

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Special Meeting
August 6, 2026
2:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell at 2:05 pm
Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.**

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

Town Council Member	Title	Attendance	Arrival Time if late
Barbara Ahmann	Council Member	Excused Absence	
Chad Brown	Council Member	In Person	
Laura Dorrell	Mayor	Telephonic/Virtual	
Anthony James	Vice Mayor	In Person	
Akos Kovach	Council Member	Late Arrival	2:44 pm
Raymond Lorenzo	Council Member	Excused Absence	
B. Waddell Reyes	Council Member	In Person	

Call to the Public: Arizona law prohibits any Town resource, including staff time, equipment, and anything of value to influence an election. This prohibition applies to Call to the Public at the Council meeting. You may discuss a Town issue but do not “advocate” for a specific candidate or ballot measure. Additionally, soliciting petition signatures or campaign contributions or distributing campaign materials is prohibited on Town property. The Town appreciates your efforts to help the Town comply with state law and avoid using taxpayer monies to influence an election.

No call to the Public*

Council Reports

Council Member Brown recognized Officer Moreno for her efforts in diffusing a heated situation and commended the Public Works department for assisting a stranded traveler from North Dakota with vehicle repair.

Council Member Reyes encouraged citizens to utilize the town website and library services, noting the library's ability to print documents and provide children's activities, and she thanked Animal Control for safely removing a rattlesnake

Mayor Dorrell provided an update on their attendance at the Rural Policy Forum in Kingman and discussed the "Real Rural" initiative with the Flynn Salon Group to advocate for better funding and resource distribution for rural areas

Vice Mayor James had no reports at this time.

Town Manager Report Cindy explained that the monthly report was delayed due to the meeting's schedule change and would be provided the following week.

The town lifted fire restrictions, aligning with the forest service and county.

The accounting department reported successful progress on financial statements and a trial balance, with an audit scheduled for the week of the 24th. Additionally, council members were informed of the upcoming Arizona League conference and a Southwest Gas emergency responders meeting

Consent Agenda: The following items of a non-controversial nature have been grouped together for a single vote without Council discussion. The Consent Agenda is a time-saving device and Council members received documentation on these items for their review prior to the open meeting. Any Council member may remove any item from the Consent Agenda for discussion and a separate vote as deemed necessary. The public may view the documentation relating to the Consent Agenda at the Clifton Town Hall; 510 N. Coronado Blvd., Clifton, Arizona.

- 1. Approval of the July 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2. Approval of July 2026 Demands.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda

Motion Made by:	Council Member Waddell Reyes	Seconded By:	Council Member Brown
Aye Votes:	Council Member Brown Council Member Waddell Reyes Vice Mayor James Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	
Abstained:	None	Recused:	None
Motion	Carries	Time:	2:20 pm

Recognition items presented by Police Chief Omar Negrete.

Police Chief Omar Negrete honored Mary Marino and Mary Schwarz, presenting them with tokens of appreciation for their decisive and courageous actions during a recent community crisis

Presentation on Thermal Project from FMI.

Diana Keltz and Jose Brown from Freeport-McMoRan (FMI) presented an update on the geothermal project, which aims to increase annual copper production by 800 million pounds by 2030 by utilizing geothermal heat in the leaching process. The project is a closed-loop system utilizing a \$80 million Department of Energy grant, with plans to build one of the largest geothermal plants in the world and the first in Arizona.

FMI detailed the second phase of exploration, which involves drilling two 10,000-foot wells to reach target temperatures of 140°C, with operations scheduled to begin in mid-to-late September. This phase requires a large oil and gas-style drill rig, significant pad preparation, and the construction of a pipeline to provide water for drilling operations.

FMI discussed plans to potentially remove two buildings on the former Texaco property to facilitate the project, noting that the site is subject to an Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) voluntary remediation program which restricts subgrade excavation, and the area is also zoned for historic preservation. FMI addressed concerns regarding the impact of heavy equipment transport on Frisco Avenue, committing to establish a baseline for road conditions before the delivery of equipment. Regarding temporary housing for the drill crew, FMI discussed potential sites for RV parking, noting that existing local options were at capacity. Community and council members raised concerns regarding potential environmental impacts, groundwater protection, and the visibility of infrastructure like valves. FMI representatives explained that the injection system is highly regulated by the state, uses casing to separate the borehole from groundwater resources, and is subject to rigorous state permitting processes to ensure sustainability.

Discussion and possible action to Canvass the Primary Election Results and adopt Resolution 2026-08 for July 21, 2026.

Council unanimously approved a resolution to canvas the July 21, 2026, primary election results, officially confirming the election of Council members Raymond Lorenzo and Melissa Meloya for four-year terms and Chad Brown for a two-year term.

Motion: to adopt Resolution 2026-08: Primary Election Results			
Motion Made by:	Council Member Kovach	Seconded By:	Council Member Waddell Reyes
Aye Votes:	Council Member Brown Council Member Kovach Council Member Waddell Reyes Vice Mayor James Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	
Abstained:	None	Recused:	None
Motion	Carries	Time:	2:48 pm

Discussion and possible action to approve Zoning Code Update Contract.

Council approved a professional services contract with RBI Planning and Landscape Architecture for a zoning code update. The project, led by Jessica Sark, is funded by a \$100,000 United Way grant, with a contract price of \$98,500, and is expected to take approximately 12 months to complete through a community-driven process.

Motion: to approve Zoning Code Update Contract

Motion Made by:	Council Member Brown	Seconded By:	Council Member Kovach
Aye Votes:	Council Member Brown Council Member Kovach Council Member Waddell Reyes Vice Mayor James Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	
Abstained:	None	Recused:	None
Motion	Carries	Time:	2:52 pm

Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution 2026-09 making the Town Manager as the Chief Financial Officer.

Council adopted a resolution designating the Town Clerk as the Chief Financial Officer, fulfilling a required annual state designation and removing the responsibility from the previous town manager.

Motion: to adopt Resolution 2026-09 making the Town Manager as the Chief Financial Officer

Motion Made by:	Council Member Waddell Reyes	Seconded By:	Vice Mayor James
Aye Votes:	Council Member Brown Council Member Kovach Council Member Waddell Reyes Vice Mayor James Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	
Abstained:	None	Recused:	None
Motion	Carries	Time:	2:54 pm

Discussion and possible action to approve the Fall Festival.

Council authorized the planning of the annual Fall Festival following the success of the previous year's event, which was funded primarily through sponsorships. The Town Manager noted that former Council member Shane Kennedy would spearhead the event, and potential future sponsorships, including from United Way, were discussed to support the festival.

Motion: to approve the Fall Festival

Motion Made by:	Council Member Brown	Seconded By:	Council Member Kovach
Aye Votes:	Council Member Brown Council Member Kovach Council Member Waddell Reyes Vice Mayor James Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	
Abstained:	None	Recused:	None
Motion	Carries	Time:	2:56 pm

Adjournment 2:58 pm