

Minutes
Town of Clifton
Regular Town Council Meeting
June 13, 2019
2:00 P.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.

Attending the meeting via telephone conference call was Town Attorney, Susan Goodwin.

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

Call to the Public: Walt Mares commended the Council for their leadership in moving the town forward.

Council Reports: At this time Vice-Mayor Ahmann and Mayor Montoya offered reports. Vice-Mayor Ahmann expressed appreciation for all the work that has been done by the local Veterans to their park.

Mayor Montoya offered his congratulation to Council member Dorrell's daughter who was attending an essay awards presentation explaining the Council members absence at today's meeting. He also provided follow up information on last month's joint request from the town and Greenlee County to the Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS) to provide a more active presence in this area. He explained that the response was not positive due to lack of resources at this time.

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

1. Approval of the May 9, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of May 2019 Demands.

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

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried

New Business:

Moment of silence honoring former town public servant, Aida Lopez: Prior to calling for a moment of silence, Mayor Montoya provided information on Mrs. Lopez's service to the Town of Clifton. She served from 1994-1999 as Council member; 1999-2000 as Vice-Mayor and from 2000-2002 she served as Mayor for the Town of Clifton

Update by Chad Crockett, Bowman Consulting regarding the town's WWTP and the Flap Gate Project: Mr. Crockett reported that the new treatment process for the town's wastewater treatment plant is currently being reviewed as part of the final stages of the design which is near completion.

Regarding the status of the USDA funding application, he explained that the town's preliminary engineering report needs to be modified since the original report includes discussion and information on the town's collection system as well. Initially, when Bowman was engaged to prepare the report the town was considering pursuing funding for both the WWTP and the Collection System. Since then the project concept has changed to phase these into two separate projects.

He also reported that 12 flap gates have been installed along the San Francisco River Flood Walls and project is now completed. These flap gates were funded in part by Hazard Mitigation funds from the Department of Emergency Management Agency.

Discussion and/or action to adopt a tentative budget for FY2020: Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda reviewed the actions taken by Staff and Council to prepare and present a balanced budget. Although there are a few issues left to be resolved such as the final quote on dental insurance coverage, final premium for general liability insurance; and clarification on recent legislation on the restrictions of funding from the State of Arizona for infrastructure projects remains to be addressed. However, she explained that a tentative budget is adopted to determine the expenditure limit as allowed by the town's authority under the "Home Rule" option. The total budget amount as presented is \$16,211,619.

Mayor Montoya explained to those present, that although the budget amount presented exceeds the actual amount of funding the town normally has available for day to day operations, this budget must include \$11,000,000 to cover the potential expenditure of the development of the town's wastewater treatment upgrade project.

Chief Negrete requested that an additional \$30,000 be included for potential police grant funding sources.

Vice-Mayor Ahmann made a motion to adopt the FY2020 tentative budget for the Town of Clifton in the amount of \$16,341,619. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2019-05: A Resolution of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Clifton, Arizona urging the Arizona Legislature to hear and ratify an amendment to the constitution of the United States Relative to Equal Rights for Men and Women: Although the request for the Clifton Town Council to join other Arizona municipalities to consider this resolution was petitioned by Dianne Post, ERA Task Force AZ, is leading the movement for the Arizona Legislature to consider this amendment was local citizen Susan Breen.

Ms. Breen explained that once again there is an attempt to urge the Arizona Legislature to consider and ratify an amendment to the Constitution of the United States. The goal is to present united support of Arizona municipalities.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2019-05 was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann.

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to adopt the Town of Clifton Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Pension Funding Policy: Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda explained that annually, the town makes a \$20,000 contribution towards the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Pension Fund to the Clifton Fire Trust Fund. Presently there is one retired firefighter receiving a pension from this trust fund. The Clifton Fire Fund Annual Financial Statement reports an unfunded liability for this trust, primarily due to the town having no full-time paid firefighters who would be required to contribute to the fund. She continued to explain that although the town has addressed this unfunded liability annually, it appears that this new legislative requirement will mandate entity to establish a policy by July 1. Further, this policy should be reviewed annually and must be posted on the town website.

Motion to adopt the Town of Clifton Public Safety Personnel Retirement System Pension

Funding Policy was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes.

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to accept the design services proposal for the Chase Creek Lighting Project as submitted by Wright Engineering Corporation: Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported that a committee consisting of himself, Council member West and Interim Public Works Director, Jerry Valenzuela reviewed the request for qualifications proposal as submitted by Wright Engineering Corporation. Although no references were checked as questioned by Council member Reyes, the committee recommends to accept the proposal and authorize the Town Manager to negotiate a contract for the services.

Motion to accept the design services proposal for the Chase Creek Lighting Project as submitted by Wright Engineering Corporation was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member Reyes.

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to consider supporting the following events:

Eastern Arizona Hispanic Heritage Corporation - \$500 sponsorship: Representing the organization was Michael Andazola. He provided a brief history of the official non-profit organization and explained that their events have primarily been held in Graham County, they hope to expand the event to Greenlee County. The funding goal is to raise funds for scholarships.

Town Attorney, Susan Goodwin provided guidance and consideration to avoid possible violation of an Arizona Law, the Gift Clause. She explained that a donation of public funds are allowed, only if the funds would promote a public purpose and provide a direct benefit to the town. In order to document any potential donation, Ms. Goodwin would provide an accountability agreement to be used to support the donation.

Motion by Council member Reyes to donate \$500 to the Eastern Arizona Hispanic Heritage Corporation provided the request complies with the accountability contract as recommended by the town's legal counsel. Second to the motion was made by Council member Lorenzo.

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried.

Colors of Copper: Representing the event was Jon Stacy. He reported that the date of the event is scheduled for November 1 & 2. The location of the event will be the Galeria Coronado on Chase Creek Street. The organization is seeking a donation of \$250 and in-kind support of police security.

Motion to approve the cash donation request and 1 day of security from the Clifton Police Department contingent upon compliance and filing of the accountability contract was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member West.

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute Intergovernmental Agreement No. 15-0005668-1; Amendment No. Two 19-0007298-1; Project Location/Name: Zorilla Street Bridge, Clifton: Mayor Montoya explained that the town has already invested a significant amount of funds towards this project. He explained that the scope of work has been modified hoping to drive the cost of the project to a reasonable amount.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the IGA between the State of Arizona and the Town of Clifton was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann.

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the purchase of a 2019 International Dump Truck: Interim Public Works Director, Jerry Valenzuela provided information on the current condition of the town's 1987 dump truck. He expressed concerns on the safety issues of the equipment. He provided a cost estimate of a 2019 International Dump Truck from the RWC Group, a vendor currently contracted under State of Arizona Procurement.

Motion to authorize the purchase of the 2019 International Dump Truck as quoted by RWC Group in the amount of \$139, 554.71 was made by Vice-Mayor Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member West.

Discussion continued regarding the final purchase price which included sales tax. The amended purchase price was corrected as \$147,079. Both Vice-Mayor Ahmann and Council member West were agreeable to the amendment.

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

Council members Dorrell and Freida were absent.

Motion carried.

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

- Reported that the next meeting to review the final draft of the general plan is scheduled for the week of June 24, 2019.
- Provided an update on the status of the bidding process for the CDBG project related to the removal of architectural barriers. The invitation to bid has been published and a mandatory-pre-bid meeting for interested contractors is scheduled for June 19th.
- Stated that all three flood sirens are now operational.
- NPL continues to provide status updates on town projects.
- The proposed IGA between the Town of Clifton and the Morenci Unified School District is still under review by school personnel.
- Congratulated the Fire Department for their successful Softball Tournament.
- Extended congratulations to the Daley Diner who recently opened their business.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:37 p.m.