

Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
September 9, 2021
2:00 P.M.

Members Present

Mayor Luis Montoya

Vice-Mayor Laura Dorrell*

Council member Anthony James*

Council member Ray Lorenzo

Council member B. Waddell Reyes

Council member Ray West

Council member, Karen Crump-Frye

*Excused

Quorum Present

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Luis Montoya at approximately 2:06 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Luis Montoya requested that Council observe a moment of silence to honor the victims and reflect on the 20th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 attack on the United States of America.

Call to the Public: Representing the Greenlee Chamber of Commerce was JoAnn Cathcart. She invited members of the Council to the first Chamber of Commerce Mixer since all activities have been on hold due to COVID-19. The event will be hosted by the Church of New Beginnings on Thursday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m.

Daniel Cervantez provided information on the progress of the Quinn Street Retaining Wall Project.

Council Reports: Council member Ray West reported that he had attended the League of Arizona Cities and Town Annual Conference and said it was a very informative event.

Also attending the event was Council member Karen Crump-Frye and she concurred that the event provided valuable information particularly to new council members. She also reported that in her role as the Council/New Business Liaison, she had been in contact with Lee Katterman, proprietor of the Clifton Bakery. She also provided updates on current activities and projects under the direction of the Tourism Council.

Council member B. Waddell Reyes encouraged all to participate in the San Francisco River Clean Up scheduled for Saturday, September 11 2021 beginning at 8:00 a.m. The event is sponsored by the Gila Watershed Partnership.

Mayor Montoya began his report by expressing concern on the inaccurate data found on the State Health Departments website regarding Greenlee County's vaccination rate. He also mentioned that the Quinn Street Project has been completed by HT4 Construction, but the road is still closed due to work scheduled to upgrade the permanent water service line to be done by Morenci Water & Electric.

The Mayor also mentioned that this year's Festival of Lights will be postponed once again in-part due to continued concerns of COVID-19 and the uncertainty of the completion of the Chase Creek Street Electrical service upgrade project by Morenci Water & Electric Co.

Mayor Montoya also provided information on the manner in which this council conducts its business which is guided by Robert's Rules of Order. Additionally, the town's legal counsel is available via telephone to assist in the process.

In his final comments, the Mayor reported that he and the Vice-Mayor together with representatives from the Town of Duncan, Greenlee County and Freeport McMoRan had an informal meeting with Senator Mark Kelly.

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

1. Approval of the August 12, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of August 2021 Demands.

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

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

New Business

Discussion and/or action to appoint Katheryn H. Saiz to the Planning and Zoning/Board of Adjustment: Ms. Saiz was present and provided information about herself and her interest in being considered for the appointment.

Council member Ray West made a motion to appoint Katheryn H. Saiz to serve on the town's Planning and Zoning/Board of Adjustment. Second to the motion was made by Council member Karen Crump-Frye.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Crump-Frye; Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Town Manager to enter into the royalty marketing agreement with Utility Service Partners, Inc., subject to Town Attorney review and approval: Ms. Ashley Shiwarski, Director, Business Development, Utility Service Partners provided information on the program via telephone.

Ms. Shiwarski provided an outline of the program benefits to include

- Only utility service line program endorsed by the National League of Cities and League of Arizona Cities and Towns.
- No cost for the town to participate
- Potential revenue stream for the town
- Educate homeowners about their service line responsibilities
- Offers a free public awareness campaign
- Offers a toll-free call to a reputable plumber
- All repairs will be performed to code by a local licensed contractor
- Contractors undergo rigorous vetting process.

Questions from Council included the availability of a “local” qualified plumber and whether there is a requirement for the property owner to have flood insurance.

Ms. Shiwarski explained that if a local qualified plumber is not available, an emergency response contractor could be used. Responding to the issue of flood insurance, she explained that there is no requirement for flood insurance.

Council member West expressed concern about including the town’s logo on marketing material. He was uncomfortable about potentially endorsing the company.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Montoya made a motion to authorize the Town Manager to approve the agreement, subject to review by the Town Attorney. Second to the motion was made by Council member Karen Crump-Frye.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members Montoya, Crump-Frye, Reyes and Lorenzo. Opposing the motion was Council member West.

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to approve a one-year membership to the Southeast Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce: Daniel Valle and Edmund Lopez Representatives of the Southeast Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce provided a power point presentation on the benefits of becoming a member of the organization. The organization offers various levels of membership and offers areas of support to include local business/organization development, growth and sustainability; promotion of non-partisan, pro-business community policies and recognizing, informing, educating and celebrating community stakeholders.

Council members were interested in how this membership would be directly beneficial to the town. As explained during the presentation, Greenlee County has signed up for a membership and this membership should cover local businesses county wide to benefit from this program. Council member West stated that he felt that this membership would be beneficial to the town, while others were hopeful to see how the program would be beneficial for the County.

Motion to table the approval to join a one-year membership to the Southeast Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes. Second to the motion was made by Council member Karen Crump-Frye.

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

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the First Amendment to the Telecommunications Services License Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.: The Town Clerk explained that a telecommunications services license agreement had been issued to Copper Valley Telephone, Inc. in 2010 by the Town of Clifton.

Valley Telephone entered into an agreement and plan of merger for Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and Copper Valley Telephone, Inc. Valley Telephone Inc. is requesting a new telecommunications service license agreement to operate under the new name.

Town Attorney, Trish Stuhan further explained that in order to expedite the process, the current license allows for amendments to the current license. She also explained that the legislature has made many changes to the telecommunications services provisions and she will incorporate these changes into the new license agreement upon expiration of this existing one. The current license agreement will expire in September 11, 2025.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the First Amendment to the Telecommunications Services License Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. was made by Council member Karen Crump-Frye. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

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

Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the Food Bank Lease Agreement between the Town of Clifton and The First Southern Baptist Church of Duncan: Town Manager, Rudy Perez reported that the representatives from First Southern Baptist Church Duncan together with United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties have collaborated to re-establish a local food bank in Clifton. Mr. Perez explained that this is a three -year partnership agreement and they hope that the town will provide the facility as part of the partnership.

Council members were appreciative that locals will have a local food bank available.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Food Bank Lease Agreement between the Town of Clifton and the First Southern Baptist Church of Duncan was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

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

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

- Reported that Morenci Water & Electric should finalize the permanent water service connection on Quinn Street by Monday, September 13, 2021.
- The Chase Creek Street underground utilities project is scheduled for completion by late October 2021

- Informed Council that town staff, the town engineer and KE&G will meet to kick-off the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project on Wednesday, September 15, 2021
- Reported that ADOT has issued a notice to proceed on the historic Frisco Avenue Bridge Design Project scheduled for September 20, 2021 via google meet. Site visits are planned for October and estimated completion date is June 2022
- Stated that the annual flood gates testing will take place on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
- Reported that the bidding process has begun regarding the decorative street lights for Chase Creek Street.
- Reported that the Greenlee County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan has been finalized.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:02 p.m.