

**Minutes  
Town of Clifton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
March 13, 2025  
2:00 P.M.**

**Members Present**

**Mayor Laura Dorrell**

**Vice-Mayor Anthony James**

**Council member Ray Lorenzo**

**Council member Janeene K. Carrillo**

**Council member Barbara Waddell Reyes**

**Council member Barbara Ahmann**

**\*Excused**

**\*\*Participated via telephone**

**Quorum Present**

**The Town's legal counsel, Matt Schiumo, participated via telephone.**

**The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**

**Call to the Public:**

Chief Negrete recognized Officer Austin Wilson, Wilson has been recognized by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety for outstanding work in Drug Recognition Enforcement. Chief Negrete commended Officer Wilson for his hard work and thanked him for his service to the Town.

Martha Lujan Social Projects Manager from FMI spoke to the Council about upcoming Earth Day events taking place throughout the County in the Month of April. Lujan also discussed an upcoming waterline project that will take place along Highway 191.

**Council Reports:**

Council Member Ahmann informed the Council and public that the "Colors of Copper" annual event would again be held in November this year.

Council Member Lorenzo thanked the Public Works department for all of their recent hard work, he sees the difference around town.

Council Member Carrillo expressed her appreciation to members of the Clifton Social Club present at today's meeting for all of their hard work hosting Community events and rebuilding the Social Club.

Mayor Dorrell reminded everyone of the upcoming River Festival event hosted by the Tourism Council on March 29<sup>th</sup> encouraged all to attend. The Mayor discussed the "Moving Mural" project, Art Honor students from Morenci High School will be designing and painting a mural scene of Historical Chase Creek St.

**Committee Reports:**

**Rates and Fees (Dorrell)**

Committee Chair Dorrell informed the Council and the public that the Rates and Fees Committee was working on a revised Miscellaneous Fees Schedule to present to the Council, in which it is proposed to raise all rates and fees.

**Grants and Funding (Carrillo)**

Committee Chair Carrillo will hold their next meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Town Manager Babaletakis reminded the Council and public that any outside agencies needing support for grants from the town would need to go through the Grants and Funding Committee.

**Buildings and Properties (James)**

Committee Chair James informed the Council, the committee held their first meeting earlier in the week. They focused their discussion on the Train Depot and the Elk's Building. They are just getting started with their vision and purpose.

**Roads and Streets (Lorenzo)**

Committee Chair Lorenzo updated the Council on the committee’s plan to prioritize street paving and repair based on the Pavement Assessment Study as well as working with utility companies and their schedules to do work in Clifton. Park Avenue is the road scheduled to be repaved this fiscal year.

**Consent Agenda:**

The Motion to approve the following items as listed under consent agenda was made by Vice Mayor James, seconded by Council Member Lorenzo

- 1. Approval of the February 13, 2025 CDBG Public Hearing Minutes, February 13, 2025 Regular Meeting February 10, 2025 Special Session Minutes, and February 11, 2025 Special Session Minutes
- 2. Receive Department Reports;
- 3. Approval of February 2025 Demands.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Brown, Carrillo, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

**New Business**

**Swearing in of Council Member Chad Brown**

Clerk Jernigan swore in Council Member Chad Brown ceremoniously, he was officially sworn in prior to the meeting.

**Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2025-01: Designating the Chief Fiscal Officer for the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.**

Clerk Jernigan explained that the town needed to updated their CFO due to the change in Town Managers. Tina Babaletakis will be the new CFO.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-01: Designating the Chief Fiscal Officer for the Annual Expenditure Limitation Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 made by Council Member Ahmann second to the motion made by Council Member Lorenzo

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Brown, Carrillo, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

**Discussion and/or action to approve Resolution No. 2025-02: A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Clifton, Greenlee County, State of Arizona hereby approving authorized signers to execute all documents and other items which may be required by the National Bank of Arizona on behalf of the Town of Clifton.**

Clerk Jernigan explained that this was another item to be updated with a new Town Manager.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-02: A Resolution of the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Clifton, Greenlee County, State of Arizona hereby approving authorized signers to execute all documents and other items which may be required by the National Bank of Arizona on behalf of the Town of Clifton made by Council Member Carrillo second to the motion made by Council Member Ahmann

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Brown, Carrillo, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

**Discussion and/or action to approve Resolution No. 2025-03: A Resolution Of The Mayor And Town Council Of The Town Of Clifton, Greenlee County, State Of Arizona Hereby Approving and Authorizing Town Personnel To Access The Town’s Safe Deposit Box Located At The National Bank Of Arizona-Morenci Branch On Behalf Of The Town Of Clifton.**

Clerk Jernigan explained that this was another item to be updated with a new Town Manager.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2025-03: A Resolution Of The Mayor And Town Council Of The Town Of Clifton, Greenlee County, State Of Arizona Hereby Approving and Authorizing Town Personnel To Access The Town’s Safe Deposit Box Located At The National Bank Of Arizona-Morenci Branch On Behalf Of The Town Of Clifton made by Vice Mayor James second to the motion made by Council Member Lorenzo

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Brown, Carrillo, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute ADOT Contract Number: DT-ITG-2025-001 Interagency Service Agreement AZTraCS Contract between the Town of Clifton Police Department and Arizona Department of Transportation**

Babaletakis explained that this is a standard agreement that updates and digitizes our traffic citation process. The cost is only the time for the staff to learn how to use the software. Chief Negrete explained the court will have a compatible court software to receive the citations directly.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute ADOT Contract Number: DT-ITG-2025-001 Interagency Service Agreement AZTraCS Contract between the Town of Clifton Police Department and Arizona Department of Transportation made by Council Member Carrillo second to the motion made by Council Member Ahmann

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Brown, Carrillo, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the Contract between the Town of Clifton and Tina Babaletakis for the Town Manager’s Employment Agreement.**

Babaletakis requested the item be moved to Executive Session, Council for her to move on to the Town Manager’s Report first and then will convene into Executive Session

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Contract between the Town of Clifton and Tina Babaletakis for the Town Manager’s Employment Agreement with discussed amendments made by Council Member Ahmann second to the motion made by Council Member Waddell Reyes

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Brown, Carrillo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

**Town Manager Report**

Babaletakis reported to the Council on the following items:

**Budget Timeline**

Admin and department heads will be beginning the budget process.

**Clifton Pride Initiative**

Proud of everyone, the team is doing great, residents are responding well.

**Department Updates:**

**Code Enforcement**

Has 30 open cases; 3 verbal, 26 formal written and 1 court citation.

**Administration**

New office clerk starts 3/24/25.

**Public Works**

Working through protocol adjustments, lines painted in our parking lots around town, 35 ongoing maintenance tasks every month. The WWTP is on lockdown, access is only permitted when a town employee is present.

**Parks & Recreation/RV Park**

Liz is revamping reports and protocols; the recent shutdown went better than in the past.

**Library**

Had 3 new users, 77 new items put into circulation

**Police**

Very busy, 214 calls in February, 23 traffic tickets (2 criminal), 24 arrests, 1 life flight

Good month all around

#### **Discussion of Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Babaletakis asked the Council to provide her with two dates that they would be available for a special session meeting later in the month possibly looking at March 26<sup>th</sup>, and/or into the first week of April

Motion to convene into Executive Session made by Council Member Carrillo second to the motion made by Council Member Waddell Reyes

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Brown, Carrillo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

#### **Executive Session**

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A.3), (A.4), and (A.7): Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney to discuss the town's public parking lot located at Property Parcel # 200-88-023, Lots 23, 24 and 25 in Clifton, Arizona in order to consider the Town's legal position and receive instructions regarding the purchase, sale or lease of property for the parking lot.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A.3), (A.4), and (A.7): Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney to discuss the town's plot at Property Parcel # 200-78-015 and Parcel # 200-78-016 in Clifton, Arizona in order to consider the Town's legal position and receive instructions regarding the purchase, sale or lease of property.

Council exited Executive Session at approximately 4:07pm

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by second to the motion made by Vice Mayor James, second to the motion made by Council Member Waddell Reyes

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Brown, Carrillo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

Meeting ended at approximately 4:11pm