

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 12, 2020
2:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Luis Montoya, Mayor
Barbara Ahmann, Vice-Mayor
Laura Dorrell, Council Member
Ray Lorenzo, Council Member
B. Waddell Reyes, Council Member
Ray West, Council Member
Vacancy, 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. Mayor Montoya recognized that the Town Attorney, Susan Goodwin, would be participating via telephone conference

Call to the Public: Daniel Cervantez mentioned the Zorilla Street Bridge Project and the anticipated closure duration date which will begin in March.

Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda informed the Council of the forthcoming plans to promote Census 2020. She explained that April 1 has been designated nationwide as “Census Day.” She further explained that residents have been invited to stop by town hall to complete their Census information with the help of staff from the South Eastern Community Action Program, (SEACAP). Hot Dogs and drinks will be served as a part of the celebration.

The Town Clerk also reviewed the next steps in the adoption of the town’s general plan. She explained that as required, all affected agencies were given a 60-day opportunity to respond to the draft document. All those responses have been incorporated into the draft document. All members of the council have been provided with an updated version of the documents via thumb drive. Additionally, the documents have been uploaded to the town’s website for public access.

Council Reports: Council member Reyes presented the Mayor and Council with a commemorative tile from the Chamber of Commerce.

Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann reported that local non-profit organizations are encouraged to participate in the Hill Climb Event. The American Legion and the Women’s Auxiliary have already committed to the event.

Mayor Luis Montoya assured the Council that the town has been monitoring the updates as released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Greenlee County Health Department relating to the coronavirus health issue currently of concern not only nationally but worldwide. The town's incident command center has already been activated and information affecting town residents will be disseminated to the general public as it becomes available.

The Mayor also reminded those Council members who will be seeking re-election for office that the candidate for local office filing deadline is April 6, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

Final report comments from the Mayor included an update on the Zorilla St. Bridge improvement project. He explained that the project timeline will require the bridge to be completely closed for a 6 - month period beginning March 16, 2020. Mayor Montoya reiterated that although this may cause an inconvenience to those residents and businesses in the Park Avenue neighborhood, the finished project will provide our community with a historically preserved, yet safe structure.

Council member Laura Dorrell emphasized the precautionary measures to minimize exposure to the coronavirus. These include thoroughly washing your hands for not less than 20 seconds and avoid touching your face. Additionally, the current CDC protocol is limiting gatherings of not more than 50 people.

Council member Dorrell also showcased a painting of the Clifton valley by Ted Blair, a resident of Clifton.

Council member Ray West invited everyone to the 2nd Saturday on Chase Creek Street Event. He reported that although the Chase Creek Market Place had been sold, new business at that location will be open for the event.

Consent Agenda: Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann made a motion to approve the following items listed under consent agenda:

1. Approval of February 13, 2020 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.
2. Receive Department Reports.
3. Approval of February 2020 Demands.

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

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Ahmann, Lorenzo, Dorrell, West, Reyes and Montoya.

Motion carried.

Old Business:

Discussion and/or action to establish a Town of Clifton Youth Council. – Vice Mayor Ahmann: The Vice-Mayor reported that she had contacted the City of Surprise, AZ since they have an established Youth Advisory Council. She explained that prior to the establishment of a local youth advisory council, the City of Surprise representative provided her with a list of questions that must be considered prior to setting up the group. The Vice-Mayor recommended that the Council address these questions in a work session.

Mayor Montoya agreed that a work session would be appropriate to further review the issue however, he suggested that the Vice-Mayor reach out to the local schools to determine whether their would be an interest from the students prior to moving forward with a work session.

Discussion and/or action to lease the northern room at the Train Depot to the Clifton Art Council. – Vice Mayor Ahmann.: Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported that a lease had been provided to the Clifton Art Council for their review and were agreeable to the following terms: terms are month-to-month lease option and requires that the occupant cover 12% of the utility fees.

Vice-Mayor Ahmann and Council member Reyes questioned whether there might be a conflict of interest in voting for this agenda item since they both serve on the Clifton Art Council Board.

Town Attorney, Susan Goodwin advised that they could vote on the matter if there is no pecuniary interest as a result of the lease.

Council member Ray West made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the lease agreement between the Town of Clifton and the Clifton Art Council. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Reyes, Ahmann and Montoya.

Motion carried.

New Business

Discussion and/or action to appoint Anthony James to the Clifton Town Council: Mayor Montoya explained that the town had advertised the vacancy since December and since then only one individual had expressed interest. He further explained that the process to consider a candidate to fill the vacancy had been to interview the candidates however, he feels this is not necessary on this occasion.

Motion to appoint Mr. Anthony James to the Clifton Town Council was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Ahmann, Dorrell, West, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

Motion carried.

Oath of Office – Anthony James - Council member: The Town Clerk administered the Oath of Office to appointed Council member Anthony James.

Discussion and/or action to approve a Notice of Intent to Adopt the 2012-2014 Amendments to the Model City Tax Code for the Town of Clifton: The Town Clerk explained that updates to the Model City Tax Code are prepared by the Municipal Tax Code Commission. Apparently, there had been a period where no updates had been presented for adoption by the Town. Therefore, these 2012-2014 Amendments are the first group of amendments to adopt bringing the Model City Tax Code up to date.

Council member Ray West made a motion to approve the Notice of Intent to Adopt the 2012-2014 Amendments to the Model City Tax Code for the Town of Clifton. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Lorenzo, Dorrell, Reyes, Ahmann and Montoya.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to award the bid for the Clifton Wastewater Treatment Plant – Parshall Flume Project: Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported that the bids received far exceeded available funding for this project. He recommended rebidding the project to disclose the available funding amount.

Council member Reyes made a motion to reject the bids as presented due to available funding and rebid the project. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Reyes, Ahmann, Dorrell, West, Lorenzo and Montoya.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to approve the following grant applications for submittal on behalf of the Town of Clifton: Grants Committee Chairman, Barbara Ahmann reported that the grants committee had met and recommends submission of both grants.

a. Library: United Way Grant Funding – Tech Talks: Building Digital Skills in Greenlee County – Phase II: Town Librarian, Sabrina Dumas provided a brief review of the Tech Talks Program success. She explained that this second phase will expand electronic device support to include the rest of Greenlee County.

Motion to approve the submission of the library grant to United Way was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members' Ahmann, West, Dorrell, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

Motion carried.

b. Administration: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Targeted Brownfields Assessment for town buildings: Town Manager Rudy Perez reported that prior to a lease commitment between the town and United Way to utilize the property, a site assessment would be appropriate to assure a safe environment. He further reported that he had arranged an onsite meeting with a representative from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality to determine potential grant funding opportunities. He explained that if awarded, the Brownfields State Response Grant would provide an assessment of potential contaminants of concern, such as asbestos and/or lead-based paint. If it is determined that the building does contain these contaminants, the town could pursue to abate the material as the next phase.

Motion to authorize the submittal of the EPA grant to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality for a site assessment of the Elk's Building was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by council member Laura Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Dorrell, Ahmann, Reyes, Lorenzo and Montoya.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to consider imposing a Bed Tax – Vice Mayor Barbara Ahmann: The Vice-Mayor reported that she has researched other small communities like Clifton and found that they have imposed a bed-tax. She stated that this could be another revenue source for the town.

Mayor Montoya stated that the issue brings many questions and recommends that this be discussed during a Council work session.

Motion to refer the item of imposing a bed-tax to a Council Work session was made by Council member Reyes. Second to the motion was made by Council member West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Reyes, West, Dorrell, Ahmann, Lorenzo and Montoya.

Motion carried.

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

- Reported that the town had been notified by USDA-RD that grant funding in the amount of \$1,632,000 had been approved for the town's Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.
- The next step would be to work towards securing interim financing.
- Informed the Council that the Zorilla Bridge Project is scheduled to begin on March 16, 2020. The bridge closure is anticipated to last 6 months. Area residents or traffic should access that area through Park Avenue off Highway 191 near the San Francisco River Bridge.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:27 p.m.