

**Minutes  
Town of Clifton  
Town Council Regular Meeting  
October 13, 2022  
2:00 P.M.**

**Members Present**

Mayor Luis Montoya  
Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell\*\*  
Council member Anthony James  
Council member Ray Lorenzo  
Council member Ray West  
Council member, Karen Crump-Frye  
Council member, Vacant

\*Excused

\*\*Participated via telephone

Quorum Present

The Town's legal counsel participated via telephone

**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 noted that the Mares Bluff Veteran's Organization had reactivated their fundraising efforts by selling hamburgers. He encouraged community support.

**Council Reports:** Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell expressed her excitement due to the planning and organizing of the traditional Festival of Lights Event after being on hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns.

Council member Karen Crump-Frye provided an update on activities planned by the Tourism Council.

Regarding the town's new website development, Mayor Montoya encouraged Council members to follow-up with Cecilia Jernigan if they have additional input or suggestions on website content. He explained that the "go-live" deadline is fast approaching. Mayor Montoya also offered a reminder that early ballots for the General Election have been issued to those on the early voting list and encouraged everyone to participate in the November 8, 2022 General Election.

No reports were given by Council members' West, Lorenzo and James.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion to approve the following items listed under Consent Agenda as presented was made by Council member West:

1. Approval of the September 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of September 2022 Demands.

Motion was seconded Council member Ray Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Lorenzo, James, Crump-Frye, Dorrell and Montoya. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

**Discussion and/or action to approve the Preliminary Land Exchange Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Freeport Minerals Corporation:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez informed Council that the land appraisals have been initiated by FMI and hopes to have information to report by the next Council meeting.

## **New Business**

**Discussion and/or action to support the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights Event scheduled for December 3, 2022:** Mayor Montoya referred Council to the request submitted by the Festival of Lights Committee. He explained that although the standard items to assist with the event have been listed, a new request for financial assistance has been added.

He explained that the appeal comes after the Festival of Lights Committee was tasked with allocating a budget with the available fund balance of \$6,480. The mayor reported that in prior years this amount may have been sufficient, however with the loss of the volunteer electrician and unavailability of now closed businesses, who once offered use of their restrooms to the public, now require the Festival Committee to expand their rental budget to accommodate more porta-johns. Also impacting the budget is the cost of the DJ and stage rental which also have become an integral part of the event.

As noted on the letter, requesting financial support was due to the change occurring over the past two years in sponsoring the event. Home Decorating Contests were offered with cash prizes in hopes of keeping the spirit of the festival alive. However, no income was generated from the events causing a shortage of approximately \$3,000. The Festival of Lights Event has been expending approximately \$10,000.00 in the last few years.

Motion to authorize the support to the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Lights Event scheduled for December 3, 2022 adding financial support up to \$3,500 for this year's event was made by Mayor Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Dorrell, West, James, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye and Montoya. Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to sign and execute the Temporary Construction Easement given by Freeport Minerals Corporation to the Town of Clifton for the construction of the Frisco Avenue Bridge:** Town Manager Rudy Perez explained that previously Council had approved granting a perpetual non-exclusive easement for the purpose of using and maintaining the property in connection with the Frisco Avenue Bridge replacement project. He further explained that this approval is for a "temporary" construction easement affecting the same project.

Town Attorney, Trish Stuhan also explained that she had reviewed the document and had made revision to Section 4 of the document providing verbiage to assure adequate coverage to extend time for necessary warranty work for post construction.

Motion to authorize the mayor to execute the Temporary Construction Easement given by Freeport Minerals Corporation to the Town of Clifton for construction of the Frisco Avenue Bridge was made by Mayor Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, West, Lorenzo, James, Crump-Frye and Dorrell. Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the Customer Information Sharing Agreement between Morenci Water and Electric Company and the Town of Clifton:** Town Manager, Rudy Perez explained that this agreement has been previously approved however, it has expired. The purpose of the agreement is to share customer information between the two parties related to utility services. Mr. Perez explained that water service customers are critical to the town since that is the best information to track new sewer customers.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Customer Information Sharing Agreement between Morenci Water & Electric Company and the Town of Clifton was made by Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell. Second to the motion was made by Council member Anthony James.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Dorrell, James, Lorenzo, West, Crump-Frye and Montoya. Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to appoint an ad hoc committee to consider amending Rule IV, Fringe Benefits; Section 1. Annual Vacation Leave and Section 4. Sick Leave with regards to year end accruals and its impact to the town:** Mayor Luis Montoya explained his concerns related to employee benefit accruals affecting the town. Specifically, vacation and sick leave accruals. He suggests that an ad hoc committee might be formed to recommend changes to clarify the annual vacation and sick leave policies with the goal of setting a reasonable accrual earning limit.

He explained that upon review of the year end vacation and sick leave account balances, he found that a staffing shortage is preventing employees to schedule and take their vacations causing the unused leave benefits to accumulate. This accumulation in turn results in a financial liability to the town.

Mayor Montoya suggested that the ad hoc committee be comprised of two council members and three employee representatives. He recommends that he together with Council member Crump-Frye represent the Council and Delfina Pilgrim, Sabrina Dumas and Cecilia Jernigan serve as employee representatives.

Motion to appoint an ad hoc committee to address amending Rule IV, Fringe Benefits; Section 1. Annual vacation leave and Section 4 Sick leave of the town's personnel policy was made by Council member Anthony James, seconded by Council member Karen Crump-Frye.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members James, Crump-Frye, West, Lorenzo, Dorrell and Montoya. Motion carried.

**Manager's Report:** The following activities and notable events were reported by the Town Manager:

- Reported that work has resumed on the mountain slope stabilization project along Coronado Boulevard or Hwy 191. Project is expected to be completed by February 2023
- Provided an update on the Circle K building permit. Explained that the code enforcement officer is waiting for a cost estimate for the entire project to determine the building permit fee.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.