

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council – Special Session
June 18, 2019
2:00 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.

Work Session:

Discussion on the FY2020 Budget: An updated power point presentation of the proposed budget was reviewed by members of the Council. In particular, the focus of the discussion was to provide an update on the final dental rates. During the last meeting, discussion included the possibility of providing coverage for employees only. Ms. Castaneda explained that covering the employees only would yield a \$10,000 savings.

Also discussed was that the town's health/dental insurance benefit where both employees and dependents premiums are covered at 100% is no longer a common practice. The increased cost of health insurance has forced these types of benefits to cost share with the employees.

Other changes to finalizing the budget included correcting errors in the pay/benefit schedule which caused a deficit to the General Fund. Two employees were classified as single vs. employee/child, which increased the allocation.

During this process it was also discovered that there was a duplicate request from the Public Works Department for a dump truck. Funding for the same piece of equipment was listed in the Public Works General Fund Budget as well as the HURF Budget. Additionally, the Town Clerk noted that approval to purchase the dump truck from the FY2019 budget had just been granted, alleviating the need to allocate the equipment from the FY2020 budget.

After removing the allocation for the Dump Truck and correcting the pay/benefit schedule the

total amount of surplus in the General Fund totaled: \$107,271.

Possible options to reallocate the surplus were offered as follows:

- Return \$57,000 to each department since they had been asked to reduce their initial requests by 5%;
- Take \$50,000 from Fund Balance and apply \$50,000 from the surplus to the Mayor and Council's budget to retain \$100,000 for emergency use only.

The general consensus of the Council regarding the 2% COLA and the option to continue offering 100% coverage of the dental premium for both employee and dependents was to continue with the offer.

Vie-Mayor Ahmann suggested that the full dental benefits for both employees and dependents should be offered one more year, giving the employees advance notice that next year they would have to assume responsibility for premiums covering their families. This would give all employees time to prepare for the change.

Additional comments regarding the budget was to redistribute the \$57,000 back into each departments budget's and allocate \$50,000 in addition to \$50,000 from fund balance to the Mayor and Council's Budget.

Discussion on the Chase Creek St. Bridge ADOT Project: Town Manager, Rudy Perez explained that the application process to include a project on ADOT's 5-Year Transportation Plan has changed. Although the Chase Creek St. Bridge Project might have been considered at one time, it has been dropped. He explained that he would have to initiate the application process through SEAGO. He further explained that the grant criteria would mandate a 5.7% cost share. He explained that he is looking for council direction of whether this project is something he should consider in the budget.

Members of the council offered their thoughts on the importance of pursuing the funding for the Chase Creek St. Bridge since it is an important part of the town's road system.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.