

**Minutes  
Town of Clifton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
May 8, 2025  
2:00 P.M.**

**Town Council Members**

Janeene Carrillo, Council Member  
Chad Brown, Council Member  
Anthony James, Vice Mayor  
Laura Dorrell, Mayor  
Raymond Lorenzo, Council Member  
B. Waddell Reyes  
Barbara Ahmann, Council Member

**\*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**

Steve Ahmann resident, expressed that he feels Clifton has not changed significantly during his time here. He noted an upcoming CPP meeting and suggested that FMI should utilize this opportunity to find a grant writer for the Town of Clifton. He also mentioned the County receives a stipend, but the Town does not.

Akos Kovach resident, stated that he has been in Clifton for 9+ years and feels he has seen improvement within the Town. He expressed a desire for everyone to continue to come together to help bring further improvements. He also applauded Town Clerk Cecilia for her hard work.

Lieutenant Gabe Guerrero updated the Council that as of June 1st, deputies will have new uniforms. Deputies will have the discretion to choose which uniform they wear. The department is also in the process of writing grants to acquire more equipment to better access and manage off-road incidents.

**Council Reports**

Council Member Brown advised Residents to be patient about the work being done on Highway 191.

Council Member Carrillo commended the Chamber of Commerce for a successful mixer, noting the excellent attendance. She also expressed appreciation for the ongoing road repairs, stating they will contribute to the beautification of the Town.

Mayor Dorrell acknowledged the current traffic disruptions, expressing that the situation will significantly improve once the work is completed. She also commented favorably on the recent color changes to the Town Council room.

No report from the following members-

Vice Mayor Anthony James  
Council Member Raymond Lorenzo  
Council Member B. Waddell Reyes  
Council Member Babara Ahmann

**Committee Reports**

**Rates and Fees (Dorrell)**

The Town is re-evaluating services that are currently provided to residents for free because these services are incurring a cost to the Town. The Town Manager is investigating all aspects of this situation to determine what changes are necessary.

**Grants and Funding (Carrillo)**

Fitness Park: This project has been eliminated because it was more expensive than initially anticipated.

Train Depot Tiles: Tiles have been selected (concrete tiles), and the project is moving forward.

Elks Lodge Project: This project is currently on hold pending the selection of a company.

Wastewater: This project is temporarily on pause.

Triangle Park Mural: The mural will now be movable and is nearing completion.

## **Buildings and Properties (James)**

The Vice Mayor indicated that Council Member Carrillo had covered all necessary points, and as a result, the Vice Mayor had no additional comments or information to contribute on the matter.

## **Roads and Streets (Lorenzo)**

Council Member Lorenzo reported that for Roads and Streets, they will be reverting to their original strategy of addressing one project at a time.

## **Consent Agenda:**

The Motion to approve the following items as listed under consent agenda was made by Council Member Carrillo seconded by Council Member Ahmann

1. Approval of the April 10, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of April 2025 Demands

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

Motion Carries

## **New Business**

### **Discussion and/or action to approve the Notice of Intent to increase and add Miscellaneous Rates and Fees and RV Park Fees Pursuant to A.R.S. 9-499.15**

The town manager is proposing a price increase, noting that prices have not been raised since 2023 and that this increase would modernize the fee structure. The manager has requested that the proposed increase be published to proceed. In response to a question from Council Member Ahmann, it was confirmed that the new rates and fees include the rental of the clubhouse. Motion to approve the Notice of Intent to increase and add Miscellaneous Rates and Fees and RV Park Fees Pursuant to A.R.S. 9-499.15 was made by Council Member Brown made, seconded by Council Member Ahmann.

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

### **Discussion and/or action to change traffic on Chase Creek Street from a two-way to a one-way**

A proposal was made to create a one-way street heading north by Circle K. Several council members supported this idea, agreeing that the road is very narrow and that a one-way designation would improve safety for both residents and business owners. However, concerns were raised about how large vehicles, such as the semi-trucks that service Family Dollar General, would navigate the proposed one-way street. Police Chief Negrete also contributed to the discussion, suggesting the one-way portion could extend up to Palicio Loop. Motion to approve the Traffic change on Chase Creek Street from a two-way to a one-way was made by Council Member Brown, seconded by Council Member Reyes.

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

Opposed- Vice Mayor, Council Member Carrillo

### **Discussion and/or action to review Project letter for Soap Box Canyon Bridge at Ward Canyon Road for potential comment or concern submission**

A discussion was held regarding the bridge in Clifton that is considered unsafe, prompting questions about the potential impact on traffic and the timeline for any proposed work.

### **Discussion and/or action to amend the Clifton Police Department Policy book to remove the “Skills-Based Salary Advancement Program” and replace with all employees being on a COLA and Merit based salary increase plan**

Discussion to remove the Clifton Police Department Policy book to remove the Skills-Based Salary Advancement Program and replace with all employees being on a COLA and Merit based salary increase plan. It was suggested that hopefully this would help with retaining officers. Motion to approve Clifton Police Department Policy book to remove the “Skills-Based Salary Advancement Program” and replace with all employees being on a COLA and Merit based salary increase plan by Council Member Ahmann and was seconded by Council Member Carrillo.

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

**Discussion and/or action to request the Council to write-off old accounts’ sewer debt of deceased residents and no longer residing in the area**

Council members expressed disappointment over the accumulated bad debt. They questioned what procedural improvements and changes have been implemented to prevent similar financial losses in the future. Members of the public also weighed in on the issue, voicing their concerns about the uncollected funds. One suggestion from the community was to explore the possibility of placing liens on the properties of account holders with delinquent sewer payments to improve collection rates going forward. Motion to write-off old accounts’ sewer debt of deceased residents and no longer residing in the area was made by Council Member Ahmann, seconded by Council Member Brown.

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

**Discussion only introduction to Parks and Town Facilities Camera Surveillance Plan**

During the discussion, key questions were raised by council members regarding the implementation and oversight of the new surveillance system. The Vice Mayor inquired about who would be responsible for monitoring the camera feeds, a significant logistical consideration. Another question focused on public notification, specifically whether signs would be posted to inform potential intruders and the public that the premises are under video surveillance. The Town Manager confirmed that she intends to have signs put up to alert individuals that they are being filmed. The discussion highlights a move toward improving security at public facilities while also considering the practical aspects of monitoring and public awareness.

**First Reading and Discussion of an Ordinance Amending Clifton Town Code §§ 32.01, 32.04, 32.24, and 32.25 to clarify the appointment authority of the Town Council and Town Manager related to the Town Attorney and Town Magistrate, as well as other conforming changes.**

Ordinance read by the Mayor. This is a continuation from last meeting, where we found a discrepancy in the Code. This is to fix the clerical error in our ordinance.

**Discussion only presentation of Updated Town of Clifton Personnel Policy Draft**

The manager is introducing the Personnel policy and wants to schedule a work session to further discuss

**First Reading and Discussion of an Ordinance Amending Clifton Town Code §§ 93.01 and 93.02 related to public nuisances, to update definitions, clarify what constitutes a public nuisance, establish penalties, and make other conforming changes.**

Ordinance read by the Mayor. A proposal to strengthen and enhance the Town of Clifton's blight ordinance has been initiated by the Town Manager. The current ordinance is seen as being too simplistic, functioning more as a basic definition of blight rather than a detailed, enforceable set of regulations. The Town Manager is advocating for the development of a more comprehensive ordinance. The goal is to create a more robust legal tool that provides clear standards and procedures for identifying and rectifying blighted properties within the town.

**Schedule Work Sessions**

- a. Budget- June 3<sup>rd</sup>.2025
- b. Personnel Policy Review- May 21<sup>st</sup>,2025
- c. Blight Ordinance May 21<sup>st</sup>,2025

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Town to enter into the revised Effluent Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Freeport McMoRan Inc**

**Town Manager Report**

**League of Arizona Cities and Towns Annual Conference**

**Council Members and Town Manager have been signed up and book their reservation.**

**Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce Mixer**

We are going to be hosting the Chamber of Commerce Mixer. This will be taking place June 11th at the Town Hall. This will be the kick off to our Fire Station Campaign.

**Clifton Pride Initiative**

**Department Updates: (Admin, Code Enforcement, Library, Magistrate, Animal Control, Dispatch, Fire Dept, Police Dept, Public Works, RV Park/Parks, Visitors Center)**

Town Manager announced that Town Clerk Cecillia Jernigan has been nominated for Public Servant of the year. We are making cosmetic improvements to Town Hall. The manager is going to open up a vote to the Public about a 'Welcome Sign". The next project will be starting on Chase Creek to ensure all businesses are up to code. Construction on Park Ave will begin soon, we anticipate traffic, so we will be placing speeders watch in hopes to minimize residents speeding. We also reached out North Star about a potential quote for Webster. The Library has signed a contract and work will being soon. RV Park Splash Pad is open. We are also coordinating with Brama for the next shut down. Town Manager and Police Chief will be meeting with the Sheriffs department to go over all the speeding that has been taken place. Animal Control had another Rabies Clinic. Reminder that all dogs and cats should be licensed and tagged. The VIsitors Center will be at the Mixer , they are hoping to get more advertisement for all local businesses. Public Works has been hard at work preparing for monsoon season.

**J.       Adjournment**  
Motioned by Council Member Carrillo seconded by Council Member Lorenzo  
Time 4:04

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