

**Mnotes**  
**Town of Clifton**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**October 10, 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.

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

**Call to the Public:** Representing the Mt. Graham Safe House was Donna Lizaraga, Board Member. She provided information on the forthcoming “Light up the Nite” event scheduled for October 23, 2019 which offers information on domestic violence awareness.

Akos Kovach, Greenlee County Economic Development Director provided an update on his efforts to revive the Hill Climb Event. He stated that he has been in contact with the auto club and reported that a possible date is April 2020.

Steve Ahmann, Coordinator of the local Community Garden, reported that all available spaces are currently being cultivated in preparation for winter gardens. With regards to the recent activity along Park Avenue, he expressed his support for the proposed pollinator park and the request for the liquor license application for the Clifton Hotel which would be discussed later by the Council.

Sheriff Sumner offered his continued support to the Festival of Lights Event. He reported that his department continues to work together with the Clifton Police Department to assure a safe event.

The Sheriff also encouraged the town to consider reviewing and commenting on the U.S. Forrest Service Public Motorized Travel Management Plan affecting the Apache Sitgreaves area. The document is available at the Clifton Public Library.

**Council Reports:** Council member Barbara Reyes reported that she recently utilized the tech support service offered at the Clifton Library and recommends it to anyone having issues with their electronic devices.

Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann reported that she will be participating in an art show in Guadalajara Mexico. She has been asked to address the group and provide information on Clifton.

Council member Dorrell mentioned that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month and encouraged everyone to get their flu shot. The Council member also acknowledged the “Coding Club Program” offered by the Clifton Library. Her report concluded with congratulating the Chase Creek Marketplace who celebrated their 15-year anniversary in operation.

Council member West noted that the Chase Creek Business Merchants are preparing for the “Second Saturday” event which encourages local shopping.

Council member Freida had no report.

Mayor Luis Montoya reported that he encourages all council members to provide their comments and ideas related to the development of a recruitment policy for town Police Academy Cadets as discussed in a recent Council Work Session.

He also encouraged the public to address complaints related to the water system odor to Morenci Water & Electric.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion to approve the following items was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann:

1. Approval of the September 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes and September 24 Work Session Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of September 2019 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell.

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

Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

**Discussion and/or action to award the bid for CDBG Contract #116-18: Construction Phase of the Removal of Architectural Barriers at the town’s Community Center:** Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda requested that the item continue to be tabled.

Motion to table the item 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, Freida, Dorrell, Ahmann and Montoya. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Discussion and/or action to recommend granting or denying the liquor license application as applied for by Karen E Crump for the Clifton Hotel, LLC., at 163 Park Avenue to the Arizona State Liquor Board:** Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda reported that the application for the license transfer had been posted on the property as required giving the property owners in the area notice. The posting provides the neighborhood the opportunity to comment.

Ms. Crump addressed the council and was available to answer any questions. Members of the audience offered comments supporting the application.

Motion to recommend granting the liquor license to the Arizona State Liquor Board was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member John Freida.

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

**Discussion and/or action regarding the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival of Lights Event:** The event Chair, Alicia Goodwin was present to address questions from the Council. She explained that the request for in-kind support is similar as years prior.

Motion to support the event was made by Council member John Freida. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell.

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

**Discussion and/or action to consider the Grant’s Committee recommendation to submit a grant request to the FMI-Local Funding-Southeastern Arizona:** Grant’s Committee Chair, Barbara Ahmann reported that the Festival of Lights Committee has presented their proposed grant application for consideration to the committee. The grant

application covers upgrading the main electrical panel and vendor booths for the event. Upon review of the application, the grant's committee recommends approval for submittal.

Motion to accept the Grants Committee recommendation to submit a grant request to the FMI-Local Funding-Southeastern Arizona to upgrade the electrical service for the Festival of Lights event was made by Council member Reyes. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion was made by Council members' Reyes, West, Freida, Dorrell, Ahmann, and Montoya. Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action regarding the following requests to close a portion of Chase Creek Street for the following events:**

- a. **MHS-CHS Alumni Association & Scholarship Foundation Fall Festival Craft Fair- November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Palacio Loop entrance to outlet at museum parking lot:** Bette Antonson, event organizer explained that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the event. She explained that the event draws more home-based businesses each year. Ms. Antonson also reviewed the road closure layout which considers emergency vehicle access as well.

Motion to approve the road closure affecting Chase Creek Street for the MHS-CHS Alumni Association & Scholarship Foundation Fall Festival Craft Fair was made by Council member John Freida. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

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

- b. **Alicia Goodwin, local businesses on Chase Creek to sponsor a small event on October 31<sup>st</sup> :** Ms. Goodwin reported that the event will offer family oriented activities. All activities are free. The portion of Chase Creek to be closed for the duration of the activities involves from Granny's Attic up to the first access into Palacio Loop. The time period will be from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the road closure affecting Chase Creek Street for the October 31<sup>st</sup> evening event from Granny's Attic up to Palacio Loop was made by Council member Laura Dorrell. Second to the motion was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes.

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

**Discussion regarding developing the plot of land to create a pollinator park on Park Avenue adjacent to the Blue Door Sanctuary-Greenlee Tourism Council:** Kim Henderson and Jon Antonson representing the Greenlee Tourism Council were available

to address questions related to the proposed FMI Community Partner's Grant project submitted by the organization. The project amount totals \$37,000. They are requesting \$33,980 in grant funds and included \$3,020 of in-kind support.

Ms. Henderson explained that the site of the proposed pollinator park was on town property and possibly FMI land, but would need commitment from each of the property owners prior to her interview to present the project.

In her presentation she explained the benefits to developing the property. These benefits include removal of blighted property; erosion mitigation and recreation opportunity for locals and tourists. She further reported that she had secured assistance from the Gila Watershed Partnership to assist in the types of plants which would best serve the park. She also described the proposed tiered layout of the pollinator park, the installation of a gazebo and electrical service and explained that the design will provide accommodations to meet ADA requirements.

Mayor Montoya stated that he welcomed ideas to improve the community and asked whether Ms. Henderson had secured use of the FMI property for the project. She responded that she has nothing legal or binding from the company at this time.

Mayor Montoya also explained that this property was transferred over to the town as part of the flood project. Mandates related to properties transferred to the town by the State of Arizona as part of the Clifton Flood Control Project were also discussed. These mandates provide the town guidance regarding management of the floodplain.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez stated that the gazebo would need FEMA approval per the requirements of the quit claim deed.

Council member Ray West requested further clarification on the proposed project. He expressed concern that there is insufficient information presented at this time on the expectations regarding the town's responsibilities as outlined in the proposal.

Mayor Montoya stated that he understood the extent of the request was to obtain permission for the Greenlee Tourism Council to develop the town's property.

Jon Antonson explained that the request included permission to use the land to develop the pollinator park and tie into the existing utilities; obtain permission from the town to allow their public works department to do the in-kind labor and undertake the maintenance of the finalize project as an additional town park.

Town Manager, Rudy Perez recommended that the Town Council postpone any further consideration of the item until the Tourism Council secures the grant funding and allow him sufficient time to determine operation and maintenance costs to better inform the council.

Ms. Henderson explained that she was hoping to have some confirmation from the town to use the land prior to her FMI Grant Presentation/Interview. This confirmation would reinforce her position in securing funding. However, due to the agenda request which only allowed “discussion” no action could be taken.

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

- Thanked local emergency response personnel and the public work’s department for their coordinated efforts to conduct the annual flood gates testing.
- Reported that Mayor Montoya and Council member Dorrell have submitted their suggestions regarding the development of the Police Recruitment Policy.
- Reported that the Arizona Department of Transportation will be receiving bids on the Zorilla St. Bridge up until November 1, 2019.
- Noted that a Public Informational Meeting on the USDA Grant Application was held on October 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:07 p.m.