

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Regular Town Council Meeting
February 9, 2017
7:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Felix Callicotte, Mayor
Luis Montoya, Vice Mayor*
Barbara Ahmann, Council member
Laura Dorrell, Council member
Ray Lorenzo, Council member
B. Waddell Reyes, Council member
Ray West, Council member

*Absent

A quorum was present.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Felix Callicotte followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to the Public: Walt Mares invited members of the council to view gilavalleycentral.net, a local news website that he currently submits articles to.

David Hyatt informed the council of a “non-partisan peaceful protest” scheduled to be held on the President’s Day holiday denouncing President Donald Trump. The group will meet at Sidebotham Park and march to the Greenlee County Courthouse. Arrangements for the event have already been finalized with local law enforcement.

Council Reports: Council member Dorrell stated that she was pleased to witness a police officer’s interaction with local children as she was driving along. She also mentioned the improvement to the view at the RV Parks which resulted from the removal of the tamarisk overgrowth along the San Francisco River.

Council member Ahmann reported that she was recently appointed to SEAGO’s program on aging.

Council member B. Waddell Reyes also commented that she is proud to know that Town of Clifton local law enforcement officers are community oriented.

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

1. Approval of the January 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of January 2017 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Lorenzo. Prior to voting on the motion Council member West acknowledged the Code Enforcement Officer for her monthly report presentation.

Motion carried.

New Business:

Discussion and/or action to accept the FY 2016 Financial Statements as presented by CliftonLarsonAllen: Council members were previously provided with the reports for their review. Motion to accept the FY 2016 Financial Statements was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2017-02: Adopting a Fair Housing Policy: Town Manager, Ian McGaughey explained that the town must take a proactive role in Fair Housing to continue eligibility of the Arizona Department of Housing-Community Development Block Grant Funds. Other activities include availability of brochures and posters providing contact information for individuals who may need assistance.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2017-02; Adopting a Fair Housing Policy was made by Council member Barbara Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Town Manager to amend the agreement between the Town of Clifton and the Clifton Farmer's Market: Mr. McGaughey reported that Eve Williams, Clifton Farmer's Market Manager, had requested to amend the current agreement to utilize the Train Station by changing the regular scheduled day from Thursday's to Wednesday's. Additionally, the hours will change to attract evening shoppers.

Motion to authorize the Town Manager to amend the agreement between the Town of Clifton and the Clifton Farmer's Market was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to approve the list of town property for sale by auction as presented by the Clifton Police Department: Council member Reyes made a motion to approve the list of town property as presented by the Clifton Police Department. Second to the motion was made by Council member Barbara Ahmann.

Police Chief Negrete assured the Council the emergency lighting will be removed from the units prior to selling them.

Discussion and/or action to accept the “Quit Claim Deed” as presented by the Clifton Elks Lodge #1174 for property located at the Ward Canyon Cemetery: Mr. McGaughey reported that the offer had been presented to the town to accept the property with clarification that the remaining plots were not reserved by current members.

Motion to accept the “Quit Claim Deed” for property located at the Ward Canyon Cemetery was made by Council member Laura Dorrell. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to consider developing an ordinance prohibiting the use of handheld mobile telephones or portable electronic devices within the Town of Clifton:

Mayor Callicotte explained that he has observed the increasing practice of local motorists driving through town while on their phones. He referenced the Town of Oro Valley’s ordinance prohibiting the use of such devices and suggested that the town consider doing the same.

Majority of the council expressed support of an ordinance. However, questions included what impact this ordinance might have on the police department.

Police Chief Negrete also expressed his support of the concept but expressed his concern from a legal standpoint in relation to “primary stop” vs. “secondary stop”. He explained legal challenges could result if multiple violations are involved if the citing violation is based on this ordinance. He explained that the more serious violations could be jeopardized because the original cause for citing an individual was due to the use of the handheld device. He recommended further input from the County Attorney who would also be involved.

Council members agreed that further research was needed.

Discussion related to the implementation of offering credit card payment options for town services and related transaction fees: The Town Manager explained that while he is developing a policy and reviewing possible vendors who offer this payment option he is looking for council input.

Mr. McGaughey reviewed the pros of the town absorbing the fees to include making it more convenient for customers to pay their bills; encourages timely payments and reduces returned checks which results in fees against the town.

He also said that he had polled other local municipalities to determine their policy and found a 50/50 split.

Other comments related to the credit card payment options included whether autopay features would be offered and if all credit cards would be accepted.

Council members present were supportive of the town absorbing the fees but recommended more information on the impact to various departments who have various fee schedules.

Discussion and/or action to authorize funding from the contingency fund in the Mayor & Council's FY17 Budget for storage units as requested by the Public Works Director:

Members of the Council were provided with photographs to support the need for storage sheds. The public works director is concerned that the trash pumps and hoses are exposed to the elements which could cause serious damage to this very expensive equipment.

Council member West made a motion to authorize the purchase of two storage units as requested by the Public Works Director. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action initiate the bidding process for repairs and maintenance to the Train Station: Mr. McGaughey explained that funding for this project would be allocated from the General Fund-Public Works-Property Tax funds. Of immediate concern, council has expressed the need to paint the building, repair the hardware on the doors and address the roof tiles.

Members of the Council agreed to allow the Buildings & Properties Committee review the order of repairs and make a recommendation.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the formation of committee to research grant funding for town projects: Council member Barbara Ahmann made a motion to authorize the formation of a committee to research grant funding for town projects. Second to the motion was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes. Motion carried.

Manager's Report: Town Manager, Ian McGaughey reported on the following activities and projects:

- Reported that departmental budget's requests have been submitted.
- Received a grant award from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for the Fire Department worth more than \$16,000 for equipment.
- Noted that the town has implemented the public participation process as required by the Arizona Department of Housing for Community Development Block Grant Regional Funds and State Special Projects Funds.
- Reported that the Town Code-Recodification Project can be viewed on-line.
- Utilizing Bowman Consulting to evaluate the town's flood drain covers with the goal of utilizing this data to apply for flood mitigation funds.
- Provided an update on the procurement process for the digital marquee.
- Explained that the Reardon Hotel property offer has been rescinded by the owner.
- Reported that the town will be advertising for a Court Clerk position since the current clerk has resigned.
- Attended the Strategic Planning Retreat hosted by SEAGO
- Informed the Council about the forthcoming 2017 League of Arizona Cities and Town's Annual Conference to be held in August in Oro Valley.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Council member Ray West, second to the motion was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:11 p.m.

Approved:

Felix Callicotte, Mayor

Attest:

Esperanza Castaneda, Town Clerk