

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
February 9, 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

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: Addressing Council was a resident of Clifton, Will Collins, he expressed his pride in Clifton and the beauty of Chase Creek. He's very pleased with all of the recent changes and improvements to the street. However, with all of the detours and new businesses, the increased traffic on Palacio Loop has caused significant wear and tear, and asked the Council to consider scheduling it for maintenance and repair.

Council Reports: Council member Crump-Frye stated that it was great to be back in beautiful Clifton

Council member Montoya briefly discussed attending the FMI Town Hall meeting the previous week, he mentioned that they are planning on placing charging stations for Electric Vehicles in Morenci which is great news. He also mentioned that budget preparation will be starting soon, he's excited by things coming down the pipes, but also nervous about ensuring some staffing decisions are made soon to help with budget prep. Montoya noted again that 2023, the town will be celebrating its sesquicentennial or 150 years of when Clifton was founded, he would like there to be a celebration, and maybe have a committee.

Council member Ray Lorenzo reported that the Roads and Streets committee had met the previous week. Follow up from that meeting included the significant increase in cost to the Chase Creek Bridge project, the committee was able to plan to pay for the increase out of this fiscal year's budget as well as plan some maintenance or repair work for Riverside, Shannon Rd and Palacio Loop. He also reminded everyone the public is welcome to attend their committee

meetings as they are open to the public.

Mayor Dorrell also attended the FMI town hall meeting and appreciated their transparency and having the meeting. She gave an update on her start as Mayor. She appreciates the Town Manager accommodating her requests to come in, and she plans on visiting every department. So far she has met with Public Works and was very impressed with the cleanliness and organization of the shop. She mentioned the Town Manager will be getting a giant whiteboard for project tracking visually. Mayor Dorrell also mentioned that Dreambuilders a program from the SBDC will be starting on February 22nd from 6-8pm it is a great program that helps small business owners, essentially create a business plan with a different piece being worked on each week.

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

1. Approval of the January 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes and January 19, 2023 Special Session Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of January 2023 Demands;

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

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

New Business:

Discussion and/or action on the Ad Hoc Personnel Committee recommendations regarding the Town of Clifton Fringe Benefits Policy, Rule IV, Fringe Benefits, Section 1. Annual Vacation Leave and Section 4. Sick Leave.

Council member Montoya presented as the Committee chair. He explained that the current policy has no cap on accrued vacation time for an employee and that the policy has a payout for all accrued vacation time at the end of the employee's employment with the town. Which could and will currently lead to potentially high balances of accrued time needing to be paid out. To help avoid this situation in the future the committee recommends to the Council that an employee who exceeds 280 hours throughout a fiscal year will be paid out at the end of the fiscal year, for the hours in excess of 280, thus allowing them to keep a bank of 280 hours. In addition to the employee being able to keep a bank of 280 hours and not force an employee to use it or lose it if they are unable to take vacation time, it will keep the town's future liabilities low when it pertains to vacation time owed.

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor James to approve/adopt the committee's recommendation. Second to the motion was Council member West.

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

Discussion and/or action to approve the Greenlee County Tourism Council’s request to use the Splash Pad and Soccer Field area on Friday, March 17, 2023 for the San Francisco River Revitalization Project Kick-off.

Town Manager Rudy Perez introduced and explained the agenda item. Stated the Tourism Council was requesting the use of the Soccer Field and restrooms at the Splashpad and Fernandez Park. They will also be requesting tables, chairs, booths, the stage, garbage cans, and other misc. items to be provided by the town. Perez mentioned that the Tourism Council has secured insurance for the event.

Steve Ahmann spoke on behalf of the Tourism Council and explained what the event was for and the grant that they had received from FMI. He mentioned that their goals were in alignment with the Town’s General Plan. Council spoke in support of the Town providing assistance, did mention concerns with the Tourism Council supervising to make sure that the Splashpad equipment was not misused.

Motion was made by Council member Montoya to approve the request of the Town’s assistance for their event on March 17, 2023.

Second to the motion was Council member Carrillo.

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

Discussion and/or action for the Town to sponsor, plan and organize the Clifton Hill Climb.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez explained that he had already spoke with JoAnn Straton from the Sports Car Association and informed her, that it was not possible during this fiscal year as the funds have not been factored in this year’s budget. If the Council approves the Town doing the Clifton Hill Climb it would have to be next fiscal year.

Council held general discussion on the matter including the Town’s previous years involvement and questions on whether the Town had the capacity and/or knowledge to fully organize and run the event. Council member Crump-Frye explained that all the steps are well documented on what would need to be done, if the Town were to take it on.

Council member Montoya motioned to table the item for further discussion at a later date. Motion failed due to lack of a second.

Council Member West motion for funds to be included in the budget planning, but to table the item for a later date.

Second to the motion was Council member Montoya.

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

Motion carried.

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

- Town has received a project schedule for the construction of the town's WWTP, project started on 1/9/23 and should be finished by November 30, 2023 or sooner.
- Reported that a cost estimate on the Chase Creek St. Frisco Avenue Bridge has exceeded the preliminary estimate. Council member Montoya did reach out to SEAGO in regards to the increase, they are looking for possible ways to assist.
- Provided an update on the Ward Canyon and Paradise Lift Station Project designs. Reported that the design phase has been completed and bid documents are being drafted and anticipate advertising to begin in March.
- Reported that the CDBG Regional Account/Pavement Assessment Study should be finalized in March.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:22 p.m.