

**Minutes  
Town of Clifton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
January 12, 2023  
2:00 P.M.**

**Members Present**

Mayor Luis Montoya  
Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell  
Council member Anthony James\*  
Council member Ray Lorenzo  
Council member Ray West  
Council member, Karen Crump-Frye\*\*  
Council member, Vacant

\*Excused

\*\*Participated via telephone

Quorum Present

The Town's legal counsel, Michelle Stinson, participated via telephone.

Prior to calling the meeting to order, Mayor Montoya on behalf of the entire Town Council extended sincere condolences to Council member Karen Crump-Frye on the recent loss of her mother.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Luis Montoya followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to the Public:** Addressing Council was Police Sgt. Aguilar accompanied by Dispatchers requesting consideration for Premium Pay as an allowed expenditure per the American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA) awarded to the town.

Steve Ahmann, representing the Tourism Council and Susan Breen both expressed their concerns related to the visual effects resulting from the Clifton Mountains Slope Stabilization Project managed by Freeport McMoRan. They are requesting Council consider joining forces to support the effort to reach out to the project managers to make corrective actions to restore the color of the mountain walls.

Walt Mares was next to speak. He voiced his concerns that management/owners of the Clifton House RV Park, located along South Coronado Boulevard, have failed regarding the maintenance and appearance of their property. Particularly, the condition of the wooden fence that was to meet floodplain regulations.

Also addressing Council was Daniel Cervantez. He congratulated Ms. Dorothy Alvarez for being named Grand Marshall of this year's Festival of Lights.

Ric Hanson, owner of the Big Horn Manner, expressed his concern that the town had not been better prepared in engaging the services of a building inspector due to planned leave of the current town employee who handles those services. He stated that his continued renovation project is on hold due to a pending inspection.

Greenlee County Sheriff, Tim Sumner reported that Greenlee County had provided “essential workers” in his department with premium pay from ARPA funds.

**Council Reports:** Council member Ray West thanked the Public Works Department for their prompt response in cleaning up the Chase Creek area after this year’s festival of lights.

Vice-Mayor Dorrell informed Council of the reinstatement of the “in-person” Greenlee County Fun & Fitness event scheduled for February 8, 2023

Council member Ray Lorenzo also extended his thanks and gratitude to the Public Works Department for tending to the numerous pot holes caused by recent rain.

Mayor Montoya reminded Council that a new Arizona State Withholding Tax form has been issued and will need to be filed with the town’s payroll department before January 31, 2023 to avoid issues and mentioned that the filing deadline for elected official’s financial statements are also due at the end of the month. The mayor also informed Council that the recently appointed ad-hoc personnel committee will be presenting its policy recommendations to Council related to vacation and sick leave accruals.

As part of the new year, Mayor Montoya noted that 2023 the town will be celebrating its sesquicentennial, or 150 years of when Clifton was founded.

Final comments from Mayor Montoya included thanking Council for their support during his term as Mayor and as mentioned in a previous meeting, recalled that he would be stepping down from that role, but would continue to serve his term through 2024.

**Consent Agenda:** Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell made a motion to approve the following items listed under Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the December 8, 2022, Regular Council Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports.
3. Approval of December 2022 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Dorrell, West, James, Lorenzo, Crum-Frye and Montoya. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** **Adjournment of the 2020-2022 Clifton Town Council:** There being no further business, the 2020-2022 Clifton Town Council adjourned.

**Minutes**  
**Town of Clifton**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting January 12, 2023**  
**2:44 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Mayor Laura Dorrell  
Vice-Mayor Anthony James\*  
Council member Janeene Carrillo  
Council member Karen Crump-Frye  
Council member Ray Lorenzo  
Council member, Ray West

\*Excused

**Call to Order:** The first official meeting of the 2020-2022 Clifton Town Council was called to order by the Town Clerk, followed by the introduction of the Council members recently elected to office.

**Oath of Office 2022-2024:** Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda administered the oath of office to Council members' Dorrell, Lorenzo and Carrillo.

**Nominations for Mayor:** Town Clerk, Esperanza Castaneda explained the nominating procedures for the office of Mayor.

The Clerk continued the process by calling for nominations.

Council member Luis Montoya nominated Laura Dorrell for Mayor.

There being no further nominations, Council member Luis Montoya made a motion to close the nominations. Motion was seconded by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of closing the nominations were Council member's Montoya, West, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye and West. Council member James was absent.

Motion carried.

The Clerk polled the Council on the nominee for Mayor and the results were as follows:

Voting in favor of Council member Dorrell for Mayor were Council members Montoya, West, Carrillo, Lorenzo, Dorrell and Crump-Frye. Council member James was absent.

Council member Dorrell was unanimously elected as Mayor.

**Nominations for Vice-Mayor:** Mayor Laura Dorrell continued the meeting by calling for nominations for Vice-Mayor.

Council member Ray West nominated Council member Anthony James as candidate for Vice-Mayor.

There being no further nominations, Council member Ray West made a motion to close the nominations for Vice-Mayor. Second to the motion was made by Council member Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of closing the nomination were Council members West, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye, Montoya and Carrillo.

Motion carried.

The Clerk polled the Council as to the candidate of their choice for Vice-Mayor and the results were as follows:

Voting in favor of Council member Anthony James for Vice-Mayor were Council members West, Montoya, Lorenzo, Carrillo and Dorrell. Council member James was absent.

Motion carried.

Council member James was unanimously elected as Vice-Mayor

### **Old Business:**

**Discussion and/or action to approve the Preliminary Land Exchange Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Freeport Minerals Corporation:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported on the results of the additional parcel supplement property identified as Parcel D-Clifton Maintenance Facility provided by FMI. Mr. Perez explained that the parcel was valued at \$65,000. The total value of town property considered in this land exchange totals: \$63,000.00. The total value of FMI Property considered in this land exchange totals: \$104,000.00. Freeport McMoRan is offering to make a cash donation in the amount of \$41,000.00 to bring the value of the exchange in-balance.

Prior to his motion, Council member Luis Montoya noted that prior to finalizing this land exchange, the town would still need to comply with the legal process involving public land which would entail a public notice and the adoption of an ordinance.

Motion to approve the Preliminary Land Exchange Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Freeport Minerals Corporation was made by Council member Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, Lorenzo, West, Carrillo, Crump-Frye and Dorrell. Council member James was absent.

Motion carried.

### **New Business:**

**Discussion and/or action to consolidate the Town of Clifton Police Department's Emergency Communications Center (ECC) with the Greenlee County Sheriff's Office Emergency Communications Center:** Participating via telephone was Travis Jensen, NextGen 9-1-1 Program Manager, Arizona Department of Administration.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez referred Council to the Consolidation Alternatives and Recommendations Report prepared by Federal Engineering, Inc. at the request of Greenlee County. Although the Town Manager agrees with the recommendations of the report, the current political climate between the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors and the Greenlee County Sheriff's office leads him to suggest that Council make a final decision at a later date.

According to Mr. Jensen, the government entities have until April 12, 2023 to make a final decision. He cautioned that the current 9-1-1 Legacy System, provided by Lumen Technologies-Century Link, are a concern due to service issues. The new NextGen 9-1-1 system will transition over to a new service, thus eliminating any further support for the 9-1-1 Legacy System.

Police Chief Negrete expressed his concerns with the report itself. He stated that all affected parties were not invited to participate in the study. He felt that the Town Manager's input should have been included in the report.

The Town Manager concurred with the Police Chief and added that the same sentiment was expressed by the Greenlee County Administrator. Mr. Perez reported that suggestions from Greenlee County Administrator's included adding a provision to the recommendation that a board or commission be established to oversee the consolidated NextGen 9-1-1 service. Additionally, both administrative leaders request an extension date of May 2023 to allow each respective government board/council to make a decision regarding the consolidation of a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP)

Mr. Jensen also acknowledged that the consolidation of the PSAP centers is not a state mandate, however in order for the state to continue to provide funding for each of the current dispatch centers, each are required to meet the monthly 9-1-1 call volume threshold which is 300 calls per month.

Council members were interested to hear from Dispatch personnel.

The Dispatch Supervisor, Delfina Pilgrim's comments included concerns that might eventually lead to move the PSAP Center to Graham County if the 300-call threshold is not being met by the proposed consolidated PSAP in Greenlee County. Ms. Pilgrim provided Council with data to support the experience that town dispatchers bring to the table. She also stated that her staff is not in favor of consolidation.

Mr. Jensen explained that the State of Arizona had done a national study in 2020 and their recommendation set the threshold at 1000 calls per month. Mr. Jensen also explained that with today's technology all calls could be channeled through one PSAP Center in the state, however staffing for such a call center would be an issue.

Sheriff Sumner also addressed Council on the issue. He stated that he would not be opposed to the town being designated as the PSAP Center if the town had the proper infrastructure. Ultimately, he stated that the decision comes down to public safety.

Motion was made by Council member Montoya not to consolidate the town's Emergency Operations Center with Greenlee County's Sheriff's Emergency Operations Center at this time until after discussions with Greenlee County Administrator are initiated by the Town Manager to address the proposed consolidation concerns. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council member Montoya, West, Lorenzo, Carrillo, Crump-Frye and Dorrell. Vice Mayor James was absent.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Town of Duncan for building inspection services:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez explained that he had considered various options to provide building inspection services while the current employee was out on leave. After contacting other government entities to determine if they had a building inspector on staff, the Town of Duncan proposed an IGA to utilize their inspector. Mr. Perez explained that the Town of Duncan currently has an IGA with the Town of Thatcher for building inspection services. The proposed IGA lists a fee of \$90 per hour.

Council member Montoya suggested that Mr. Perez directly contact the Town of Thatcher to contract for the services.

In other comments, suggestions implementing a cross training program for current employees to avoid similar situations.

Motion was made by Council member Ray West to contact the Town of Thatcher directly to determine if they were willing to an IGA for building inspection services. Second to the motion was made by Council member Luis Montoya.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Montoya, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye, Carrillo and Dorrell. Council member James was absent.

Motion carried.

**Manager's Report:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported on the following projects:

- Town has issued a notice to proceed to KE&G for construction of the town's WWTP

Project. A project schedule has been requested.

- Reported that a cost estimate on the Chase Creek St. Frisco Avenue Bridge has exceeded the preliminary estimate. Current review of the project is under review to attempt to reduce the cost down to the preliminary estimate.
- Provided an update on the Ward Canyon and Paradise Lift Station Project designs. Reported that the design phase has been completed and bid documents are being drafted and anticipate advertising to begin in February.
- Reported on the status of the pending property to relocate the Fire Station. The title report presented issues that conflict with the proposed purchase agreement. The property representative is trying to resolve the issues.
- Updated Council on the status of the CDBG Regional Account Flap Gates upgrade project. The grant process requires an Environmental Review (ERR) prior to committing funds for the project. The ERR is in progress at this time.
- Reported that the CDBG Regional Account/Pavement Assessment Study should be finalized in March.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:20 p.m.