

Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
June 9, 2022
2:00 P.M.

Members Present

Mayor Luis Montoya
Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell
Council member Anthony James*
Council member Ray Lorenzo
Council member Ray West
Council member, Karen Crump-Frye
Council member, Vacant

*Excused

Quorum Present

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Luis Montoya followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to the Public: Town resident, Daniel Cervantez thanked the Clifton Public Library, Program Director, for providing age-appropriate programs and activities for members of the public.

Council Reports: Council member Karen Crump-Frye provided an update on the success of the most recent Tourism Council's event, The Big Quack Duck Race.

Mayor Montoya reported that the town had been notified that the grant application submitted to Senator Kelly's Congressionally Directed Spending Fund for a new library facility has been denied. He thanked the staff for their efforts to prepared the grant in such a timely manner. He also provided an update on the Town Manager's annual evaluation. He explained that 10 submissions have been submitted and are being tabulated and results will be presented next month. Additionally, Mayor Montoya informed Council of a change to the scope of work affecting the ongoing Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. In his final comments, Mayor Montoya expressed concern on the issue of traffic congestion affecting the lower part of Chase Creek Street due to parked vehicles along the street.

Consent Agenda: Council member Ray West made a motion to approve the following items listed under Consent Agenda:

1. Approval of the May 12, 2022 Regular Session Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of May 2022 Demands;

Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

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

Old Business

Discussion regarding restoration of the Elk's Lodge Building. – Barbara Ahmann: Council was informed that Ms. Ahmann had withdrawn her request to address Council on this item.

New Business

Discussion and/or action to adopt a tentative budget for FY 2023: Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported on updates he has applied to the budget since the June 2, 2022 budget work session. These include the following adjustments:

- adding \$2,000 in library revenue funds projection;
- allocating funds in the Magistrate Court Budget to cover an additional phone line;
- Including \$400,000 in prospective revenue sources, covering anticipated grant funding opportunities;

Mr. Perez requested input from Council regarding the continued inclusion of the Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) Sen Kelly funds since the town had been notified funds had not been awarded.

Recapping FY 2023 budget highlights impacting town employees, Mr. Perez stated the following:

- The budget includes a 5% COLA for all employees;
- A job classification change for the current Account Specialist to Deputy Town Clerk;
- Continued Health/Dental Benefits for all employees at 100%

Comments from Council included concerns about employee retention issues currently faced by many employers and supported the 5% COLA as well as the continuation of benefits. Council also supported the continuation of including the CDS funding in the budget, should another funding opportunity present itself.

Motion to adopt a tentative budget for FY2023 in the amount of \$11,578,071 and proceed to the next step in the budget process to schedule the final adoption for July 14, 2022 was made by Council member Karen Crump-Frye. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

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

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement for legal services as proposed by Pierce Coleman PLLC.: Mr. Perez reported that the firm is proposing rate adjustments due to rising costs in the legal market.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement for legal services as proposed by Pierce Coleman PLLC was made by Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

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

Discussion and/or action to approve \$19,800 for the Parks and Recreation Lighting Project and to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract between the Town of Clifton and EA Electric: Prior to any discussion, Vice-Mayor Dorrell recused herself due to her participation on the board of the Valley of the Sun United Way of Graham/Greenlee Counties who is funding this project.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported that after following the formal bidding process only one bid had been submitted.

Motion to approve the Parks and Recreation Lighting Project and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract between the Town of Clifton and EA Electric was made by Council member Karen Crump-Frye. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

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

Discussion and/or action to support the Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner: Mayor Montoya recommended supporting the event by sponsoring a table for 6 guests in the amount of \$400. The consensus was to direct the Town Manager to distribute the tickets to town personnel.

Motion to authorize the town to sponsor a table (\$400) in support of the Greenlee County Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner was made by Mayor Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell.

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

Public Hearing Regarding Use of CDBG Funds: Mayor Montoya called the public hearing to order at approximately 2:57 p.m.

Potential projects discussed included the following:

- completing a previous flood control project by addressing the remaining flap gates along the San Francisco River;
- demolition of existing buildings at the proposed new site of the town’s fire station;
- street improvements
- addressing sidewalks and fencing along Park Avenue Street.

No being no further discussion, the Public Hearing closed at approximately 3:35 p.m.

Discussion and/or Action to Adopt Resolution No. 2022-06: Authorization to Submit an Application And Implement a CDBG Project: Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2022-06: Authorizing the submission of an application and implementation of a CDBG Project identified as Flood Control – Flood Wall Gates Remediation was made by Mayor Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Council member Karen Crump-Frye.

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

Manager’s Report: The following information was provided by Town Manager, Rudy Perez:

- Reported on change order to the WWTP Project as requested by KE&G. Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is now requiring the installation of an aerobic digester. Cost estimate \$400,000.
- Reported that Morenci Water & Electric still needs to install 5 more of the decorative street lights but needs to remove existing wooden poles first.
- Stated that he has authorized Bowman Engineering to move forward with the design of the two lift stations, also known as Ward Canyon and Paradise.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 p.m.

Approved:

Luis Montoya, Mayor

Attest:

Esperanza Castaneda, Town Clerk