

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
April 13, 2023
2:00 P.M.**

Members Present

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

*Excused

**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: Representing United Way of Graham/Greenlee Counties was Denise Benton, Executive Director and Amanda Patterson, Grant Manager. Ms. Benton encouraged the town as well as other local nonprofits to apply for grant funding. Ms. Benton explained that she is hoping to award more funding to Greenlee County non-profits.

Steve Ahmann, representing the Tourism Council, expressed his thanks and gratitude to the Town of Clifton for their assistance in helping with the recent kick-off event of the San Francisco River Revitalization Program. Mr. Ahmann also shared some of the data collected during the event which will guide the program as it progresses.

Freeport McMoRan's Manager of Community Development, Martha Lujan provided information on the Earth Day events to be held in Morenci and Duncan. All were invited to participate. Ms. Lujan also provided information on the schedule to apply for the annual FMI Foundation 2023 Community Investment Funds which will open on May 15, 2023.

Daniel Cervantez, resident of Clifton commended the town's public works department for repairing the Comb St. pedestrian bridge.

Council Reports: Council member Luis Montoya provided an update on recent efforts by SEAGO's Transportation Administrator, Chris Vertrees to assist the town in securing \$150,000

for the Historic Chase Creek Bridge Project. These additional funds will supplement town and state funding to move forward with the project.

Council member Montoya also recognized that this week was “Animal Control Officer’s Appreciation Week” and thanked Melodee Castaneda for her service. Additionally, this week also recognizes dispatchers as “National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.”

The Councilmembers’ final comments noted the recent announcement from the State School Superintendent regarding funding for the implementation of School Resource Officers.

Council member Janeene Carrillo reported on her recent participation with the Greenlee County Economic Development Coordinator in searching for a possible “fast-food” franchise who might establish locally. Ms. Carrillo also invited anyone who might be interested in volunteering to coordinate the town’s 150-year founders day anniversary celebration.

Mayor Laura Dorrell reported that she has continued her onsite visits to various town departments. Recently she was able to tour the Magistrate Court and the North Clifton RV Park.

No other reports were offered at this time.

Consent Agenda: Council member Luis Montoya made a motion to approve the following items listed under consent agenda:

1. Approval of the March 9, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of March 2023 Demands.
4. Approval of Resolution 2023-03: A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The Town Of Clifton Adopting A Fair Housing Policy, Making Known Its Commitment To The Principle Of Fair Housing, And Describing Actions It Shall Undertake To Affirmatively Further Fair Housing.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, West, Carrillo, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye, James and Dorrell. Motion carried.

Old Business

Discussion and/or action for the Town to sponsor, plan and organize the Clifton Hill Climb: The item was tabled for further consideration during discussions on the FY 2024 Budget.

Discussion and/or action to approve \$422,029.00 for the construction of Chase Creek Bridge #1: Per last month’s Council discussion, the item was tabled and referred to legal counsel for clarification related to advance payments prior to initiating the bidding process by ADOT.

The town's legal counsel, Trish Stuhan, provided clarification on the payment process per the IGA between the town and ADOT. Per the IGA, the town is required to submit payment prior to the project going out to bid. Ms. Stuhan stated that she understands Council's concerns about releasing funds without knowing what the final bid will be, but also cautioned that any further delay in holding up the process could result in potentially higher costs due to market volatility.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez provided a breakdown of where these funds would be allocated from within the town's budget.

Motion to approve \$422,029.00 for the construction of Chase Creek Bridge #1 was made by Council member Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Council member James.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, James, West, Crump-Frye, Carrillo, Lorenzo and Dorrell. Motion carried.

New Business

Presentation on the Town of Clifton's Police Pension status and the PSPRS Section 115 Trust. – Charles D. Francis, Senior Consultant-Public Agency Retirement Solutions (PARS): Mr. Francis provided Council with information on recent legislation allowing the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) to provide a Section 115 Trust or the Arizona Employers Pension Prefunding Plan (AEPPP). The trust administrator is Public Agency Retirement System (PARS); the investment managers are Vanguard or U.S. Bank. He further explained that the funds placed in the AEPPP-115 Trust are irrevocably committed to the PSPRS.

Mr. Francis explained that by participating in this program, the benefits would stabilize employer required costs related to PSPRS; it would diversify investing; offer local flexibility and control; improve credit rating; protect from diversion or used with bond funded strategy.

Council member Luis Montoya requested that Mr. Francis provide the town with a recommended amount in order to determine whether the town would consider the investment as budget discussions will begin shortly.

Mayor Dorrell thanked Mr. Francis for taking the time to address Council and for this information.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the Funding Agreement with the Arizona Department of Housing for the CDBG - Drainage Improvements Project: Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Funding Agreement was made by Council member Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Council member West. Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, West, Carrillo, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye, James and Dorrell. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to approve \$76,205.84 for Sunland Asphalt & Construction, LLC, an authorized vendor with 1 Government Procurement Alliance (1GPA), to provide road and street maintenance to Palicio Loop and to authorize the Mayor to execute the Purchase Order Contract between the Town of Clifton and Sunland

Asphalt: Motion to approve the expenditure in the amount of \$76,205.84 payable to Sunland Asphalt & Construction LLC to provide road and street maintenance to Palicio Loop and authorize the Mayor to execute the Purchase Order Contract was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Anthony James.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Lorenzo, James, West, Montoya, Carrillo, Crump-Frye and Dorrell. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to approve \$13,712.15 for Goserco, Inc., an authorized vendor with Helping Governments Across The Country Buy (HGACBuy), to upgrade the Clifton Police Department's Communications Recording System:

Police Chief, Omar Negrete reported that the current recording system was purchased in 2012. He explained that even if the dispatch centers are consolidated, the recording system would still be utilized to continue to record 9-1-1 calls while the individual centers are in operation. Additionally the system would record phone calls on the land lines which might be utilized in investigations.

Motion to approve \$13,712.15 to purchase the upgrade to the Clifton Police Department's Communications Recording System as quoted by Goserco, Inc. was made by Council member Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Council member Janeene Carrillo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, Carrillo, James, Crump-Frye, Lorenzo, West, James and Dorrell. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to approve \$13,223.25 to purchase V-Force Coats, V-Force Bunkers and Name Plates from United Fire Equipment Company: Town Manager, Rudy Perez explained that the equipment was budgeted and that the quote provided is from a procured vendor under the State of Arizona Cooperative Purchasing Program.

Motion to approve \$13,223.25 to purchase the protective fire gear as quoted by United Fire Equipment Company was made by Council member Carrillo. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Carrillo, Lorenzo, West, Crump-Frye, Montoya, James and Dorrell. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to approve the updated and revised Dispatcher, Assistant Dispatch Supervisor and Dispatch Supervisor job descriptions: Dispatch Supervisor, Delfina Pilgrim explained that the Communications Operator and the Communications Supervisor's job descriptions needed to be updated. Additionally, she is requesting to add a new job description for an assistant communications supervisor.

Motion to approve the updated and revised Dispatcher and Dispatch Supervisor job descriptions and approval to add the Assistant Dispatch Supervisor job description was made by Council member Janeene Carrillo. Second to the motion was made by Council member Montoya.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Carrillo, Montoya, Lorenzo, West, Crump-Frye, James and Dorrell. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2023-02: A Resolution of The Common Council of The Town of Clifton Adopting the Town of Clifton Local Purchasing Policy: Town Manager, Rudy Perez recalled that this item had been postponed from further consideration pending additional input from the town attorney, Trish Stuhan. Ms. Stuhan hoped to obtain information on the local purchasing policy issues during one of her conferences. The policy has been a subject of challenge from organizations such as the Goldwater Institute.

Ms. Stuhan, stated that she was comfortable with the resolution and can be defended if necessary.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2023-02 was made by Council member Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Anthony James.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, James, Lorenzo, West, Crump-Frye, Carrillo and Dorrell. Motion carried.

Manager's Report: The Town Manager reported on the following activities:

- Reported that construction of the town's Wastewater Treatment Plant is scheduled to begin in June 2023.
- Reported that the draft of the pavement assessment study will be ready for the roads and streets committee review. After the review and comment period the report will be complete.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Council member Luis Montoya, second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Anthony James.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, James, Carrillo, Crump-Frye, Lorenzo, West and Dorrell. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:43 p.m.