

Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
June 11, 2026
2:00 P.M.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell at ___2:01___ Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.			
The Town's legal counsel, Matt Schuimo participated via telephone			
T Council Member	Title	Attendance	Arrival Time if late
Barbara Ahmann	Council Member ▾	In Person ▾	
Chad Brown	Council Member ▾	In Person ▾	
Laura Dorrell	Mayor ▾	Telephonic/Virtual ▾	
Anthony James	Vice Mayor ▾	In Person ▾	
Akos Kovach	Council Member ▾	In Person ▾	
Raymond Lorenzo	Council Member ▾	In Person ▾	
B. Waddell Reyes	Council Member ▾	Excused Absence ▾	

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 Kovach announced that the Gila Watershed Partnership is hosting a river cleanup this Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to noon, followed by a duck race at 1:00 p.m., and requested additional volunteers to allow the visitor center to open on Saturdays due to high tourist traffic. He raised concerns regarding a recurring feral cat issue on Chase Creek Street, suggesting the town explore humane spay-neuter-release programs, and questioned the permit status of a large "rentals" sign on Leonard Avenue that appears to violate residential signage codes. Additionally, he noted the need to update the town's website, requested information on current bonding capacity, and recommended initiating an offer for the property at 700 South Coronado Boulevard. Finally, Council Member Kovach proposed an "Adopt the Town of Clifton" concept to secure community project funding from wealthy individuals with local ties, and advocated for forming a committee with local nonprofits to create a safety net for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Council Member Brown reported on his attendance at a recent SEAGO meeting, highlighting concerns over potential losses to CDBG and other funding. He urged residents to contact state representatives to advocate for these grants. He also shared updates from an Attorney General’s meeting regarding elder fraud and abuse, noting that an investigator will be assigned to the area. Looking ahead, Council Member Brown will attend the upcoming League Conference, focusing on short-term rentals, public safety/military affairs, and public records. Additionally, he expressed a desire to see planning and zoning efforts move forward.

Council Member Ahmann voiced agreement with Council Member Kovach regarding the "rentals" sign, noting that commercial signs should not be permitted in a residential area. Additionally, she announced that she would like to volunteer at the Visitors Center.

Mayor Dorrell spoke about her excitement about the duck races, her husband is working on something to help grab those ducks that get stuck. She also reminded the people to shop local.

Vice Mayor & Council Member Lorenzo had no reports at this time.

Town Manager Report
No Town Manager report.

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 April 9, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, May 7, 2026 Work Session Minutes, May 21, 2026 Special Session Minutes
- 2. Approval of April and May 2026 Demands
- 3. Discussion and possible action to authorize the Mayor to execute contract agreement between the Town of Clifton and Pierce Coleman for legal services
- 4. Discussion and possible action to approve an agreement for Accounting Services with Colby & Powell, PLC, and authorize the Mayor, Manager, Town Attorney and Town Clerk to execute the necessary documents.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda presented.			
Motion Made by:	Council Member Kovach ▾	Seconded By:	Vice Mayor James ▾
Aye Votes:	☒ Council Member Ahmann ☒ Council Member Brown ☒ Council Member Lorenzo ☐ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☒ Vice Mayor James ☒ Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	☐ Council Member Ahmann ☐ Council Member Brown ☐ Council Member Lorenzo ☐ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☐ Vice Mayor James ☐ Mayor Dorrell
Abstained:		Recused:	

Motion	Carries ▾	Time:	2:21 p.m.
--------	-----------	-------	-----------

Public Hearing Regarding Use of CDBG RA FY26 Funding 2:22 p.m. Open to the Public.

Presentation of Potential Projects:

Will Osborne from Seago will be giving a presentation regarding the potential Projects. Potential project categories included Public/Community Facilities, Housing, Public Services, Planning.Design engineering for future projects.

Public Comments:

Luis Montoya, a member of the public, questioned why ineligible projects, such as EV charging stations, were listed on the website for consideration. Will Osborne explained that the Arizona Department of Housing requires all public-suggested projects to be included in the notice, regardless of eligibility. Cindy Blackmore agreed that future lists should include notations to better clarify which projects are ineligible for CDBG funding but might qualify for other sources.

Close Public Hearing at 2:56 p.m.

New Business

Discussion possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2026:01 use of CDBG Funds:

Motion: to use CDBG funds for ADA-improvements to Town facilities, sidewalk improvements which may also include improvement of low voltage street lights.			
Motion Made by:	Council Member Ahmann ▾	Seconded By:	Council Member Kovach ▾
Aye Votes:	☒ Council Member Ahmann ☒ Council Member Brown ☒ Council Member Lorenzo ☐ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☒ Vice Mayor James ☒ Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	☐ Council Member Ahmann ☐ Council Member Brown ☐ Council Member Lorenzo ☐ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☐ Vice Mayor James ☐ Mayor Dorrell
Abstained:		Recused:	
Motion	Carries ▾	Time:	2:57 p.m.

Public Hearing on the Proposed Alternative Expenditure Limitation – Home Rule Option: 2:58 p.m. Open to the Public

Presentation/information on the Alternative Expenditure Limitation – Home Rule Option - Staff:

The Town Manager gave a presentation regarding the Home Rule. She provided an overview of the Home Rule option, explaining that it allows the town to bypass outdated state-imposed spending limits (based on 1979-1980 service levels) and grants the flexibility to expend collected revenues to meet modern community needs. She clarified that Home Rule does not affect tax rates or create new taxes, but it requires voter reauthorization every four years.

Home Rule remains the preferred option as it ensures local control and accommodates higher expenditures, such as those funded by large grants. For context, projections for 2028 estimate the state-imposed spending limit at just over \$5.7 million, compared to an \$11.1 million limit under Home Rule.

Public Comments: No public comments.
Closed Public Hearing at 3:08

Public Hearing on the FY 2027 Budget and Property Tax Levy for the Town of Clifton
3:08 p.m. Open to the Public

Presentation/information on the Town of Clifton FY2026-2027 Budget and Property Tax Levy:
Cindy Blackmore presented the final budget, which establishes an expenditure limit of \$13,826,260. She noted that the budget had been adjusted to reflect Town Council input, specifically incorporating allocations for a land purchase and locomotive repairs. These additions were funded by:
Reducing the stabilization fund from \$1 million to \$500,000.
Incorporating \$150,000 from the volunteer fire department.

Property Tax Levy: The primary property tax levy will remain unchanged at \$650,000, which results in a slight decrease in the property tax rate to 4.0466.

Public Comments:
Resident Luis Montoya addressed the council, observing that while they were not recommending changes to the budget, the town's current financial stewardship was lacking. Montoya noted that the town earned minimal interest on its idle cash reserves, suggesting that with more active investment of these funds, the town could generate at least \$40,000 in additional annual revenue to help mitigate the loss of spending power caused by inflation.

Close Public Hearing at 3:21 p.m.

New Business

Discussion and possible action to adopt Resolution No. 2026:02: Adoption of the Budget for FY 2026-2027

Motion: to adopt Resolution No. 2026:02: Budget for FY 2026-2027			
Clerk Jernigan called a roll call vote:			
Motion Made by:	Council Member Kovach ▾	Seconded By:	Council Member Brown ▾
Aye Votes:	☒ Council Member Ahmann ☒ Council Member Brown ☒ Council Member Lorenzo ☒ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☒ Vice Mayor James ☒ Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	☐ Council Member Ahmann ☐ Council Member Brown ☐ Council Member Lorenzo ☐ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☐ Vice Mayor James ☐ Mayor Dorrell
Abstained:		Recused:	

Motion	Carries ▾	Time:	3:22 p.m.
--------	-----------	-------	-----------

Executive Session entered at 3:23 p.m.

Executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1), (3), and (4) regarding the pending expiration of the contract for the Presiding Judge of the Clifton Municipal Court and related options.

Executive session pursuant to A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(1), (3), and (4) regarding the recruitment and appointment of a Town Prosecutor.

Adjournment at 3:32 p.m.