

**Minutes  
Town of Clifton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
April 10, 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, Trish Stuhan, participated via telephone.**

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

**Mayor Dorrell held a moment of silence for Walter Mares, journalist, former employee, and beloved community member who passed away this week**

**Call to the Public:**

Martha Lujan Social Performance Director with FMI, notified the Council of an upcoming project in the area. Freeport Minerals the parent company will be exploring the possibility of using Geo Thermal energy technology to help supplement and assist in mining at the Morenci mine. They will be doing exploratory drilling. The testing will involve lights and noise and will take about three weeks and cannot be stopped once it is started. Will start at the end of April and each well will take about three weeks and there will be three wells in 2 different areas. Resident Steve Ahmann expressed concern that the project could potentially have a negative impact on the hot springs in Clifton for Tourism.

Sheriff Eric Ellison, current Greenlee County Sheriff's department. The department has been working hard to slow down the large number of speeders on Hwy 191. It does seem to be making a difference. The department has also hired another investigator. They are also actively seeking multiple grants.

**Council Reports**

Council Member Carrillo working with Arizona Game & Fish for residents to recycle their used Christmas Trees, for use at Roper Lake. Other recycling possibilities for trees.

Vice Mayor James informed the public of a scam call regarding missing a "court date" he reported it to the courts and sheriff's department.

Council Member Waddell Reyes acknowledged she showed up late (arrived during Call to the Public). She spoke with someone from the railroad regarding the dust and other problems during work. She asked them to keep in contact with the Town Manager and keep her informed.

Mayor Dorrell thanked the Tourism Council for the great event of the Spring River Festival. Updated the Council and public on the moving mural that the high school honors art class is working on. It will be of Chase Creek Street.

**Committee Reports**

**Rates and Fees (Dorrell)**

Will be meeting again next week, right now the committee is focusing on RV Park rates the town's rates are lower than most if not all comparable facilities. The committee will be bringing all rates suggestions to the Council.

**Grants and Funding (Carrillo)**

Last meeting was cancelled, next meeting should be May 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm.

**Buildings and Properties (James)**

No current updates, next meeting is Monday at 2pm.

**Roads and Streets (Lorenzo)**

Everything is going as it should be, working ok their priority plan.

**Consent Agenda:**

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

- 1. Approval of the March 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 2. Receive Department Reports;
- 3. Approval of March 2025 Demands.

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

Motion Carries

**New Business**

**Fair Housing Month Proclamation – Mayor Laura Dorrell**

Mayor Dorrell read the Fair Housing Month Proclamation declaring April Fair Housing Month in Clifton

**Discussion only, request of support in recognizing the importance of early childhood development and recognizing the week of April 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> as Week of Young Child in Clifton, presented by Shari Elkins, Regional Director, Graham/Greenlee Region for First Things First**

First Things First Regional Director Shari Elkins presented to the Council the importance of early childhood education and explained some of the things that First Things First does.

**Week of the Young Child Proclamation - Mayor Laura Dorrell**

Mayor Dorrell read the Week of the Young Child Proclamation declaring the week of April 5<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> the week of the child in Clifton.

**Discussion only: report from US Forest Service on recent events and programs of interest to the Town of Clifton, presented by Vince Voelker District Ranger, Joe Names Fire Management Officer, and Lehi Vizcaino**

Members of the US Forest Service staff presented on what they have been doing in our area recently, discussed staffing changes and job duties of staff present. They also presented that there will be a higher risk of wildfires this year. They hope to increase the communication between themselves and local governments.

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the State Forester for the protection of its forests and wildlands as authorized under A.R.S. §§ 37-1303, 37-1302(13), 48-805(B)(17) and; the protection of forest, wild and agricultural lands, and rural structures as provided for within the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, 16 U.S.C. Section 2106**

Fire staff presented the cooperative agreement to the Council and public. Babaletakis clarified the Town’s responsibility with reporting if called to help. They explained that if we had a wildfire within town limits they would also assist. Attorney Stuhan clarified whether the town would have to reimburse the Forest Service for any charges incurred during a fire. They agreed the paperwork states it is possible; however, they have never seen it actually happen in their time.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the State Forester for the protection of its forests and wildlands as authorized under A.R.S. §§ 37-1303, 37-1302(13), 48-805(B)(17) and; the protection of forest, wild and agricultural lands, and rural structures as provided for within the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, 16 U.S.C. Section 2106 made by Council Member Ahmann second to the motion made by Council Member Brown

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

Motion Carries

**Presentation of AZ Water Association’s 2025 “Small Plant of the Year” award for the Town of Clifton’s Wastewater Treatment Plant – Alan Forrest, AZ Water Association, President**

Alan Forrest presented the Town of Clifton with a plaque awarding them as “Small Plant of the Year” for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Discussion and/or action for the Town of Clifton to host a Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce Mixer in May**

Babaletakis and Council discussed having the Town host a Chamber mixer at the Council Chambers sometime in late May. The Council agreed that it has been a while since the Town has hosted a mixer

**Discussion and/or action to purchase a table for the Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce Annual Event on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**

Mayor Dorrell mentioned that historically the Council would approve the purchase of the table, but that they would leave it open for staff to attend and the Council could attend on their own.

Motion to approve the purchase of a table for the Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce Annual Event on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm 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 regarding the selection of the Town of Clifton Welcome Sign**

Babaletakis presented the two current options for the Welcome Sign, the general consensus was that it would be better for one large coming into Clifton from the south as opposed to two smaller ones. Council members expressed their desire for color on the sign to make it stand out.

Discussion on the town logo was held about variations of the logo that the town has.

**Discussion and/or action to approve \$518,446.91 for Sunland Asphalt & Construction, LLC, an authorized vendor with 1 Government Procurement Alliance (1GPA), to provide road and street maintenance to Park Avenue and to authorize the Mayor to execute the Purchase Order Contract between the Town of Clifton and Sunland Asphalt.**

Babaletakis explained the changes made to the scope of work, it will go further to the end of Park Ave and not pave the portion of the road near the railroad tracks and informed the Council that there is a verbal agreement with Morenci W&E to pay 45%. Discussed that the project should be completed prior to June 30, 2025.

Motion to approve \$518,446.91 for Sunland Asphalt & Construction, LLC, an authorized vendor with 1 Government Procurement Alliance (1GPA), to provide road and street maintenance to Park Avenue and to authorize the Mayor to execute the Purchase Order Contract between the Town of Clifton and Sunland Asphalt made by Council Member Brown second to the motion made by Council Member Waddell Reyes.

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 direct Town Attorney on the drafting of Ordinance and/or Personnel Policy as it pertains to the Town Magistrate and Town Attorney**

Babaletakis explained that the Town’s ordinances are currently conflicting 32.25 and 34.15 one states that the Council appoints the Magistrate and the other states that the Town Manager appoints the Magistrate, it is recommended that the Council appoint. Attorney Stuhan’s office will draft updated ordinance.

Ordinance and Personnel Policy will need to be updated and drafted to clarify the role of the Town Attorney and who they represent. Babaletakis summarized that the Attorney will work with the Manager on day-to-day issues and represent the Council or the Town as a whole.

**Discussion only Update on the Town’s efforts in Sewer Debt Collections**

Babaletakis explained that the sewer debt was not how it first appeared, there is up to approximately \$200,000 that is “uncollectible debt”. Which leaves approximately \$100,000 that still will need to be collected. Collection efforts have been amped up. Mailed out 333 postcards, 55 paid about 17%. Notice of intent to plug will be sent next. Sewer plugs have been ordered.

**Discussion or consideration regarding appointment of Planning and Zoning Commission Members**

Council members were informed that there are two vacancies and three candidates, Council discussed the candidates. Clerk Jernigan suggested that the Council select 2 of the candidates as members and the 3<sup>rd</sup> as an alternate. Stuhan stated that there is no legal conflict of interest of having a Council Member’s spouse because there is no financial compensation. Council Member Ahmann will still recuse herself. Council members each gave their preference for the two candidates and alternates. Motion to appoint Candidates Ahmann and Anderson with Kennedy as an alternate made by Council Member Brown, second to the motion made by Council Member Carrillo

- a. Stephen Ahmann
- b. Rebecca Anderson
- c. Shane Kennedy

**Council recessed at 4:12 pm**

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY CORPORATION: The Clifton Town Council will convene as the Municipal Property Corporation and will reconvene as the Clifton Town Council after consideration of the following items:

Called to order at 4:12pm

Members Present  
Laura Dorrell  
Anthony James  
Ray Lorenzo

Clerk Jernigan explained the responsibility of the Municipal Property Corporation Commission

**Discussion and/or action to appoint five members from the Clifton Town Council to serve as the town’s Municipal Property Corporation Board of Directors.**

Motion to appoint Laura Dorrell, Anthony James, Ray Lorenzo, Janeene Carrillo, and Barbara Ahmann to the commission made by Barbara Waddell Reyes, second to the motion made by Anthony James

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

(Barbara Ahmann recused herself)

Motion Carries

Municipal Property Corporation Commission adjourned at 4:19pm

Reconvened as Clifton Town Council

**Town Manager Report**

**Overview of current state of affairs**

Babaletakis gave updates on the following:

Clifton Pride initiative, which not only includes cleanup efforts around town, but Town involvement in events. The Town will be attending the Easter Egg Hunt event on Saturday on Chase Creek.

Painting of the Police Dept is almost done, the Council Room will be the next room to be painted.

The Southern Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has a Mexican Consult visiting tonight at the Clifton Social Club.

Discussion held on possible town events: Cinco de Mayo, Días de los Muertos

New Officer Will start this month and work in the Police Department and help with clerical work such as records until going off to the Police Academy in July.

Fire Department building fundraising efforts will begin soon, would like to put a giant thermometer up outside.

The river needs to be cleaned up, Babaletakis is trying to get through the logistics of who is allowed to clean the river.

Budget is being worked on and is currently on schedule

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Waddell Reyes, second to the motion made by Council Member Carrillo

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

Motion Carries

Meeting ended at approximately 4:33pm