

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
April 9, 2026
2:00 P.M.**

**Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell at 2:02 p.m.
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	In Person	
Anthony James	Vice Mayor	Excused Absence	
Akos Kovach	Council Member	In Person	
Raymond Lorenzo	Council Member	In Person	
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.

Martha Lujan, Freeport McMoran Social Performance Manager- In honor of Earth Day, Freeport-McMoRan is partnering with the Greenlee County Chambers of Commerce to host a free plant giveaway. The event will take place outside of the Morenci Library and will feature various local businesses and vendors selling items. Additionally, Martha shared that Freeport will be beginning an exploratory drilling program on state and private land, which includes some areas currently used by the public. She noted that if residents have any comments or questions regarding this drilling project, they should contact her directly.

Council Reports

Council Member Kovach commended the Chamber of Commerce on a successful Prom, noting his appreciation for the event's food and music. He reminded the community that the next Chamber mixer will be held on April 22nd at El Corralito and encouraged the public to consult the Greenlee Tourism Calendar for local updates. In addition to wishing everyone a happy and safe Easter, Council Member Kovach highlighted a new restaurant and paintball facility in Duncan, noting that Duncan will also host a free plant giveaway on the 17th. Furthermore, he announced an upcoming safety liaison meeting to be held by DVEC. Finally, he expressed his sincere gratitude for the Public Works Department's diligent efforts regarding town maintenance, specifically their work in street cleaning and weed management.

Council Members Brown and Lorenzo both commended the Public Works Department for their diligent efforts in maintaining the community. They expressed their shared appreciation for the department's hard work and commitment to cleaning up the Town.

Council Member Ahmann reported on her attendance at the Chamber Mixer, noting that she enjoyed the food and had a pleasant experience overall. While she expressed her appreciation for the evening, she also shared her hope for increased community turnout at future events.

Council Member Waddell Reyes expressed her appreciation for the Town Manager's current newsletter format. She suggested that she explore methods to make this information available to the public, noting that the community would benefit from the updates and insights provided in the reports.

Mayor Dorrell echoed these sentiments, commending the Public Works department for their hard work and specifically noting the impressive appearance of Triangle Park. She also shared how she attended the prom and shared a brief background on the chef responsible for the catering. Additionally, she suggested implementing a new method to ensure the public has better access to the Town Manager's newsletter.

Town Manager Report

The Town Manager's report began with a celebration of the successful AZ250 event and a formal expression of gratitude to the Public Works department for their ongoing efforts. In department news, the Manager highlighted a new Adult Cooking Class at the Library. Regarding the upcoming election, she reminded the Council that four seats are open—three for four-year terms and one for a two-year term—and noted the opportunity for write-in candidates. The manager is moving to outsource payroll processing due to the complexities of tax compliance, the need for enhanced data security. She also has been working with a CPA firm to assist with town finances. Finally, she provided updates on several town projects, stating that parts for the marquee are expected tomorrow and that a contractor has inspected the Elks Lodge for a forthcoming bid, as well as the flooring at the Train Depot.

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 March 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, March 26, 2026 CDBG Public Hearing Minutes, March 26, 2026 Special Session Minutes
2. Approval of March 2026 Demands

Motion: To approve consent agenda.

Motion Made by:	Council Member Kovach ▾	Seconded By:	Council Member Brown ▾
Aye Votes:	☒ Council Member Ahmann ☒ Council Member Brown ☐ Council Member Kovach ☒ Council Member Lorenzo ☒ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☐ Vice Mayor James ☒ Mayor Dorrell	Nay Votes:	☐ Council Member Ahmann ☐ Council Member Brown ☐ Council Member Kovach ☐ Council Member Lorenzo ☐ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☐ Vice Mayor James ☐ Mayor Dorrell
Abstained:	None ▾	Recused:	None ▾
Motion	Carries ▾	Time:	2:25

Discussion and possible action to approve Inmate Work Contract 26-060-31 with the Arizona Department of Corrections.

A discussion was held regarding the renewal of the five-year inmate work contract (26-060-31) with the Arizona Department of Correction. The contract utilizes inmate labor at \$1.50 per hour per inmate for rehabilitation and inexpensive labor, and it was confirmed that the terms are the same as previous contracts, restricting inmate work to public property only.

Motion: To approve Inmate Work Contract 26-060-31 with the Arizona Department of Corrections.

Motion Made by:	Council Member Kovach ▾	Seconded By:	Council Member Brown ▾
Aye Votes:	☒ Council Member Ahmann ☒ Council Member Brown	Nay Votes:	☐ Council Member Ahmann ☐ Council Member Brown

	☐ Council Member Kovach ☒ Council Member Lorenzo ☒ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☐ Vice Mayor James ☒ Mayor Dorrell		☐ Council Member Kovach ☐ Council Member Lorenzo ☐ Council Member Waddell Reyes ☐ Vice Mayor James ☐ Mayor Dorrell
Abstained:	None ▾	Recused:	None ▾
Motion	Carries ▾	Time:	2:27 P.M

Presentation and Discussion to work with Local First to develop a “Collaborative Capacity Program for Forests & Communities” grant application through the National Forest Foundation.

Victoria Grijalva Ochoa, Program Manager for Local First Arizona, presented an opportunity to collaborate on a National Forest Foundation grant for a collaborative capacity program. Local First, an economic development organization, would apply for and manage the smaller \$20,000 to \$50,000 strategic planning grant to focus on areas like the San Francisco River cleanup, invasive species removal, and increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and river access points. Local First will apply for the grant and allocate budget funds for town staff time to participate in community meetings and planning efforts.

Mayor adjourned meeting at 2:36 PM