

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
January 11, 2024
2:00 P.M.**

Members Present

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

**Participated via telephone

Quorum Present

The Town's legal counsel, Jon Paladini and Matt Schiumo participated via telephone

Call to Order: After a slight delay due to technical problems the meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Call to the Public: Addressing the Council was Akos Kovach from the Greenlee County Tourism Council he gave a brief update on the organization including informing the Council that a new board had been voted in.
Danny Cervantez, resident, addressed the Council to welcome new Town Clerk Cece Jernigan and his thoughts on her taking the position.

Council Reports

Council member Luis Montoya: Discussed the changes in staffing at the Town Clerk position, wished a happy retirement to Town Clerk Espie Castaneda, and spoke of her years of service. Welcomed Cece Jernigan to the Town Clerk position.

Vice-Mayor Anthony James: Wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council member Ray Lorenzo: Also wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Council member Ray West: Had nothing to add, agreed or seconded everything everyone had already said.

Council member, Karen Crump-Frye: Thanked the Mayor for the mention last month of the Arizona Highways article, [and](#) added that the article also discussed the mine, Chase Creek, the river amongst other things.

Council member, Janeene Carrillo: Happy New Year, mentioned that she had been contacted ~~from~~ [by](#) someone at the Smithsonian Institute and they would like to come out towards the end of the month to discuss Clifton and its history. She will keep everyone updated. She would also like to discuss the animal problem around town at a future Council meeting. She has spoken to the Morenci Manager about their issues as well.

Mayor Dorrell: Mentioned that she too had been approached about animals, but she had a non-profit reach out to talk to her about what they do. Also mentioned a meeting she and Chief Negrete had with the Arizona Attorney General's Office to discuss the Opioid money that will be coming to Clifton from the lawsuit settlements and how that money can be spent. Discussed the great retirement party of Espie Castaneda and welcomed the new Town Clerk.

Consent Agenda: Council member Montoya made a motion to approve the following items listed under Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the December 14, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of December 2023 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Vice Mayor James

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

New Business

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 02-2023: An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The Town Of Clifton, Arizona, Amending The Code Of The Town Of Clifton, Arizona, By Amending Title III Administration, Chapter 30 Mayor And Council, Section 30.064 Agenda Related To The Preparation Of Council Meeting Agendas; Providing For Repeal Of Conflicting Ordinances; And Providing For Severability.

Ordinance title was read by Mayor Dorrell and a brief explanation given by Town Manager Perez, clarification given by legal Counsel on how Council members could avoid violating open meeting law potentially, when trying to get a second member to request an agenda item by limiting how many members they discuss it with before opting to add the request on future agenda items to the agenda.

Discussion and/or action to approve of Ordinance No. 02-2023

Motion was made by Council member West to approve Ordinance No. 02-2023

Second to the motion was made by Vice Mayor James

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

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 01-2023: An Ordinance Of The Common Council Of The Town Of Clifton, Arizona, Amending The Zoning Code Of The Town Of Clifton, Arizona, By Amending Title XV Land Usage, Chapter 156 Zoning Code, Section 1.92.100 Board Of Adjustment Allowing For The Town Council To Act As The Board Of Adjustments When No Quorum Can Be Formed; Providing For Repeal Of Conflicting Ordinances; And Providing For Severability.

Ordinance was read by Town Clerk Jernigan

Brief explanation given by Town Manager Perez as to the role and requirements for the Council acting as the Board of Adjustments as well as [explain-explained](#) past problems of convening a quorum of the Board and the delays it causes.

Discussion and/or action to approve of Ordinance No. 01-2023

Motion was made by Council member Montoya to approve Ordinance No. 01-2023

Second to the motion was made by Council member Lorenzo

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

Discussion and/or action regarding the Preliminary Land Exchange Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Freeport Minerals Corporation.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported on 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.

Motion was made by Council member Montoya to move forward and Publish the Notice of Intent

Second to the motion was made by Council member Carrillo

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

Manager's Report

Town Manager Perez gave an update on the Chase Creek Bridge project with ADOT and let the Council know that the bid deadline of January 19th was coming up and he was informed that ADOT was anticipating the bids to come in very high and over the initial estimate. He stated that he would reach out to Trish with the attorney's office for advice and options for moving forward if that was the case and he would stay in contact with the Mayor and Council member Montoya.

He also reported that on Mon (Jan 8th) he and the Public Works Director as well as Morenci Water & Electric met with Sunland Asphalt to discuss the upcoming streets projects for Shannon Rd, Riverside Dr and Park Ave. They will start April 9-11 for milling and grading and Apr 15-17 for the paving they will notify the town and residents when starting work.

Perez also reported that he was seeking RFPs for the Personnel Policy Manual Updates and hoped that he would be presenting the bid results at the next Council meeting.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Council member Montoya

Second to the motion was made by Vice Mayor James