

Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
June 10, 2021
2:04 P.M.

Members Present

Mayor Luis Montoya
Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell**
Councilmember Anthony James
Councilmember Ray Lorenzo
Councilmember B. Waddell Reyes
Councilmember Ray West
Councilmember, Karen Crump-Frye

*Excused

**Late

Quorum Present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Luis Montoya at approximately 2:04 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to the Public: First to address the Council was Barbara Ahmann. She provided information on the forthcoming Colors of Copper Event Scheduled for November 6th and 7th. She requested to borrow parking cones from the town. Mrs. Ahmann also provided information on the summer program offered to local youth sponsored by the Art Depot/Art Council. Summer programs are scheduled to begin July 12th.

Danny Cervantez commended the Clifton Public Library for their summer programs. He also commented on the Quinn St. retaining wall project, police department staffing shortage and the opening of the Splash Pad.

Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda informed Council of a newspaper publication glitch which invalidates recent project approval as the next CDBG Regional Account Project. The publication for a Public Hearing will be required to be advertised again, comments from the public will be heard and Council will reconsider selecting a project.

Council Reports: Councilmember B Waddell Reyes explained that she had attended Freeport's new tourist look-out viewing site of the mining operation. She also stated that the Visitor's Center was now open to all visitors.

Councilmember Karen Crump-Frye provided an update on the local tourism council's recent activities.

Mayor Luis Montoya reported on his recent action to rescind the local mask mandate following recent CDC guidelines. However, he did emphasize that local businesses can continue to enforce the mask mandate within their premises. Mayor Montoya did provide some statistics on the local vaccination progress and encouraged those who have not yet received the vaccination to consider getting it done asap.

Revised: 6.09.2021

The Mayor also reported on funding allocated to the Town of Clifton through the American Relief Plan Act (ARPA), a result of COVID-19. These federal funds will be restricted for use as determined under ARPA. The anticipated amount allocated to the town is \$884,785 to be distributed in two installments.

Final comments from Mayor Montoya related to the town's Splash Pad which was utilized by Morenci Unified School District's 5th graders as part of their activities prior to the end of their school year and noted the success of the town's beautification program has resulted in the demolition of the Ferguson house which was destroyed by fire a few years ago.

Vice-Mayor Dorrell reported on the progress of the Quinn St. retaining wall project and commends HT4 Construction for their cautious work due to the limited work area of the project site. She also reported that she has signed up as a participant to the soil survey program offered by FMI and feels the response from the contractor has been very professional.

Consent Agenda: Motion to accept the following items listed under Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Ray West:

1. Approval of the May 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes and May 26, 2021 Special Session Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports.
3. Approval of May 2021 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Councilmember Ray Lorenzo.

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

Public Hearing – Intent to Increase Rates & Fees for the following services:

a. Wastewater Rates, Fees and Service Charges: Councilmember West, who serves on the town's Rates and Fees Committee, stated that the proposed rates are recommended by the Willdan Rate Study prepared for the town to handle the debt of the new treatment plant in addition to the operation and maintenance of the facility.

Danny Cervantez commended that this rate increase will be beneficial to the operation of the new treatment plant.

Barbara Ahmann commended the Council for their courage in considering these fees to keep the town financially solvent.

b. Schedule of Miscellaneous Rates and Fees: Councilmember West also reported that fees to manage the digital marquee are increasing by \$5.00 and reserving the Community Center Room will now require a refundable deposit to include non-profits.

There being no further comments, the public hearing was closed.

New Business:

Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2021-05: Establishing New or Increased Wastewater Rates, Fees or Service Charges; Establishing an effective date; Repealing Conflicting Resolutions and Providing for Severability: Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-05 as presented. Second to the motion was made by Council member West.

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

Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2021-04: Establishing New or Increased Miscellaneous Rates and Fees; Establishing an Effective Date; Repealing Conflicting Resolutions and Providing for Severability: Councilmember Ray West made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2021-04 as presented. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Dorrell.

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

Discussion and/or action to approve Mayor Montoya's appointment of a committee to review and recommend lighting options on Chase Creek Street: Mayor Montoya explained that the Town Manager is currently working on finalizing the budget for FY2022 and has asked for guidance on funding the Chase Creek Street Lighting Project. Mayor Montoya, within his authority to appoint a committee asked Councilmember West to serve as Chair and Councilmember Reyes to serve as a member. He also established a limit of up to \$100,000 of town funding and recommends that the committee move a.s.a.p.

Discussion and/or action to approve Councilmember Karen Crump-Frye's request to establish a "Welcome New Business" protocol: Councilmember Crump-Frye explained that currently there is no active Chamber of Commerce who would normally handle initial contact with a new business establishment. New business entrepreneurs who are setting up in a new location would find it beneficial to have a local point of contact to offer information or assist with any questions. Councilmember Crump-Frye volunteered to serve as the liaison on behalf of the town.

Offering some insight as to the re-activation of the local Chamber of Commerce was JoJo Cathcart who informed the Council that the first activity has been scheduled for June 16, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Country Chic Art Gallery & Crafters Boutique in Duncan.

Motion to approve Councilmember Karen Crump-Frye as the Town of Clifton Point of Contact for new businesses was made by Councilmember Reyes, second to the motion was made by Councilmember James.

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

Discussion and/or action to approve the appointment of a committee to review, determine and prioritize the eligible use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocated to the Town of Clifton: Mayor Montoya explained that it is recommended to establish a review committee to determine and prioritize use of the ARPA funds. He asked Vice-Mayor Dorrell and Councilmember James to serve on the seven (7) member committee and would like to have five (5) members from the public to serve as well. Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda will participate as the staff member to assist the committee.

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

- Reported that a Circle K representative has contacted the town regarding a building permit for a new building adjacent to the current store.
- Reported that the Inmate Labor Program through the Arizona Department of Corrections has been reactivated and inmates will be back onsite beginning June 21, 2021.
- Notified Council that a budget work session will be scheduled within the next two weeks.
- Explained that the Town Attorney is currently reviewing whether the town might be able to piggyback on the City of Yuma's Job Order Contract. (JOC) with KE&G for the construction of the rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment plant. The Manager may schedule a work session for Council to hear directly from the Town Attorney regarding this procurement option.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:16 p.m.