

**Minutes**  
**Town of Clifton**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**February 13, 2020**  
**2:01 P.M.**

**Members Present**

Luis Montoya, Mayor  
Barbara Ahmann, Vice-Mayor\*  
Laura Dorrell, Council Member  
Ray Lorenzo, Council Member  
B. Waddell Reyes, Council Member  
Ray West, Council Member  
Vacancy, Council Member

\*Excused

A quorum was present.

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Luis Montoya followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Montoya recognized that the Town Attorney, Susan Goodwin, would be participating via telephone conference call.

**Call to the Public:** Daniel Cervantez offered his support in favor of the Greenlee Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner request; the Family Dollar Liquor License request and efforts to revive the Hill Climb.

Akos Kovach, Greenlee County Economic Development Coordinator congratulated the recent success of the Fun, Fit and Fabulous Event sponsored by Metcalf Elementary School. He also offered promotional information on the “Great Duck Race” fund raiser scheduled for April 25. The event will support the “Frisco Trail” project sponsored by the Tourism Council /Gila Watershed.

Mr. Kovach provided an update on the planning stages to revitalize the Hill Climb which is now an official event. The dates of the event have been set for April 24, 25 & 26<sup>th</sup>

Final comments related to progress and actions steps undertaken by the local Complete Count Committee regarding education and promotion of the Census 2020.

**Council Reports:** Council member Reyes reported that she had attended the meeting where the results of the Greenlee County Housing Feasibility Study were presented.

Council member Dorrell proudly reported that the approximate attendance at the Fun, Fit, Fabulous Day was estimated at 700. She also mentioned the Annual River Clean Up day is scheduled for March 7, 2020.

Mayor Montoya reported that he has been reviewing the Fringe Benefits section of the town’s personnel policy and hopes to present potential changes for Council’s consideration.

The Mayor also provided an update on the Beautification Project explaining that target properties have been identified in order to initiate the project. The Mayor provided members of the Council with HB2705 currently under consideration by the State of Arizona-House of Representatives which discusses vacant; abandoned buildings; ordinances.

Final comments under Council Reports by Mayor Montoya was to commend all local emergency personnel for their prompt response and all their efforts to secure the scene regarding the drive-by-shooting tragedy which occurred recently. He extended his condolences to the family on behalf of the community.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion to approve the following items listed under consent agenda was made by Council member Laura Dorrell:

1. Approval of the December 30, 2019 Special Session Minutes and the January 9, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of January 2020 Demands.
4. Approval of timeline and guidelines for the Town Manager's Annual Performance Evaluation.
5. Approval to re-advertise the Town Council Vacancy.
6. Approval to advertise two vacancies on the town's Historic Preservation Commission.

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

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Dorrell, West, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

Motion carried.

#### **Old Business:**

**Discussion and/or action to establish a Town of Clifton Youth Council. – Vice Mayor Ahmann:**  
**Item:** (Item Tabled)

**Discussion and/or action to lease the northern room at the Train Depot to the Clifton Art Council. – Vice Mayor Ahmann:** (Item Tabled)

#### **New Business**

**Discussion and/or action to consider supporting the Greenlee Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner - \$400 – Dawna Lizarraga:** Ms. Lizarraga, Vice-President of the organization, addressed the Council on the request to support the event. She explained that the annual dinner theme is "The Roaring Twenties." Participants should expect a fun filled evening with plenty of entertainment, delicious food and encouraged all attendees to dress in the period.

Council members were supportive of the event, however Council member West suggested that if the council were considering financially supporting the event, the support would be offered as a donation rather than purchasing event tickets. He explained that he was not comfortable in making a purchase with public funds for public officials.

Motion to make a donation to the Greenlee Chamber of Commerce for their Annual Dinner in the amount of \$400 was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Reyes, Lorenzo and Montoya. Vice-Mayor Ahmann was absent.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2020-01: A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clifton Establishing and Adopting Fees for Video Service Providers Pursuant to A.R.S.§ 9-499.15; Providing for Repeal of Conflicting Resolutions; and Providing for Severability:** Town’s Attorney, Susan Goodwin offered a correction to the resolution. She explained that the current fee listed should be 3%.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2020-01 with the recommended correction, was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council member’s West, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to recommend granting or denying the liquor license application as applied for by Raphael Sean Piche on behalf of Family Dollar, Inc., at 355 N Coronado Blvd. to the Arizona State Liquor Board:** Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda reported that the liquor license application had been posted at the Family Dollar location as required by the Arizona State Liquor Board. The notice also provides the public with information on who they could contact to express their concerns about the application. Ms. Castaneda reported that no comments had been received either in favor of nor opposed to the application.

Motion to recommend granting the liquor license application on behalf of Family Dollar, Inc. to the Arizona State Liquor Board was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council member’s West, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2020-02: Amending the Town of Clifton Police Department’s Policy Manual by Amending Chapter 22 Compensation, Benefits and Conditions of Work, Policy 22.1.3 Uniform and Equipment Allowances:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported that he had requested the town’s legal counsel to recommend verbiage to clarify Chapter 22 of the policy. Recent discussions between staff prompted the need to modify the policy to provide guidance on who is or is not an eligible recipient of the allowance. The recommendation provides that police cadets, officers on leave or otherwise not working for three weeks prior to the scheduled distribution of the allowance and that the allowance is subject to the availability of budgetary funding in the fiscal year.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-02 and to add the optional language, “availability of budgetary funding in the fiscal year” was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council member’s Reyes, West, Lorenzo, Dorrell and Montoya.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to accept the Contract Addendum No. 3 outlining hourly rates for legal services as presented by Gust Rosenfeld, Legal Counsel for the Town of Clifton:**

Town Manager, Rudy Perez recommended accepting the proposal as presented by Gust Rosenfeld and stated that the rates are reasonable.

Motion to accept Contract Addendum No. 3 was made by Council member Laura Dorrell. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Dorrell, West, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the purchase of a Sewer Trailer Mounted High Pressure Jetter – as quoted through the Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative Agreement:**

The Public Works Director and Foreman offered information on the request to purchase the high pressure jetter. They explained that the pressure jetter currently used is not currently working and the pressure jetter does not have the capacity to clean out sewer mains where frequent obstructions occur. Often times Burk's Valley Sanitation will have to be utilized to clean out the lines. Public Works Staff feel the purchase to upgrade the pressure jetter capacity will be a cost savings in the long term. The necessity to have a high pressure jetter readily available is essential.

Additionally, the high pressure jetter would also be used to clear out storm drains, a continuous problem that public works addresses often. Plugged storm drains are often the cause of poor drainage of storm water runoff which cause flooding in residential areas.

Town Manager Rudy Perez proposed the funding option for the purchase. He explained that this purchase was NOT included in the FY2020 Budget. He proposed that 50% of the purchase could be paid from the General Fund/Public Works-streets account and 50% would be covered by HURF Funds. Mr. Perez also explained that if approved, the vendor who quoted the piece of equipment is authorized through a purchasing co-op of which the town is a member.

Mr. Perez noted that the purchase of this piece of equipment would affect the available funding for the 2020 Backhoe Loader since the HURF Budget allocated funding in whole for the loader. He cautioned that approval of the high pressure jetter would impact the loader purchase request.

Motion to authorize the purchase of the Sewer Trailer Mounted High Pressure Jetter as quoted by Sourcewell and approve that the purchase be paid 50% from General Fund and 50% from HURF was made by Council member Reyes. Second to the motion was made by Council member Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Reyes, Dorrell, Lorenzo, West and Montoya.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to regarding purchasing options for a 2020 Backhoe Loader:**

- a. **Authorize a lease agreement between the Town of Clifton and Empire Machinery, as quoted by Omnia Partners Cooperative Purchasing Agreement (or)**

**b. Initiate the town's procurement process to purchase the backhoe/loader**

Town Manager, Rudy Perez explained that Public Works Staff has provided two purchasing options for the contemplated purchase.

Council member West and Montoya expressed their disapproval of the lease option. Additional discussion centered on the immediate need for the backhoe loader. It was noted that although the equipment had been included in the budget, the purchase had not yet been made.

Public Works Staff agreed that the current backhoe loader was still in working order and the purchase could wait until the next budget cycle.

Public Works Foreman Victor Stacy further explained that he received a better quote for a backhoe loader from a vendor outside of the cooperative purchasing option. He confirmed that he was aware of the town's procurement process as: a contemplated purchase outside of a purchasing cooperative would require formal bidding.

Motion to decline the request to purchase the 2020 Backhoe Loader at this time was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council member's West, Reyes, Dorrell, Lorenzo and Montoya.

Motion carried.

**Manager's Report:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported on the following activities:

- Informed Council that he will be attending a partnering meeting with the Arizona Department of Transportation regarding the Zorilla Street Bridge Project on February 27, 2020.
- Reported that the USDA Community Programs Director, Jeff Hayes continues the lengthy review process of our application.
- Expressed his appreciation to all emergency response personnel for their professionalism in responding to the recent tragedy along Highway 191. He reported that the victim's family had personally visited the Clifton Police Department to express their thanks and gratitude.
- Reported that he would be contacting Greenlee County Administrator, Derek Rapiere to follow up on the recent landfill fee increase.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m.