

Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
March 10, 2022
2:02 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

Participating via telephone was Town Attorney, Trish Stuhan.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Luis Montoya at approximately 2:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to the Public: Mr. Richard Hansen, proprietor of the Bighorn Manor, requested information on the status of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and how the town would be utilizing those funds. Mr. Hanson was referred to the Town Manager for detailed information.

Daniel Cervantez expressed concern that a semi-truck container continues to be parked in front of the Family Dollar Store which also serves as a school bus stop and could pose a danger to the children.

Council Reports: Vice-Mayor Dorrell provided a brief update on the local ARPA Funds Committee decisions to date and the challenges they have had to address in order to assure compliance with the federal guidelines. She explained that although these funds were distributed approximately 6 months ago, the preliminary guidelines were vague and have been modified to include clarification amongst other changes. She reiterated that the use of the majority of the funds has not yet been determined because the committee wants to assure that any use is eligible per the guidelines.

The Vice-Mayor also provided an update on local COVID-19 cases, which have decreased prompting Gila Health Resources to relax some of their onsite guidelines.

Council member Crump-Frye provided ongoing updates on events involving the Greenlee County Tourism Council.

Mayor Montoya reminded Council that review and consideration to re-appoint the town's Magistrate would be on the next Council meeting agenda since this appointment should be addressed every two years. Additionally, the evaluation of the Town Manager will also be held in the next few months.

Noted that the Town Manager would report on the status of the street light fixtures order/delivery for Chase Creek Street during his monthly report as well as the status of the town's wastewater treatment plant improvement project.

Mayor Montoya reported on a complaint he had received from a local resident regarding a sewer tap which was neglected by a Southwest Gas Corporation sub-contractor NPL, causing the resident to improperly discharge wastewater. He also stated that town staff will be taking appropriate action to address the budget impact affected by the continued increase in the price of gasoline.

The Mayor also mentioned that the Call of Election had been published in the local newspaper as well as on the town's social media site and encouraged those who might be considering seeking office to contact town hall for more information.

No other Council members offered reports at this time.

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

1. Approval of the February 3, 2022 Public Hearing Minutes and the February 10, 2022 Regular Meeting and Special Session Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of February 2022 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo. Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Lorenzo, James, Crump-Frye; Dorrell and Montoya. Motion carried.

New Business

Week of the Young Child Proclamation – Luis Montoya, Mayor: Representing First Things First was Nette Griffin, Community Outreach Coordinator together with Shari Elkins. They spoke on the importance of early childhood quality learning environments. Program representatives of Greenlee County together with participants of the program were present also.

The Town Clerk read the Proclamation designating the week of April 2 – 8, 2022 the Week of the Young Child.

The proclamation was formally signed and presented to the organization.

Discussion and/or action to approve the request from the Knights of Columbus – Council #5313 Sacred Heart Parish for in-kind support for the Right to Life Rally scheduled for March 19, 2022: Representing the Knights of Columbus Council was Charles Berube. Mr. Berube stated that the event is scheduled to begin at 12:30 p.m. and anticipates it would last for approximately 2 hours. He explained that speakers would be staged on the front steps of the church and seating would be set up on Chase Creek Street. He requested permission to close down the street to traffic beginning at Lynch St. even though the lower portion of Chase Creek St. is currently closed due to a damaged building being repaired. Additional support requested from the town included traffic control by the Clifton Police Department and barricades or traffic cones to block the street.

Council member West requested that all the residents and businesses in the affected area be notified prior to the event. Various options were discussed on how to notify the residents and businesses. Mr. Berube assured Council that he would take care of the notification.

Motion to approve the request from the Knights of Columbus Council #5313 Sacred Heart Parish for in-kind support for the Right to Life Rally scheduled for March 19, 2022 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, James, Crump-Frye; Lorenzo and West. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding development of a Town Council-Code of Conduct: Mayor Luis Montoya explained that in his view, public officials as well as town employees shall at all times be accountable to the people they serve and shall discharge their duties with responsibility, integrity and uphold public interest over personal interest. Therefore, he has obtained Council Code of Conduct guidelines from other municipalities for council to review. It is his hope that this Council would consider adopting a Code of Conduct prior to next fiscal year. At this time, he is asking Council to review the examples he has provided in preparation for discussion soon.

Discussion and/or action to approve the March 2022 list of town property for sale by auction: Members of Council were provided with a list of items as recommended by each department for disposal by auction.

Motion to approve the March 2022 list of town property for sale by auction was made by Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

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

Discussion and/or action to approve Resolution No. 2022-02: A Resolution Of The Mayor And Common Council Of The Town Of Clifton, Greenlee County, Arizona, Designating The Chief Fiscal Officer For The Annual Expenditure Limitation Report For Fiscal Year 2021-22: Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda explained that each year the town is required to report to the Arizona Auditor General the formal designation of the Chief Fiscal Officer for the town. The resolution names Rudy Perez as the Chief Fiscal Officer for FY2022.

Motion to approve Resolution No. 2022-02 was made by Council member Laura Dorrell, second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

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

Discussion and/or action to appoint the Clifton Town Council to serve as the town's Municipal Property Corporation: Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda explained that presently the town's Municipal Property Corporation (MPC), Board of Directors are not eligible for coverage under the town's general liability insurance policy through the Arizona Risk Retention Pool. In order for the MPC Board Members to be covered they should either be employees or town elected officials, otherwise additional insurance would have to be provided to cover the Board.

The Town Clerk further explained that the formation of the MPC was originally established and the purpose of the organization was to seek funding for the town's Wastewater Treatment Improvement Project and is no longer necessary. Alternative funding options were pursued. However, after consulting with the town's legal counsel, it would be appropriate to appoint the Town Council to serve as the MPC since the current members terms have expired.

Motion to appoint the Clifton Town Council to serve as the town's Municipal Property Corporation was made by Council member James. Second to the motion was made by Council member Crump-Frye.

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

Discussion and/or action to formally accept the resignation of B. Waddell Reyes as a member of the Clifton Town Council and to provide staff with guidance on filling the vacancy: Council members discussed the options to fill the vacancy as provided under town code. Since the vacancy occurred 30 days prior to filing nomination petitions, council could appoint a candidate, however, the consensus was to allow the election process to determine the outcome.

Motion to retain the vacant seat on hold until after the 2022 election results are determined 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, James and Montoya. Motion carried.

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

- Informed council of the Chase Creek Street Light Poles delivery delay dilemma. The light poles and fixtures were scheduled to be delivered on February 22nd. Since then, the delivery date has changed numerous times due to winter weather delays and the delivery truck breaking down and the delay in repairing the truck. The light poles and fixtures are now scheduled to be delivered on March 14th.
- Reported that a building permit and a certificate of appropriateness has been issued to the owner of 229 Chase Creek Street. And that on March 8, 2022, the owner and occupant of the property were sent a Notice of Emergency Abatement.
- Mentioned the forthcoming Freeport McMoRan Project, known as the Clifton Mountain Slope Stabilization Project is scheduled to begin March 28, 2022. Project location is the mountain area affecting the railroad tracks across from Veteran's Park, Rode Inn Motel and the Clifton House LLC travel trailer park.
- Provided an update on the final negotiations between the town and Horrocks Engineers related to modification #5. The final result was a cost reduction in the amount of \$3,414 affecting Section 4(f) Evaluation of the Scope of Work.
- Reported that KE&G has started the demolition process at the town's wastewater treatment plant.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:34 p.m.