

**Minutes**  
**Town of Clifton**  
**Town Council Regular Meeting**  
**July 8, 2021**  
**2:00 P.M.**

**Members Present**

Mayor Luis Montoya\*

Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell

Council member Anthony James

Council member Ray Lorenzo

Council member B. Waddell Reyes

Council member Ray West

Council member, Karen Crump-Frye

\*Excused

Quorum Present

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell at approximately 2:03 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call to the Public:** Akos Kovach explained that the tourism council is currently planning a new car racing event, similar to but not replacing the Clifton Hill Climb. This event will be known as the Black Jack Climb located along Highway 78 or locally known as Mule Creek. He explained that the date of the event has not been formally set, however organizers anticipate this to be held sometime in October/November.

Danny Cervantez, Quinn Street resident, stated that he has been told by the onsite contractor that the retaining wall project is currently on hold due to the pending arrival of materials.

**Council Reports:** Council member Karen Crump-Frye provided an update on recent planning activities being discussed by the Tourism Council. She also provided an update on recent outreach efforts to new businesses in town. The Council member reported that Linda Hinojos has been issued a business license for a laundering service and stated that the Taqueria Sarap ownership has been taken over by new owner, Ruby Medina.

Council member Ray Lorenzo reported that the and Gomez Loop, Shannon Road, Vista Heights Road maintenance project recently approved by Council has been completed.

Council member Ray West reported that the library has a 3-D printer available for public use.

Vice-Mayor Dorrell reported that she together with Council member James have met to organize and consider additional members to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Committee.

No further reports were provided.

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

1. Approval of the June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports.

3. Approval of June 2021 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council member West, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye, Reyes, James and Dorrell.

Motion carried.

**Public Hearing Regarding Use of CDBG Funds:** Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell opened the Public Hearing **and** asked the Clerk to provide a brief explanation as to why an additional hearing was required.

The Town Clerk explained that the previous CDBG Public Hearing was declared invalid because the required notice was not published in the local newspaper. Therefore, the process had to be started again. She explained that this public hearing allows members of the community to offer project suggests.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez suggested that Council consider applying for a pavement assessment study for the town as previously suggested.

The Town Clerk informed the public of other eligible projects that might be considered.

There being no further comments, Vice-Dorrell closed the Public Hearing.

**New Business:**

**Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2021-06: A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The Town Of Clifton Authorizing The Submission Of An Application(S) For FY 2021 State Community Development Block Grant Funds, Certifying That Said Application(S) Meets The Community's Previously Identified Housing And Community Development Needs And The Requirements Of The State CDBG Program, And Authorizing All Actions Necessary To Implement And Complete The Activities Outlined In Said Application:** Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-06 and select the Pavement Assessment Study as the project was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member Anthony James.

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

**Discussion and/or action to approve the recommendation of the committee appointed by Mayor Montoya to review the lighting options on Chase Creek:** Council member West reviewed the committee's assignment to include recommending street hardware that would not exceed \$100,000 and not violate State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) requirements. The total number of poles and fixtures recommended by Morenci Water & Electric personnel is 16 which would include 11 to be installed within the town's historic district plus 5 poles to serve the street up to Lynch Street. It has also been confirmed that Morenci Water & Electric will cover the cost to install the lighting hardware.

Council member West referring to Wright Engineering Option 3, Sternberg Lighting-Remo Series, explained that he had reached out to Eric Vondy, SHPO Program Specialist, to obtain a definitive answer regarding whether these lights were acceptable for installation in the town's historic district. Mr. Vondy's response indicated that there is no evidence that this type/style of lighting was ever identified in the Chase Creek Historic District and cautioned in creating a false sense of history. Council member West also asked what possible repercussions could the town be subject to by moving forward with this light pole and fixture style. Mr.

Vondy's response was that they "will frown disapprovingly." He did caution that although installing inappropriate lighting does affect the historic integrity of Chase Creek it doesn't damage it enough to warrant possible delisting the area from the National Register or threatening or revoking Clifton's status as a Certified Local Government.

Council member Reyes was next to address the Council. Although a member of the Chase Creek Lighting Committee, she stated that she was not invited to participate in any communications between Mr. West and Mr. Vondy and should have been as part of the committee. Additionally, she further countered that a certificate of appropriateness has never come before the town's Historic Preservation Commission regarding this light style. She stated that she is concerned about non compliance with guidelines to maintain the town's historic district.

Responding to the concern regarding the matter of whether a Certificate of Appropriateness was required was Trish Stuhan, Town Attorney. She explained that COA's are not legally required for town property.

Additionally, the issue of procurement was also addressed. The Town's legal counsel confirmed that procurement for the lighting would have to be followed and that the Wright Engineering Report was prepared to provide guidance and a cost estimate only.

Council member West made a motion to move forward with Option 3 of the Steinburg Lighting-Remo Series. Second to the motion was made by Council member James.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council member West, James, Crump-Frye, Lorenzo and Dorrell. Opposing the motion was Council member Reyes.

Motion carried,

**Discussion and/or action to adopt a tentative budget for FY 2022:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez provided information on modifications he has made to the budget since Council's initial review during the budget work session. He explained that he has increased the funding allocation for the American's Rescue Plan Act after verifying the amount awarded to the town. The initial estimate of ARPA funding was \$800,000, but the actual award amount is \$1,238,398. A significant increase.

Other amendments include adding funding to prospective grant funding identified as \$200,000 from United Way and \$100,000 from the Freeport McMoRan Community Investment Program. Mr. Perez also reported that the League of Arizona Cities and Towns has also provided updated information on sales tax projections of which he has also updated.

Motion to adopt the Town of Clifton's FY2022 tentative budget in the amount of \$9,780,289 was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes. Second to the motion was made by Council member West.

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

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

- Waiting for proposal from KE&G regarding the town's Waste Water Treatment Plant Improvements.
- Reported that the Quinn Street retaining wall project is on hold due to a delay in construction materials.
- Stated that Circle K Convenience Store has indicated that they are working on their building permit application for a new facility.

**Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:11 p.m.**

