

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Town Council Regular Meeting
April 11, 2024
2:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Mayor Laura Dorrell
Vice-Mayor Anthony James*
Council member Luis Montoya
Council member Ray Lorenzo
Council member Ray West
Council member Karen Crump-Frye**
Council member Janeene K. Carrillo

*Excused

**Participated via telephone

Quorum Present

The Town's legal counsel, Trish Stuhan, participated via telephone.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call to the Public

Danny Cervantez Clifton resident stated that he is a longtime Wildcat and Trojan and he would like to put in a good word for Town Manager Rudy Perez, he thinks he's doing a great job and would like to keep him around for another decade or two.

Council Reports

Council Member Carrillo is happy to hear about all of the events going on around town, it's great to know that there are opportunities for families to build memories together. She is also glad to have Jessica from Best Friends Animal Society here with us today. She reminded everyone of the upcoming Chase Creek Street Fair on Saturday, April 20th.

Council Member Montoya wanted to clarify an item of discussion from last month's meeting regarding the Town Magistrate. The magistrate is under the State Judicial Branch and not part of the town administration and wanted to make sure that we keep that in mind that the Town Manager is not in charge of him. Montoya mentioned that he has heard a lot of concern regarding a mess on Chase Creek and a property owner leaving large amounts of junk on the sidewalk. Montoya mentioned that FMI would be having a grant workshop on Tuesday, April 16th and hopes many take advantage of the opportunity.

Council Member Crump-Frye welcomed Jessica from BFAS and thanked her for being here today.

Crump-Frye noted that the Greenlee Tourism Association has been undergoing some changes and has some new faces involved. The next event coming up for the Tourism Association will be the Big Quack Duck Race on June 1, 2024. Interested parties can buy “ducks” online or in person at the Clifton Hotel and Bar. There will be a river clean up the same day as the duck race and that will be done in the morning and completed before the event starts.

Mayor Dorrell reported that she and the Town Clerk had met with the Governors Office today over the phone and discussed the upcoming visit and began discussing some concerns the Town would like to discuss and bring to the Governor’s attention. Dorrell appreciates the Governor’s office keeping Clifton on their radar. The Chamber of Commerce’s annual event was great, Clifton Social Club did a great job and it was decorated nicely and everything turned out really well. Dorrell has also had complaints and concerns regarding Chase Creek. Thanked Manager Rudy Perez for the mirror on the intersection on Chase Creek and Comb, it helps the drivers see better and is safer. Congratulations to Clerk Cece Jernigan for being selected as one of the Most Influential of Graham and Greenlee Counties. Good things happening all over.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to approve the following items as listed under consent agenda was made by Council member Ray West, seconded by Council member Ray Lorenzo:

1. Approval of the March 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes; March 20, 2024 Special Session Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of March 2024 Demands.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Montoya, Carrillo, Crump-Frye and Dorrell. Vice Mayor James was absent. Motion carried.

Old Business

Discussion and/or action to Appoint the Town Magistrate for a Two-Year Term; Approve the Magistrate Employment Agreement; and Deliver the Magistrate's Oath of Office

Town Manager Perez presented the changes and additions made to the agreement as requested by the Council. Council Member Crump-Frye asked about the hours of operation and the Judge’s office hours as well as time worked remotely. Manager Perez and Chief Negrete explained that the Judge often works nights and weekends for Initial appearances, granting warrants among other things to assist the police department.

Motion to appoint the Town Magistrate for a two-year term and approve the magistrate employment agreement and allow the magistrate’s oath of office to be delivered when possible was made by Council Member Montoya, second to the motion was made by Council Member Carrillo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Montoya, Carrillo, Crump-Frye and Dorrell. Vice Mayor James was absent. Motion carried.

New Business

Second reading Ordinance 01-2024 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CLIFTON, ARIZONA, AUTHORIZING THE EXCHANGE OF REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN OF CLIFTON FOR REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY FREEPORT MINERAL CORP., WITH ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FROM FREEPORT, TO CONSTITUTE SUBSTANTIALLY EQUAL VALUE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF REAL PROPERTY;

AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN ATTORNEY TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO EXCHANGE THE REAL PROPERTY SUBJECT TO SEPARATE AGREEMENT OF THE PARTIES.

Clerk Jernigan read Ordinance 01-2024.

Discussion and/or action to adopt Ordinance 01-2024

Motion to adopt Ordinance 01-2024 made by Council Member Carrillo, second to the motion was made by Council Member Montoya.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Montoya, Carrillo, Crump-Frye and Dorrell. Vice Mayor James was absent. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the Land Exchange Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Freeport Minerals Corporation.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Land Exchange Agreement between the Town of Clifton and Freeport Minerals Corporation made by Council Member Montoya, second to the motion was made by Council Member Carrillo.

Fair Housing Month Proclamation – Mayor Laura Dorrell

Clerk Jernigan explained that any municipality receiving any federal funds must show support to Fair Housing Month, one of those steps is to either adopt a resolution or a proclamation from the Mayor.

Mayor Dorrell read the Fair Housing Proclamation

Best Friends Animal Society Presentation – Jessica Gutmann – Senior Regional Strategist – Mountain West

Jessica Gutmann from Best Friends Animal Society introduced herself and explained the purpose of their organization. They work towards saving lives of animals in shelters when possible and increase the number of animals leaving the shelter alive, instead of being euthanized. In 2022 the number of dogs in Greenlee County leaving the shelter alive were only 6%. They would like to help the County's shelter increase the number of animals leaving the shelter alive. Mayor Dorrell asked what they would be able to help with, for example we don't have a shelter problem as much as we have an adoption problem. We don't have enough homes or people willing to adopt. Will they be able to help with this? Ms. Gutmann responded that they would try to help connect the shelter with other agencies in nearby counties that would be able to assist in possibly taking in some of the animals. Council asked further questions in regards to numbers of animals in Greenlee County and specifically Clifton. Mayor Dorrell stated that our Animal Control Officer is very good about posting pictures and trying to find animals homes. Council Member Montoya talked about raising awareness and other little things that the Town could do.

Discussion and/or action to adopt Resolution No. 2024-02: A Resolution Of The Mayor And Council Of The Town Of Clifton, Arizona, Establishing The Town of Clifton As A No-Kill Community By Setting A Goal To Save Healthy And Adoptable Dogs And Cats In The Possession Of The Town Of Clifton Animal Control And Its Sheltering System

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-02 was made by Council Member Carrillo, second to the motion was made by Council Member Crump-Frye.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members West, Montoya, Carrillo, Crump-Frye and Dorrell. Vice Mayor James was absent. Motion carried.

Manager's Report

First would like to thank Clerk Jernigan for 11 years of service to the town.

Manager Perez explained that there is a different type of grant from ADOT available for the Chase Creek Bridge project. It is the Bridge Formula Program and does not require a town match and does not have \$1,000,000 cap. The roads and streets committee will be meeting on the 24th of this month and will discuss this opportunity more.

The Waste Water Treatment Plant is waiting for an awning to cover the compressors from the sun and elements, will happen the week of the 22nd or after.

Riverside Dr/Shannon Rd/Park Ave, road project was unable to start this week as planned, Morenci W&E was unable to complete their water line project, they had to go out to bid. The road project will be rescheduled for May 28th-30th for milling and grading and June 3rd-5th for the paving. The roads will be closed at that time.

United Way of Graham and Greenlee Counties has awarded the town a grant for \$100,000 for the town to update the zoning map and zoning codes. United Way would like to do a check presentation at next month's meeting.

The Fire Department applied for a grant through the Congressional Direct Spending opportunity to obtain funds for a new fire truck.

Executive Session

Convened at 3:01 pm. There was a brief explanation of who attends executive session. As the Clerk set up the conference call for Executive Session.

Reconvened from Executive Session at 3:56 pm.

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A.1) for discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, dismissal, salaries, disciplining or resignation of the Town Manager.

Performance Evaluation – Rudy H. Perez, Town Manager.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Carrillo

Second to the motion was made by Council Member West

Meeting ended at approximately 3:56pm