

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
February 8, 2024
2:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Mayor Laura Dorrell
Vice-Mayor Anthony James
Council member Ray West
Council member Ray Lorenzo
Council member Luis Montoya
Council member, Janeene Carrillo
Council member, Karen Crump-Frye**

**Participated via telephone

Quorum Present

The Town's legal counsel, Trish Stuhan participated via telephone

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Call to the Public: Danny Cervantez introduced a visitor from Philadelphia Sam Oberton who last year did an independent project "Mapping Morenci". He would like a photo of the Council after the meeting. Mr. Cervantez also congratulated and thanked Chief Negrete and Lt. Aguilar on their years of service.

Council Reports

Council member Carrillo: The individual from The Smithsonian pushed his visit back until possible summertime. Meeting with the Mayor and a non-profit for possible animal control help to address issues.

Council member Crump-Frye: Non-Profit can help with software, training and other types of support to provide help. They will probably be on the agenda next month to present. Ultimately it will be up to the County

Council member Montoya: Regarding concern from the previous Council meeting regarding the uncleanness of the town. A couple of concerns, one being that ADOT has not been picking up trash around the highway through town limits. The town staff has been picking up the garbage, cleaning up rockslides, paving, and using the street sweeping. Not sure why ADOT has not been coming to Clifton. We're paying Landfill fees for dumping all the garbage we pick up in addition to paying for garbage bags and manpower. The lack of ADOT presence doesn't seem to be just in Clifton, but all of Greenlee. Thankful to Rudy and the staff for trying to address the garbage issue. We also need to address people dumping bulk garbage. Council elections are coming up, there will be 4 seats up for re-election and at least a couple of incumbents will not be running again. Noticed in the Manager's report that a project to repave 191 has been cancelled by the governor, road needs work. We may need to address that.

Vice Mayor James: Nothing today

Council member Lorenzo: Nothing today

Council member West: Also has nothing today

Mayor Dorrell: Asked Rudy to share information on who to talk to at the legislature to contact to make sure we contact them about the project being canceled and our concerns.

Consent Agenda: Council member West made a motion to approve the following items listed under Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the January 11, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Approval of the January 31, 2024 Special Session Meeting Minutes;
3. Receive Department Reports;
4. Approval of January 2024 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Lorenzo

Voting in favor of the motion was Mayor Dorrell, Vice-Mayor James, Council member West,

Council member Lorenzo, Council member Montoya, Council member Carrillo, Council member Crump-Frye

New Business

Presentation and recognition to Lieutenant Shari Aguilar for ten years of service to the Town of Clifton.

Perez thanked Lt. Aguilar for her service and briefly summarized her career with the town. Chief Negrete spoke about how valuable Lt. Aguilar is to him, the department, and the town.

Presentation and recognition to Chief Omar Negrete for his tenth anniversary as Chief of Police.

Perez thanked Chief Negrete for his many years as Chief and other roles in service to the town. Perez is thankful there is a good relationship between the Manager's office and the Chief and police department, he has spoken with other City Managers who don't have the same positive relationship.

Discussion and/or action to approve the bid in the amount of \$10,000 from Pierce|Coleman to update the Town's Personnel Policy Manual

Town Manager Perez explained the project was approved in the budget and the last large update was in 1994. There were two bids received and Pierce Coleman is the lowest responsible bidder. Vice Mayor James was impressed with the years of experience throughout the firm. Mayor Dorrell stated this will be a great project.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor James to approve the bid in the amount of \$10,000 from Pierce|Coleman to update the Town's Personnel Policy Manual

Second to the motion was made by Council member Montoya

Voting in favor of the motion was Mayor Dorrell, Vice-Mayor James, Council member West, Council member Lorenzo, Council member Montoya, Council member Carrillo, Council member Crump-Frye

Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2024-01: A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The Town Of Clifton, Arizona, Declaring That The Town Council Deems The Granting Of A Franchise With The Morenci Water & Electric Company Beneficial For The Town of Clifton; Ordering An Election To Be Held On August 6, 2024, At Which The Question As To Whether The Franchise Shall Be Granted To The Morenci Water & Electric Company Shall Be Submitted To The Voters Of The Town Of Clifton; Defining The Proposed Ballot Language; And Authorizing And Directing The Town Clerk And Town Manager To Publish The Proposed Franchise And Conduct The Election

Clerk Jernigan explained that adopting the resolution for the Franchise Agreement is the next step for the town to be able to put the Franchise Agreement on the Primary ballot. Jernigan explained that Morenci Water & Electric went over the agreement's changes from the Council and were fine with the changes added a couple of minor changes. Jernigan explained the primary date may change to July 30th; Stuhan suggested adding to the motion the possible date change.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor James to adopt Resolution No. 2024-01 noting that the date may change to July 30th.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Montoya

Voting in favor of the motion was Mayor Dorrell, Vice-Mayor James, Council member West, Council member Lorenzo, Council member Montoya, Council member Carrillo, Council member Crump-Frye

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Clifton Police Department and the Phoenix Police Department

Chief Negrete informed the Council that the agreement is a renewal and has been in place, that they have received assistance through the agreement, with trainings and a grant for a computer.

Motion was made by Council member Carrillo to authorize the Mayor to execute the Arizona Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Intergovernmental Agreement between the Town of Clifton Police Department and the Phoenix Police Department

Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor James

Voting in favor of the motion was Mayor Dorrell, Vice-Mayor James, Council member West, Council member Lorenzo, Council member Montoya, Council member Carrillo, Council member Crump-Frye

Discussion and/or action regarding the construction of Chase Creek Bridge #1 (Frisco Ave. Bridge).

Town Manager Perez informed the Council that on January 19th ADOT received one bid for the Chase Creek Bridge #1 project from Meridian for 2,197,112 it is 914,192 more than the cost estimate for the project. Would like Council to advise on how they would like him and staff to proceed. Options would be to continue on and find the additional needed funds, ask to go out to bid again, cancel the project and request a refund of construction costs already paid. Attorney Stuhan explained that the town should receive most if not all of the money that has been the construction costs, however, they would not receive the money for engineering design fees and there would be a requirement possibly if the town does not complete the project in 10 years that the Town would have to pay back ADOT the full cost. Council Member Montoya pointed out that when the project was first introduced in July of 2019 it was projected to cost less than \$800,000 and is now over 2 million after delays and cost increases, if there are more delays or increases will it end up costing more than 4 million? Montoya thinks it would be best to discontinue the project and request a refund. Vice Mayor James asked if the bridge were to fail before it was repaired who would be at fault? Attorney Stuhan explained that she would have to look into that further and would let Manager Perez know.

Motion was made by Council member Montoya to turn down bid received by ADOT and discontinue the project and request that construction funds already paid to be returned.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Carrillo

Voting in favor of the motion was Mayor Dorrell, Vice-Mayor James, Council member West, Council member Lorenzo, Council member Montoya, Council member Carrillo, Council member Crump-Frye

Discussion and/or action regarding the Town Manager's upcoming performance evaluation and process.

Mayor Dorrell stated that the last evaluation was done July 14, 2022, and previous to this it was March 17, 2021, and it is past time to do another one. Attorney Stuhan explained different evaluation possibilities. Self, Council, 360, there are numerous different possible methods. Council member Montoya mentioned that he had previously developed essentially a 360-type evaluation. Mayor Dorrell stated that her preference would be to do a 360 evaluation to get the whole picture. The mayor also clarified if any questions could not be asked legally, Attorney Stuhan responded that anything that could be considered discriminatory would be unacceptable. Moving forward the Mayor will work with Trish to develop an evaluation tool.

Manager's Report

Manager Perez submitted a written report for the recent emergency purchase of fire hydrants. Informed the Council that as Council member Montoya had mentioned earlier in the meeting the Governor is requesting to remove the future project for Hwy 191 through Clifton from the state's Fiscal Year 2025 budget. He will provide contact information for state representatives and other individuals to contact to request that the project still be completed. An invitation to bid was published on February 7th and will be on the 14th. The bid due date will be March 6th for the San Francisco River Flap Gate project. Waste Water Treatment plant update, on February 12th the contractor KE&G will be providing training on portions of the equipment and start-up of different parts of the plant. The project; with the exception of the installation of the generator is scheduled for February 21st. The generator will be installed in June. Town Manager Perez and Public Works staff met with a company, Veolia to potentially discuss contracting their services for operating the WWTP, another option would be posting a job opening. Mayor Dorrell commented that FMI is very happy with Veolia. Perez stated it will all come down to cost for the remainder of the fiscal year and next fiscal year.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Council member Lorenzo

Second to the motion was made by Council member West

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:32pm