Marshal and the
43 amount to renovate the building is at almost 1million. Her thought was looking at a 1.5
44 million General Obligation Bond to get to the Public Safety Building needs. She does not
45 want to go to the max level since she does not want the residents to feel a huge impact.

46
47 Trustee Flores asked how the \$16,000 fee is determined.

48
49 Mr. Valenzuela responded the base fee is \$16,000 and as the size of the bond gets larger so
50 does the fee.

51

1 Trustee Flores asked if they foresee a fee larger than the \$16,000.

2

3 Mayor Barraza responded no; if the General Obligation Bond is passed the fee would come
4 from the bond itself.

5

6 Trustee Flores asked how the market affects the bonds.

7

8 Mr. Valenzuela responded they sold bonds for New Mexico Institute for Mining and
9 Technology last Thursday and the market dropped on Wednesday 5%. It was good for New
10 Mexico Tech because the investors liquidated and moved to the bonds market looking safety
11 and quality as an investment. On those days it would be good but it may not always be good;
12 this is a historic time. Who would have thought that what is happening in Greece and Italy
13 would impact the Town of Mesilla.

14

15 Trustee Flores inaudible (45:12)

16

17 Mr. Nick Eckert responded he can provide a list of various firms and their corresponding fees
18 so that she can take that information to the voters.

19

20 Mayor Barraza indicated there is an election in 2012 and in order to avoid additional costs
21 she would like to propose combining the 2 elections. Time is of an essence. The town
22 cannot provide funding to promote the General Obligation Bonds so we will need to get a
23 committee of supporters to visit and educate the residents; hold community meetings. We
24 also may find someone to sponsor the literatures. Find sponsors to provide literatures

25

26 Trustee Bernal stated the board feels comfortable with Mr. Valenzuela. He commends the
27 mayor for doing the research and feels this is the way to go. It will be up to the residents to
28 help bring revenues. Thanked Mr. Valenzuela for all the information and hopes we can go
29 forward. It looks very positive because there is no way to come up with 2.8 million dollars
30 for our town. We need to act quickly and use it wisely to go forward. Hopefully we can
31 educate the residents.

32

33 Mayor Barraza responded we do need to educate our residents to help them understand the
34 needs that need to be addressed and how we can do that. They have met with the legislators,
35 the governor and there have been no commitments to address our needs; sewer lines being
36 held up by bricks. The board will need to make a decision at the next meeting.

37

38 Judge Frieze asked if once the bond is issued and paid off, will the taxes cease. That may be
39 the selling point if that is the case.

40

41 Mayor Barraza responded we have the General Obligation Bond it can be renewed or we can
42 piggy back on it to help with other needs and residents will not see another increase.

43

44 Trustee Flores stated every project will need to go to the residents.

45

46 Mayor Barraza responded the residents will have to vote on each project. People need to
47 understand that bond money cannot be used for personnel - it goes to the specific project that
48 was voted on by the people. We need more people to ask questions to help them understand.

49

50 Judge Frieze stated he supports the General Obligation Bond.

1 Mr. Valenzuela responded General Obligation Bonds are sold in almost every community in
2 the country; investors see a bond as a bond. Dona Ana Community College, City of Las
3 Cruces, and Las Cruces Public Schools sell General Obligation Bonds.

4
5 Mayor Barraza indicated this may not a popular thing but she does not how else to ask the
6 community for their help to provide for their community. We need to support the Public
7 Safety departments and provide a safer environment for them to do the job of serving the
8 community.

9
10
11 **STAFF REPORTS**

12 10. Community Development Office *Approved by consent agenda*

13 11. Community Programs *Approved by consent agenda*

14 12. Finance Department. **Approved by consent agenda**

15 13. Fire Department. *Approved by consent agenda*

16 14. Marshal Department. *Approved by consent agenda*

17 15. Public Works Department. *Approved by consent agenda*

18
19 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

20
21 Mr. Jesse Chavez stated he has a neighbor that has animals which are a nuisance. The smell comes through
22 his air conditioner and from his property you can see all the horse manure. Even driving by that neighbor's
23 property you can see and smell the mess.

24
25 Mayor Barraza responded she has brought that to the attention of Mr. Eckert. This residence has been
26 brought to court and had only so many days for him to come into compliance.

27
28 Mr. Nick Eckert responded the property owner had 6 months, which has lapsed, to come into compliance.
29 Codes will have to issue another citation, he will be cited back into court, and the process will begin again.
30 This will be done this week.

31
32 Mayor Barraza asked him to insure that Ms. Gentile follows through so that process gets going again and
33 we keep to the time limits. She has seen what Mr. Chavez is talking about. She told Mr. Chavez they will
34 keep him informed on the situation.

35
36 **BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMENTS:**

37
38 Mayor Barraza indicated she will be forming a committee this week to help with the "Tribute to
39 Mesilla's Past" at this year's Diez y Seis de Septiembre Fiesta.

40
41 Ms. Echavarria stated she is concerned that the entertainment will be booked before Mesilla has a
42 chance to contact them.

43
44 Mayor Barraza directed Ms. Echavarria to proceed with scheduling the entertainment. She has
45 some ideas for this year's fiesta and she wants the community to get together in honoring
46 Mesilla's past.

47
48 **ADJOURNMENT**

49
50 **Motion:** To adjourn, **Moved by** Trustee Flores, **Seconded by** Trustee Bernal.

51
52 **Vote:** Motion passed (**summary:** Yes = 3).

1 **Yes:** Mayor Barraza, Trustee Bernal, Trustee Flores.

2

3 **MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:05 P.M.**

4

5

6 **APPROVED THIS 22ND DAY OF AUGUST, 2011.**

7

8

9

10

11

12

Nora L. Barraza

13

Mayor

14

15

16 **ATTEST**

17

18

19

20

Nicholas Eckert

21

Town Clerk/Treasurer