

**Minutes**  
**Town of Clifton**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**July 11, 2019**  
**2:07 P.M.**

**Members Present**

Luis Montoya, Mayor  
Barbara Ahmann, Vice-Mayor  
Laura Dorrell, Council Member  
John Freida, Council Member  
Ray Lorenzo, Council Member  
B. Waddell Reyes, Council Member  
Ray West, 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.

**Call to the Public:** No comments were heard from members of the public.

**Council Reports:** Council member Freida reported that the local veteran's organization is looking into setting up a bench at one of the local bus stops near the Copper Crystal Flag Park. However, further research regarding ADOT's right-of-way is needed. He also stated that the organization is also preparing to install a new monument at Veteran's Park honoring emergency first responders.

Council member West reported that the next "Second Saturday" local shopping opportunity is scheduled for Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> on Chase Creek.

Council member Dorrell suggested that the town consider recording and/or live stream town council meetings. She explained that other towns are offering this service hoping to encourage more public participation while providing valuable information to those residents who might not be able to attend.

Regarding the League of Cities and Towns Annual Conference, Council member Dorrell suggested that the town participate in the Show Case of Cities & Town's event. She offered to take charge of the booth and explained that this is an excellent opportunity to promote our town.

Final comments from the Council member included mention of a new business located on Chase Creek, Blessed & Obsessed Boutique.

Mayor Montoya reminded those members of the council who have not yet registered, that the deadline to register for the annual conference is fast approaching. Reported that the work of the stake-holders teams working on the General Plan draft met for the final time. The Planning Center team is working on revising the comments heard from that last meeting.

He also encouraged everyone to stop by the North Clifton RV Park to experience the new “Story-Walk” feature sponsored by the Clifton Public Library.

Final comments from Mayor Montoya reiterated Council member Reyes comment encouraging everyone to be conscience of the extreme heat and stay hydrated.

No other reports were offered at this time.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion to accept the following items listed on the consent agenda was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann; seconded by Council member West:

1. Approval of the June 13, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes; June 11, 2019 Special Session
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of June 2019 Demands.

Voting in favor of the motion were Councilmembers Ahmann, West, Frieda, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya. Motion carried

**Public Hearing on the FY 2020 Budget for the Town of Clifton:** The Public Hearing was called to order by Mayor Luis Montoya followed by an overview of the tentative budget. Town Manager, Rudy Perez reviewed a power point presentation highlighting estimated revenues and proposed projects by department. He also reviewed the primary property tax rate proposed in this budget which is 4.3342. He explained that the tentative budget had been adopted at \$16,341,619 however, final figures reduce the proposed final budget to \$16,291,619.

Comments/questions from the public were heard from Danny Cervantez. He asked for clarification on various department projects. He also asked if the School Resource Officer’s funding was included as part of the town’s budget.

At approximately 2.36 p.m. Mayor Montoya adjourned the Public Hearing.

### **New Business**

**Discussion and/or action to adopt the Primary Property Tax Levy for FY 2019-2020 pursuant to A.R.S. §42-17107(A) 4.:** Mayor Montoya reviewed the calculation provided by Arizona’s Property Tax Oversight Commission. He explained that the rate of 4.3342 is based on the town’s net assessed value and the proposed primary tax levy. He further explained that the proposed rate included in this year’s budget does not exceed

the maximum tax rate that can be imposed without imposing a truth in taxation hearing. The anticipated tax rate will levy approximately \$512,365

There being no further discussion on the matter Council member Reyes made a motion to adopt the primary property tax rate at 4.3342. Second to the motion was made by Council member Dorrell.

As required, a roll-call vote was recorded as follows: voting in favor of the motion were Council members Reyes, Dorrell, Ahmann, Lorenzo, West, Freida and Montoya. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and/or action to adopt a Resolution No. 2019-06: Adoption of the Budget for FY 2019-2020:** Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-06 was made by Vice-Mayor Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member Lorenzo. A roll-call vote was recorded as follows: voting in favor of the motion were Council members Ahmann, Lorenzo, Montoya, Freida, West, Dorrell and Reyes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion and/or action to modify the Magistrate's work schedule:** Mayor Montoya explained that the request to modify the weekly work schedule had been requested by Magistrate Wyatt Palmer. He further explained that upon hiring Mr. Palmer as the Town's Magistrate, the FY19 budget allocated funding to accommodate a twenty hour per week work schedule which had been approved at the request of the former Magistrate, John Basteen.

Judge Palmer also explained that as he began preparing his FY2020 Budget, he researched the requirements that mandate contribution to the Arizona State Retirement System and evaluated his current work schedule as the town's magistrate. He felt that he was able to handle the town's court operations within a 19 hour per week schedule. He stated that he has streamlined court activities which reduce the previous 20 hour per week schedule. Additionally, by authorizing the change in work schedule, there would be a cost savings to the town with regards to the employer contribution to the Arizona State Retirement System. However, he did request that the rate of pay remain as previously agreed upon.

Motion to modify the Magistrate's work schedule effective immediately was made by Council member John Freida. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members' Freida, West, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Ahmann, Reyes and Montoya. Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the School Safety Program Intergovernmental Agreement between Morenci Unified School District and the Town of Clifton:** Available for any questions related to the final version of the IGA was Dr. Woodall. He explained that the Governing Board of the Morenci School District had reviewed and approved the document as presented today.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the School Safety Program IGA between the Morenci Unified School District and the Town of Clifton was made by Council member Laura Dorrell. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann.

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

**Discussion and/or action to award the bid for CDBG Contract #116-18: Construction phase of the Removal of Architectural Barriers at the town's Community Center:** Mayor Montoya reported that no bids had been received for the construction phase of this project. The project will be revised and re-advertised therefore the item was tabled.

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract between the Town of Clifton and Wright Engineering Corporation for design services: Chase Creek Street Tomorrow Lighting Project:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported that although Mr. Wright had provided the town with a proposal outlining the scope of services and fees he will incorporate this document into a more formal contractual document with the Council's approval.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute a final contract as prepared by the Town Manager and reviewed by the town attorney was made by Vice-Mayor Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member Lorenzo.

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

**Discussion and/or action to re-appoint two members to fill expired terms of the Historic Preservation Commission:** Mayor Montoya explained that the vacancies had been advertised and two letters of interest had been submitted for consideration. He explained that the two interested applicants have served on the Commission and request to be re-appointed. These applicants are Deborah Brinkley and Bette Antonson.

Motion to re-appoint Deborah Brinkley and Bette Antonson to fill the two vacant positions on the Historic Preservation Commission 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 members West, Dorrell, Freida, Ahmann, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya. Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action regarding the request for support as requested by the Arizona Community Foundation, Steve Ahmann, Board Member:** Mr. Ahmann provided information on the goals of the organization and the benefits to the community. He noted that after last year's successful event the organization provided programs at the local Senior Center through the South Eastern Arizona Community Unique Services

(SEACUS) and through the Gila Valley Arts Council which brought music programs to the Morenci Unified School District.

Mayor Montoya explained that donations considered by any government entity in the State of Arizona need to be cautious of potential violations of the “gift-clause” as advised by the town’s legal counsel. He did explain that in order to avoid any potential violations the town will require the filing of an Accountability Contract which will disclose the use of the donation. The donation must be used to benefit the Clifton community.

Regarding donation considerations, the Mayor did remind members of the council of the difficult decisions that had to be made during the development of the towns budget preparation.

Motion to support the event by donating \$500 was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member John Freida.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: West, Freida, Dorrell, Ahmann, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya. Motion carried.

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

- Informed Council that FMI anticipates to have a draft land lease agreement to the town soon.
- Provided an update on the ongoing process of the development of the town’ general plan.
- Reported he will submit an application to ADOT for funding to repair the Chase Creek Bridge #1.
- Extended thanks to Freeport McMoRan for their recent donation of a large screen TV for use at the town’s Visitor’s Center.
- Congratulated the Mayor on his recent appointment to the League of Cities & Town’s Resolutions Committee.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Council member John Freida. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:41 p.m.