

**Minutes  
Town of Clifton  
Regular Town Council Meeting  
October 11, 2018  
7:00 P.M.**

**Members Present**

Luis Montoya, Mayor  
Barbara Ahmann, Vice-Mayor  
Laura Dorrell, Councilmember  
John Freida, Councilmember  
Ray Lorenzo, Councilmember\*  
B. Waddell Reyes, Councilmember  
Ray West, Councilmember

\*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:** Clifton resident, Daniel Cervantez, mentioned that the photo of the Town Council on the town's website needs to be updated.

**Council Reports:** Council Member Dorrell invited the council to the 2018 Senior Expo and Caregiver Conference to be held at the Manor House Convention Center hosted by Southeastern Arizona Community Unique Services on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Ray West also provided information on the Colors of Copper Event scheduled to be held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member John Freida extended his appreciation to Heather Ruder, Town Manager, for her immediate action to address the issue of poor traffic visibility at the intersection of Copper Verde Lane and Shannon Road.

Mayor Luis Montoya announced re-scheduling of the November regular monthly meeting. The date was changed from Thursday, November 8, 2018 to Thursday, November 15, 2018.

Mayor Montoya also mentioned issues presented to him by members of the public to include a request to install appropriate signage at the Copper Crystal Park indicating that this location is a school bus stop.

Mayor Montoya also reported that Chase Creek residents have expressed concern that recent work done by Southwest Gas to relocate meters have compromised the recently

improved road and are worried that the road will not be restored to an acceptable condition.

Town Manager, Heather Ruder will monitor these road/street cuts to assure they are restored accordingly.

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

1. Approval of the August 29, 2018 Work Session Minutes; and September 13, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of September 2018 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council Member B. Waddell Reyes. Motion carried.

### **New Business**

**First 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:** Mayor Montoya explained that the intent of this change is to encourage attendance to Council Meetings. Once formalized, beginning in January, the Council's Regular monthly meeting time will change from 7:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of the month.

Town Clerk, Espie Castaneda read the title paragraph of the proposed ordinance as the first reading.

**Discussion and/or action to approve the recommended actions related to the Chase Creek Underground Electric Project:** Prior to any discussion on the matter, Council Member Ray West declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from any discussion by the Council due to his direct involvement in the Business Association of Chase Creek Arizona (BACCA) who have requested this agenda item.

First to address the Council was Jeanette West, Marketing Director for BACCA. She explained that the area of this potential project encompasses the historic area from the Greenlee County Historical Society building to intersection of Chase Creek Street and Highway 191. The project vision is to remove the existing overhead power lines and power poles and bury the electric lines underground.

Mrs. West explained that Morenci Water and Electric had previously approached the town about concerns of the current deterioration of the existing power poles. This prompted the discussion about either replacing the current wooden poles with large metal poles or possibly burying the power lines underground. Mrs. West stated that a meeting had been held involving all utility representatives, town staff and representatives of the Chase Creek Business District for their input on options to address this issue. The

consensus of the group envisions burying the utility lines for street safety and aesthetic purposes.

Also providing information on the issue was Ray West. Mr. West further explained that there is an 18-month timeline by FMI and Morenci Water & Electric to move on the decision. BACCA is aware that any changes to the infrastructure involve the town. This project would have to be guided by the town.

Ms. Ruder reiterated that Morenci Water & Electric is not opposed to either replacing the existing wood power poles with metal power poles or underground the electric lines, however the issue is funding. Burying the lines would be an expense imposed on the town. Presently the town has not budgeted specific funds for this project. Ms. Ruder acknowledged that BACCA has offered to seek grant funding for the project, but cautions them that any grant funding would have to be applied for by the town as the official participant. Additionally, grant funding requires commitments by the town and appreciates BACCA's efforts to assist in the project. Therefore, she recommends that the first step is for Council Member West bring this project forward to the Town's Grant Committee. Council Member West would need to present this project, including project cost estimate and grant potential funding source for the grant committee's consideration. Recently, the town has directed the grants committee to consider, review and recommend potential grant applications that impacts the town. Once presented to the grants committee, the committee will make a recommendation to Mayor and Council. Mayor and Council approval is required to move any town project forward to seek grant funding.

Discussion also included reference to the relocation of service meters to each establishment. Mr. West explained that the relocation of each service meter would be the responsibility of the property owner.

Referring to a previous issue of concern regarding reconstruction of the town's sidewalk and ADA Compliance, Council member Dorrell asked what impact this potential project may have.

Town Manager Ruder responded that the repairs could be done without affecting ADA Compliance. As the sidewalks are not being completely replaced and merely repairing the trench cut required to underground the electric lines and tie the services back to the Chase Creek buildings.

Town Manager Ruder explained that this project would require several pavement and sidewalk trench cuts and patches, as Morenci Water and Electric would also be replacing their waterlines as part of this project.

Motion to refer the consideration of the Chase Creek Underground Electric Project for review by the town's grants committee 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, Montoya, Ahmann, and Reyes.

Not voting due to conflict of interest was Council member West. Absent from voting was Council member Lorenzo.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action regarding the 22<sup>st</sup> Annual Festival of Lights Event:** Council members were provided with a detailed list requesting assistance and support for the event. Mayor Montoya noted that the requested items had not changed from previous years.

Motion to assist and support the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Festival of Lights Event as requested was made by Vice Mayor Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council Member West.

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

Absent from voting was Council Member Lorenzo.

Motion carried.

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

- Reports that the week of October 21-27 celebrates Arizona Cities & Towns Week and staff will be providing information on various social media sites highlighting the operation of municipalities;
- Urged the assistance of Council Members to find a local citizen to fill the vacancy on the Municipal Property Corporation and the grants committee for the Town of Clifton.
- Informed Council that a town representative is needed to participate on the SEAGO Advisory Council on Aging.
- Provided a follow-up report on the Clifton House RV Park owned by Lynn Ray. She recalled that during last month's meeting, Mr. Mares had questioned various compliance issues affecting the location.
- Reported that the Town received no proposals for an architect in the recent request for proposals for the ADA Compliance project for the Town's community center.
- Provided an update on the progress to clean out the built up sludge in the digester at the wastewater treatment plant by North Star Facility and Burks Pumping.
- Regarding the flap-gates project, Ms. Ruder reported that environmental permits are currently being worked on.
- Stated that she has reviewed the park/playground equipment proposal submitted

by Dave Bang & Associates which unfortunately is overbudget. She is currently working on modifications to reduce the cost of the equipment to meet the current amount of available funding.

- Reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> public engagement for input to the town's general plan is scheduled for November 3 and representatives of The Planning Center will be onsite to provide and receive information.
- Explained that although the town is in receipt of agreements from ADOH to move forward with the CDBG Grant to upgrade the Parshall Flume at the town's wastewater treatment plant, she has requested a delay in executing the documents until a better decision can be made regarding the continued use of the existing facility.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member B. Waddell Reyes. Second to the motion was made by Council Member John Freida. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.