

Minutes
Town of Clifton
Regular Town Council Meeting
November 15, 2018
7:00 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.

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

Call to the Public: Daniel Cervantez stated that Somerton AZ is currently experiencing a similar issue with their wastewater treatment plant and suggested that the town may consider contacting them.

Sheriff Sumner reported that he had just attended the Town of Duncan's Council meeting where they had just seated their new council.

Council Reports: Council Member Barbara Reyes noted that the month of November has started out with a variety of activities to include the 6th Annual Colors of Copper and the Fall Festival sponsored by the Morenci/Clifton Alumni Association.

Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann was pleased to report that the Colors of Copper had been a successful event providing opportunities for artists and wine vendors to showcase their wares.

Council Member Laura Dorrell reported that she had participated in the Mares Bluff Veteran's Day Walk of Freedom and the American Legion Post#28 Veterans Appreciation Day Luncheon.

Council Member Ray West offered his congratulations to the Vice-Mayor for organizing the Colors of Copper.

Council Member John Freida expressed his thanks to the Clifton Police Department for hosting the annual Haunted House and accommodating the Mares Bluff Veterans

Organization by including them as part of the event. Council Member Freida also expressed concern about the town's public works crew use of proper safety signs while working out and about.

Mayor Luis Montoya expressed his thanks to Council Member John Freida for taking the time to visit with Vietnam Veteran, Delfino Candelaria, who served with Sgt. Jose Moncayo, who was killed in action and is best identified as one of the Morenci Nine.

The Mayor also mentioned the forthcoming 22nd Annual Festival of Lights and noted that this year's event will add an official tree lighting ceremony.

Consent Agenda: Motion to accept the following items listed under consent agenda was made by Council Member Ray West:

1. Approval of the October 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of October 2018 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council Member John Freida.

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

Council Member Lorenzo was absent.

Motion carried.

Public Hearing on Wastewater Rates – Consideration and possible adoption of Resolution No. 2018-1X establishing increased wastewater rates, fees and charges: At approximately 7:20 p.m., Mayor Luis Montoya called the Public Hearing to order. Town Manager, Heather Ruder reviewed the process required by state statute to implement a rate increase. She explained that the rate study prepared by Willdan Financial Services has been uploaded to the town's website to meet the requirements to supply data supporting the proposed rate increase. Additionally, the Clifton Town Council approved a Notice of Intent to increase the wastewater rates and set a public hearing on the proposed rates. The Notice of Intent was required to be published in the local newspaper. The publication date was October 17, 2018.

Ms. Ruder referred members of the public to Resolution 2018-15; Exhibit A, providing the proposed rate increase schedule. She explained that the while the effective date of the first rate increase is scheduled for January 1, 2019. The next rate increase will take effective on July 1, 2019. The proposed plan for rate increases will also take effect on July 1 of each of the four subsequent years.

Susan Snyder, Chase Creek Marketplace owner stated that she was favorable to the increase due to the nature of the situation. Referring that the wastewater treatment plant is a valuable service to our community.

Mayor Montoya commented that these proposed rate increases are comparable with other communities and are minimal.

Council Member Ray West noted that this rate study was prepared by a professional consultant and recommends these rate increases in order to maintain a solvent system.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:37 p.m.

New Business

Second Reading of Ordinance No. 04-2018: Amending Section 30.060, Regular Meetings related to the schedule of Council Meetings and establishing Council procedures by Resolution: The Town Clerk read the title of the ordinance as required in the ordinance adoption process.

Town Manager, Heather Ruder explained that the anticipated change in time would take effect in January.

Discussion and/or action to adopt Ordinance No. 04-2018: Mayor Montoya explained that the change in meeting time will encourage more public participation as well as accommodate Department Supervisors to attend. He further stated that the ordinance has been modified to allow for future time changes to be authorized by Resolution.

Town Manager, Heather Ruder added that the resolution to formally establish the new meeting time, which is tentatively recommended for 2:00 p.m., will be on the Town Council's December regular meeting agenda.

Motion was made by Council Member John Freida to adopt Ordinance No. 04-2018. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Ray West.

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

Council Member Lorenzo was absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2018-15: Establishing new or increased wastewater rates, fees or service charges; establishing an effective date; repealing conflicting resolutions and providing for severability: Mayor Montoya stated that this issue was thoroughly discussed during the Public Hearing.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-15: Establishing new or increased wastewater rates, fees or service charges; establishing an effective date; repealing conflicting resolutions and providing for severability 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, Freida, Reyes and Montoya.

Council Member Lorenzo was absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to accept the FY17/18 Audit Report as prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP: Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda explained that a financial review is performed annually.

Discussion included the items listed by the auditing firm as material weaknesses and the Town Manager provided actions already implemented by staff to correct most of these. It was noted however, that one item addressing segregation of duties is most common and difficult to address for communities our size.

Motion to accept the FY17/18 Audit Report as prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen LLP was made by Council Member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Vice Barbara Ahmann.

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

Council Member Lorenzo was absent.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to appoint Austin Adams to the Grants Committee: Town Manager, Heather Ruder reported that Mr. Adams has volunteer to serve on the Grants Committee.

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann to appoint Austin Adams to the Grants Committee. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Laura Dorrell.

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

Council Member Lorenzo was absent.

Motion carried.

Manager's Report: Town Manager, Heather Ruder reported on the following activities and projects:

- Update on Chase Creek Properties-The Notice of Intent to Sell the property was posted on the publicsurplus.com website. Bid deadline is November 19, 2018 and no bids have been posted as of this report.
- Update on Wastewater treatment plant-Reported that Burk's Valley Sanitation has been slowly removing sludge from the digester. The drying process has been very slow due to rain and cold weather.
- Update on ADA modification to Train Depot/Community Center: Ms. Ruder reported that unfortunately no proposals had been received by the October deadline. The next course of action will be to advertise a modified Scope of Work and focus on advertising in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.
- Grants Committee: Reiterated the role of the Town's Grants Committee. All grant applications that require town resources are required to be presented before the Grants Committee for their review. The Grants committee will then make a recommendation to the Clifton Town Council for their approval prior to submission to the granting authority.

Other items mentioned included encouraging the Council to participate in the SEAGO Industry Study Survey; the need to develop a town evacuation plan; informed the Council that Peter Reyes has submitted his letter to retire from the town and announced that the town had been successful in the Freeport Community Investment Fund Grant. Funding in the amount of \$140,000 was awarded for the sludge removal project. Finally, special thanks to Freeport McMoRan for awarding the town \$2,000 from the Local Funding – Southeastern Arizona Funds.

Adjournment: Mayor Montoya adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:06 p.m.