

**Minutes  
Town of Clifton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
January 9, 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:**

Will Collins from the Greenlee County Tourism Council thanked the Town for all of their help at the past festival and hopes that the town will help again this year.

**Council Reports:**

Council Member Carrillo thanked everyone for being present, happy and eager to welcome the new Town Manager. It's Law Enforcement Appreciation Day thank you for your service to public safety. Vice-Mayor James wishes everyone a Happy New Year and thank you to everyone for being here. Council Member Lorenzo Happy New Year and thanks for being here. Council Member Waddell Reyes everyone has already said it, it's great to see the public here. Mayor Dorrell The new Town Manager has hit the ground running. Dream Builders is coming to Clifton, great for small businesses it starts on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Social Club. There is a Health Fair on February 19<sup>th</sup>, would like to see everyone there.

**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 December 12, 2024 Regular Meeting and January 2, 2025 Special Session Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of December 2024 Demands.

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

Motion Carries

**New Business**

**Recognition of Library Director Sabrina for ten years of service to the Town of Clifton.**

Council Member Carrillo presented Library Director Sabrina Dumas with a plaque at the employee luncheon in December, however still wanted to thank her for her years of service to the Town of Clifton. Mayor Dorrell thanked Sabrina Dumas for all she does.

**Presentation and recognition to Animal Control Officer Melodee Castaneda for twenty years of service to the Town of Clifton.**

Council Member Carrillo presented Animal Control Officer Melodee Castaneda with a plaque for her twenty years of service to the Town of Clifton. Mayor Dorrell thanked her for all she does and her love for animals.

### **Presentation of Meritorious Conduct Award to Lieutenant Shari Aguilar**

Chief Negrete presented Lieutenant Shari Aguilar with a Meritorious Conduct Award for assisting in the delivery of a baby boy. He also presented Greenlee County Sheriff Department Deputy Jason Monjares with a letter of appreciation.

### **Discussion and/or action to approve the Greenlee County Tourism Association's request for in-kind support from the Town of Clifton for the 2025 Spring River Festival**

Town Clerk Jernigan explained that for this meeting she would be assisting the Town Manager with presenting agenda items as the new Town Manager gets settled into the role. Jernigan presented to the Council and discussed the requests from the Tourism Council. The requests are essentially the same as in the past, other than a change from the soccer field to the RV Park. Jernigan suggested that the event organizers meet with necessary Town staff a month and then again, a week before the event to ensure that everyone is on the same page for what is needed from the Town.

Motion to approve the Greenlee County Tourism Association's request for in-kind support from the Town of Clifton for the 2025 Spring River Festival was made by Council Member Carrillo second to the motion was made by Council Member Lorenzo

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

Motion Carries

### **Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to sign IGA 24-0009714-I to include Rail-Highway Safety Improvements at Park Avenue in the immediate area of the Arizona Eastern Railway (AZER) crossing; between the State of Arizona and its Department of Transportation and the Town of Clifton**

Clerk Jernigan explained the project that does not include the Town of Clifton, it simply takes place within Clifton town limits on a Clifton street. The work will take place on the railway crossing on Park Avenue near the levee. There is no cost to the Town of Clifton, the work will be arranged between ADOT and AZER, the project will not start for approximately three years. The impact to the Town will be the closure of Park Avenue.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign IGA 24-0009714-I to include Rail-Highway Safety Improvements at Park Avenue in the immediate area of the Arizona Eastern Railway (AZER) crossing; between the State of Arizona and its Department of Transportation and the Town of Clifton made by Vice-Mayor James second to the motion was made by Council Member Waddell Reyes

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

Motion Carries

### **Schedule Council Work Session**

Clerk Jernigan presented that the Work Session would be used to set Council goals and have a refresher with the Town attorney on legal training for the Council on items such as open meeting law, council interactions with staff, executive session, etc. Town Manager Tina Babaletakis suggested the 21<sup>st</sup> and the 28<sup>th</sup>. She will send out calendar invites.

### **Interim Manager and Town Clerk Report**

Chief Negrete thanked the Council for allowing himself and Clerk Jernigan to fill in as Interim Town Manager, he is happy to have new Town Manager Tina Babaletakis on board. Clerk Jernigan agreed.

Clerk Jernigan reminded the Council members to file their Financial Statements if they have not already done so. Will also need the laptop agreements from the Council Members that have not turned them in.

Clerk Jernigan presented the Committee assignments for Council Members and staff that were assigned by Town Manger Babaletakis for staff and Mayor Dorrell for Council Members. Jernigan also mentioned that members of the public are needed for the committees as well.

## **New Town Manager Update**

Tina Babaletakis introduced herself and thanked everyone for the warm welcome. It has been a busy first week. Cleaning up around town offices, increasing communication. Looking forward to working with everyone. Babaletakis gave a brief summary of an upcoming initiative that the Town will be rolling out called Clifton Pride that will be focusing on the cleanup of the Town. Mayor Dorrell mentioned that the Council also needs to make sure they are leading the way and clean up their properties.

Mayor and Council welcomed her aboard and are happy to have her here.

## **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn 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, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:52 pm