

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
October 09, 2025
2:00 p.m.**

Town Council Members

Shane Kennedy, Council Member

Chad Brown, Council Member

Anthony James, Vice Mayor

Laura Dorrell, Mayor

Raymond Lorenzo, Council Member

B. Waddell Reyes, Council Member

Barbara Ahmann, Council Member**

***Excused**

****Participated via telephone**

A quorum was present.

The Town's legal counsel, Matt Schiumo, participated via telephone**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell at 2:02 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to the Public

Jackie Norton Resident- Ms. Norton expressed frustration with the terrible condition of School Street, noting it has caused damage to vehicles, flat tires, and broken rims. She acknowledged the Town's attempt to scrape the surface but stated this action inadvertently led to more potholes. Ms. Norton reminded the Council that she had raised this issue prior to the new budget cycle and requested that School Street be added to the list of roads prioritized for repaving. Ms. Norton also questioned the status of the Town's efforts or ongoing actions regarding debris on properties that could be considered hazardous. She cited a specific house on School Street that she feels is unsafe.

Will Collins Resident - Mr. Collins reported that after being absent for six months, he was pleased and surprised by the improved appearance of the Town. He specifically praised the new one-way designation on Chase Creek Street, stating he feels safer walking there and no longer worries about being hit by turning traffic. He thanked the Town for its recent efforts and hard work.

Leslie Ray- provided an update on the Arizona America Comparative Program she previously presented last September. The Arizona America TCF Traveling Museum, a mobile museum that offers engaging, historical, and educational experiences focusing on the nation's founding and Arizona's role in the American 250th anniversary.

The museum, which will feature interactive displays and programming, is tentatively scheduled to tour the state from February to May 2026. Mrs. Ray stated she has submitted an interest form and believes the Town of Clifton has a good chance of hosting the museum.

Speaking on behalf of the Tourism Council, Ms. Ray requested assistance in building a Community Calendar. The calendar would be open to the public and would include all public activities, as well as weekly or monthly public meetings.

She also noted that the Colors of Copper event, coordinated by Pam Harrington, is scheduled for February 28th and March 1st (of the coming year).

Farin Thomas, a contractor working on Chase Creek, stated that the one-way street designation is creating problems for his operations. He explained that large trailers are unable to make the necessary turn near Greenleaf Street to effectively transport materials in and out. He cited an incident where a contractor recently received a \$450 citation for trying to haul a trash trailer off Chase Creek, stating that contractors feel they have no feasible alternative for ingress or egress. Mr. Thomas expressed concern that the current traffic restrictions are becoming a hassle and an obstacle that may prevent him from continuing to assist with the restoration of Chase Creek.

Monica Aguilar Social Club- addressed the one-way designation on Chase Creek Street. When the Social is having construction, she stated that they are utilizing the existing traffic flow, despite the inconvenience it presents for their hauling and vehicle movement, as they also cannot make the difficult turn. Her primary concern is the safety of the street, citing the combination of the narrow roadway, traffic flow, and excessive speeding as factors that create an unsafe environment. She feels that measures must be taken to address the safety and traffic issues on the street.

Rebecca Anderson, reported that she has purchased the Chase Creek Market Place building and has converted the upper level into an Airbnb. She is currently securing a business license for the lower level, which will operate as a store she hopes to open within the next week. She is also a member of Art Depot Board, and clarified that the Art Depot Board recently elected a new president and staff. To avoid rushing the event and ensure smooth operations, the Board decided to postpone an upcoming event until the new leadership is established and organized. Regarding the one-way designation on Chase Creek, Ms. Anderson stated her primary concern is speeding, not the traffic direction itself. She expressed worry for the safety of customers crossing the street due to the excessive speed of vehicles.

Jennifer Eisenlord, manager at the Green Leaf Dispensary, Ms. Eisenlord voiced concern that the one-way designation severely impacts senior citizens who live on Chase Creek, citing a lack of adequate parking. She noted that residents who frequently require ambulance care or need to unload groceries are now forced to park at the end of the street or by the church. She observed that numerous drivers are confused by the signage and continue to drive straight down the one-way road incorrectly, and the Dispensary's building has already been damaged. Ms. Eisenlord also stated that the street closing down at midnight encourages excessive speeding, with drivers running the stop sign and merging unsafely into traffic. She concluded by stating that most Chase Creek residents did not have a say in the one-way change.

Neva Corbell, owner of Cactus Rose, expressed support for the one-way street, believing it benefits local businesses by driving traffic past them. She suggested improvements in signage for the one-way street and better maintenance of the parking lot lines, which they believe would attract more people to the Chase Creek District.

Bob Miller, a Resident and member of the Social Club, reported a black Lexus SUV with incorrect plates parked in their parking lot for over a month.

Following the call to the public, the Mayor has recommended to the Town Manager that a committee be formed.

Council Reports

Council Member Kennedy discussed the possibility of hosting a community festival. Mr. Kennedy committed to providing additional details and information on this proposal later in the meeting.

Council Member Brown reported hearing significant discussion and feedback from the public regarding the Chase Creek one-way street while volunteering at the Fair. He addressed the need for the Town Manager to have a safe and comfortable home. He encouraged other Council Members to consider this need and expressed his hope that the Council will decide on a purchase or solution soon.

Vice Mayor James issued an alert to residents regarding incoming inclement weather. He expressed his hope that the storm would pass quickly, but reminded residents that sandbags are available at Town Hall, and urged everyone to be prepared and prioritize safety.

Council Member Lorenzo had no particular topics to present but expressed agreement with the Vice Mayor's alert and preparedness recommendations regarding the upcoming storm.

Council Member Reyes expressed gratitude to Becca Anderson for her hard work on the remodel of her building on Chase Creek. She also mentioned that sandbags can be picked up from the Police Department after Town Hall hours.

The Mayor Laura Dorrell addressed a letter of concern regarding the train horns near the Rodeway Inn Motel. She stated her intention to follow up on this issue with the Town Manager, Freeport McMoRan, and the Eastern Arizona Railroad. The Mayor acknowledged that while the train horn serves a safety function, the resulting lack of sleep for many graveyard shift workers also constitutes a serious safety concern. Additionally, the Mayor reminded residents about the free trash trailer available for their use.

Committee Reports

All Committees had no reports to give.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the September 11, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports
3. Approval of September 2025 Demands

4. Approval of the second amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 25-0008004-I with the State of Arizona, amending the construction cost of the Chase Creek bridge replacement project to \$2,552,547 and have the Mayor or Manager, Town Clerk and Town Attorney complete the necessary documents.

Council Member Waddell Reyes made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items 1, 2, and 3. Seconded by Vice Mayor James. Deferring item four for separate discussion.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Brown, Kennedy, James, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Waddell Reyes.

Motion carries.

Item 4 was removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration due to a question from Council Member Brown regarding the proposed amendment.

Council Member Brown questioned item number 4 on the consent agenda. He questioned whether we had to put any additional funds into this?

The town manager informed that item four, an amendment due to escalated engineering estimates for a project, was clarified as federally funded, with the town having already paid its portion, thus incurring no additional costs for the town.

Council Member Brown made a motion to approve the second amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) 25-0008004-I with the State of Arizona, amending the construction cost of the Chase Creek bridge replacement project to \$2,552,547 and have the Mayor or Manager, Town Clerk and Town Attorney complete the necessary documents. Seconded by Council Member Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Brown, Kennedy, James, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Waddell Reyes.
Motion carries.

New Business

Second reading Ordinance 03-2025 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CLIFTON, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF CLIFTON, ARIZONA, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 250 CHASE CREEK STREET, PARCEL #200-88-008 FROM COMMERCIAL (CC-1) TO RESIDENTIAL (R-2); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES**

The Mayor proceeded with the second reading.

Discussion and/or action to adopt Ordinance 03-2025 **AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CLIFTON, ARIZONA, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF CLIFTON, ARIZONA, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 250 CHASE CREEK STREET, PARCEL #200-88-008 FROM COMMERCIAL (CC-1) TO RESIDENTIAL (R-2); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES**

Motion made by Council Member Kennedy to adopt the OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF CLIFTON, ARIZONA, BY CHANGING THE ZONING CLASSIFICATION OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT 250 CHASE CREEK STREET, PARCEL #200-88-008 FROM COMMERCIAL (CC-1) TO RESIDENTIAL (R-2); PROVIDING FOR REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING PENALTIES. Seconded by Council Member Waddell Reyes.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Brown, Kennedy, James, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Waddell Reyes.

Motion carries.

Discussion and/or action to review of the request from the Greenlee Tourism Association for a refund of the Town of Clifton Special Event Application Fees.

The council discussed a request from Steve Ahmann of the Greenlee Tourism Association requesting a refund of \$150 in special event fees. Council members debated the difference between waiving fees and providing sponsorship for events, suggesting that organizations like the Greenlee Tourism Association should request sponsorship in advance for town-supporting events. They emphasized that pre-approval would allow the council to weigh the benefits and make informed decisions.

Motion made by Council Member Kennedy to not refund the \$150.00 fee paid by the Greenlee County Tourism. Seconded by Vice Mayor James.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Brown, Kennedy, James, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Waddell Reyes.

Motion carries.

Discussion and/or action for the Town of Clifton to host a Fall Festival Event.

Council Member Kennedy proposed that the Town of Clifton host a fall festival event on November 8th, focusing on traditional Spanish food and mariachi entertainment, including performances by the junior high mariachi group. He outlined a plan for vendors to sell space at \$25 plus a \$15 peddler's permit, with a \$20 health department inspection fee, totaling \$60 for participation. The event would be held at Riverside Park and be covered under the town's insurance. His ideal budget would be anywhere between \$1,500 to \$3,000.

Motion made by Council Member Brown to approve hosting a Fall Festival with a budget of \$3,000.
Seconded by Council Member Waddell Reyes.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Brown, Kennedy, James, Dorrell, Lorenzo,
Waddell Reyes.

Motion carries.

Discussion and/or action on Chase Creek One-Way Traffic

The Town Manager reported that while she has been here, she has heard lots of discussion regarding the one-way traffic on Chase Creek. During the discussion, the Chief of Police recommended implementing a right-hand turn only restriction. Conversely, the Public Works Director recommended designating the area a red zone to prohibit parking.

Motion made by Council Member Brown to revert Chase Creek to two-way traffic with a right-turn-only restriction onto Highway 191. Seconded by Council Member Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Brown, Kennedy, James, Dorrell, Lorenzo,
Waddell Reyes.

Motion carries.

Discussion and/or action regarding the employment of the Town Manager position

Mayor Dorrell made a motion to discuss and/or to take action to select a recruiting agency and begin contract discussions for the Town Manager Recruitment Process through executive session. Seconded by Council Member Kennedy.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Brown, Kennedy, James, Dorrell, Lorenzo,
Waddell Reyes.

Motion carries.

Entered into executive session at 3:15 p.m.

Closed at 3:41 p.m.

Upon returning to regular session, a motion was made by Council Member Kennedy to table this item to gather more legal information and have it on the next meeting. Seconded by Council Member Waddell Reyes.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members Brown, Kennedy, James, Dorrell, Lorenzo,
Waddell Reyes.

Motion carries.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Cindy Blackmore presented the manager's monthly update, highlighting several departmental activities. She commended Cece, Gabby, and April for their hard work during the recent audit. The code compliance trailer program was noted for its success in helping residents, with David frequently assisting the community. The visitor center, managed by Leslie, was recognized for its successful outreach efforts and is seeking volunteers for 4-hour shifts. The park staff has been maintaining equipment and cleaning the train depot, a key first impression for visitors. The library continues to offer various programs, including story time and Steam activities, and is currently advertising for a new library director. Public Works is actively preparing for an upcoming storm by coordinating with various entities, staging equipment, distributing sandbags, and cleaning storm drains. The police department is also preparing, with personnel ready to patrol and check high-risk areas during the storm.

Adjournment

Motion made by Council Member Waddell Reyes for adjournment at 3:49 p.m. Seconded by Council Member Brown.

