

**Minutes  
Town of Clifton  
Town Council – Special Session  
June 11, 2019  
10:00 A.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:** A power point presentation of the proposed budget was explained by Town Manager, Rudy Perez and Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda. The information reviewed included historical budget data covering the last five years in areas to include:

- Budget Totals
- Revenue Projections
- Property Tax rates and levies

Also highlighted by department was historical data as well as the current year's budget requests with emphasis on specific requests for projects, equipment or other expenses outside of normal operations and maintenance. Mr. Perez explained that this budget does include a 2% cost of living adjustment and assumes continued health and dental benefits for employees and dependents. At this time, the town is waiting for finalized health and dental benefit quotes. He explained that an overall 10% rate increase was factored into this budget.

He further explained that each department had been given the opportunity to present their individual requests. Upon review of all requests received and review of the projected revenue it was determined at this time that each department would have to reduce their overall budget requests by 5% in order to balance this budget.

Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda further explained that further guidance from Council would be

needed. The issue of allocating \$100,000 from the town's fund balance was discussed at length by members of the Council. The general consensus was to continue to allocate the funds within the Mayor and Council's budget, but stressed that these funds should be considered only for emergency situations.

Also discussed was the continuation of health & dental benefits for dependents. It was noted that the town of one of the few who continue to offer these benefits at 100% coverage for employees and their families. The ongoing cost of increasing rates is putting a strain on the town's budget.

Other comments included that possibly either the COLA or benefits may have to be sacrificed sooner or later. Additional thoughts included possibly covering employees only under the dental benefit and passing the cost of coverage for dependents over to the employee.

Mr. Perez reported that these issues had been discussed with department supervisors and their comments favored retaining the COLA. They reported that most employees were not too concerned about the dental for dependents since most current full-time employees are single or have coverage through their spouse's plan.

Individual Council members offered no opinion at this time but Town Manager Perez suggested that a final decision might wait until health/dental quotes are finalized.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.