

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Council Work Session
June 23, 2020
2:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Luis Montoya, Mayor
Barbara Ahmann, Vice-Mayor*
Laura Dorrell, Council Member
Anthony James, Council Member
Ray Lorenzo, Council Member
B. Waddell Reyes, Council Member
Ray West, Council Member

*Participated via telephone

Roll Call/ Call to Order: Mayor Luis Montoya called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Items for Discussion:

Provide guidance to the Mayor on the issue of mandating face covering in all public places within the Town of Clifton jurisdiction: Mayor Montoya informed Council of the June 17, 2020 Governor's Executive Order 2020-40 regarding that a county, city or town may, based on conditions in the jurisdiction adopt policies regarding the wearing of face coverings in public for the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The Executive Order further states that any enforcement of such policy shall focus first on educating and working to promote best practices to accomplish the goal of mitigation. Mayor Montoya explained that under his authority as Mayor, he will be making the decision as to whether or not to mandate face coverings mandatory within the Town of Clifton. Of course, he continued to explain, face coverings should be mandatory whenever social distancing is not possible.

Mayor Montoya explained that he will consider data provided by local health department officials, although currently a low number of positive cases have been reported compared to other counties, local data has changed drastically since the beginning of this health concern with an increase in positive cases. At this point, he stated, that he is leaning on mandating the wearing of face coverings unless someone can offer information that could change his mind.

The Mayor explained that he would like input from members of the Council prior to making his decision. Mayor Montoya explained that he has received letters from local residents supporting the mandate and provided Council Members with copies. He also reported that he has been approached by the Greenlee County Board of Supervisors to consider signing a joint statement to encourage the wearing of face coverings for all residents of the county. Prior to turning over the discussion to the Council, Mayor Montoya explained that whatever decision is presented in the form of a proclamation, that document can be amended at any time.

First to comment was Council Member B. Waddell Reyes. She stated that she favors wearing face coverings since it is recommended by local health department officials and also feels this mandate would be a proactive approach to support local health care facilities from becoming overwhelmed.

Vice-Mayor Ahmann was encouraged to know that the Mayor was supportive in educating those individuals who might oppose the face covering mandate.

Council Member West expressed his support in the mandate and feels not enough has been done to slow the spread of the virus.

Council Member Ray Lorenzo stated that he is concerned with the Senior population of the town and for that reason supports the mandate.

Council member Laura Dorrell provided insight to the protocol currently taken by the local health department which includes contact tracing. Results from contact tracing presently show that travel outside of the area have been the cause of the most recent positive cases. She also supports the mandate of face coverings as the best method to stop the spread.

Council member Anthony James offered his perspective from an employee's point of view. He explained that Freeport McMoRan employees are required to wear face coverings and feels this has been a positive move for the community.

Final comments from Mayor Montoya included that this virus is not going away anytime soon therefore the town must be proactive.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez offered input as received from town staff. Although in support of the face coverings mandate, their concern is enforcement.

Presentation of the FY2021 proposed working budget. – Rudy Perez, Town Manager: Town Manager, Rudy Perez presented a power point presentation summarizing revenue projections, the recommended property tax rate and levy and expenditure comparisons for each department. He highlighted major expenditures or projects included by department.

Mr. Perez explained that initially, the town had received revenue projections from the League of Cities and Towns in early March, but were notified later that due to COVID-19 more conservative modified revenue estimates would be provided due to the impact of the virus to the economy. With that in mind, he cautioned each department of the conservative revenue projects and required each department scale back in their requests.

He stated that he should be notified of any grant sources and /or project requests to be added to this budget prior to the next step in the budget process which is to present a tentative budget scheduled for July 9, 2020.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:01 p.m.