

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Regular Town Council Meeting
December 12, 2024
2:00 P.M.**

Members Present

**Mayor Laura Dorrell
Vice-Mayor Anthony James
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, Matt Schiumo, participated via telephone.
The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**

Council Reports:

Council Member Crump-Frye reminded the Council the importance of the Town's participation of the Tourism Council, she hopes that a Council member and/or the Town Manager continue to participate in the Tourism Council, it is very important to Clifton that participation continues. She will for now forward meeting agendas to Clerk Jernigan to disseminate amongst the Council.

Vice-Mayor James thanked everyone for their hard work on the Festival of Lights, it was a great event and turnout. Thank you to Public Works for their contribution. The Town did a good job on their float

Council Member Lorenzo glad to be back, missed it and will be getting back to work.

Council Member West also praised the Festival of Lights committee for their work. Thank you to the constituents for allowing him to serve all of these years.

Mayor Dorrell great job to the Festival of Lights Committee and the businesses of Chase Creek for decorating so much it was very festive. Thank you to the staff that worked on the float.

Hearts out to the Town of Marana their longtime Mayor Ed Honea passed away suddenly a few weeks ago.

Recognition of outgoing Council Members

**Council Member Ray West
Council Member Karen Crump-Frye**

Clerk Jernigan explained that this was an opportunity for everyone to express their sentiments to the outgoing Council Members. Clerk Jernigan expressed her appreciation for both Council Members and has enjoyed the opportunity to work with them over the years. Mayor Dorrell appreciated both of the Council Members for representing the business owners of Clifton, it's been important that there is a voice for business owners on the Council. Vice Mayor James thank you for your service and helping making tough decisions. Council Member Lorenzo thanked them, they have helped influence him over the years and it is appreciated. Resident Steve Ahmann spoke and thanked Council Members West and Crump-Frye, he thanked them for all they have done for Clifton. Visitors Center Manager Leslie Ray thanked both outgoing Council Member for their support of the Visitors Center.

Oath of Office 2024-2026

Clerk Jernigan issued the Oath of Office to incoming Council Members Barbara Ahmann and Barbara Waddell Reyes.

Comments from Incoming Council Members

Council Member Ahmann expressed she is glad to back and thanked the public for electing her and she is happy to be serving on the Council with a few new faces.

Council Member Waddell Reyes is glad to be back and the town looks festive, Mayor Dorrell and Vice Mayor James thanked her for her Santa sleigh on the mountain. Council Member Waddell Reyes explained the work and history behind the sleigh.

Nominations and Selection – Mayor

Council Member Waddell Reyes nominated Laura Dorrell for Mayor. There were no further nominations. Nominations closed.
Vote was called.

Roll Call Vote:
Waddell Reyes – Dorrell
Ahmann- Dorrell
Lorenzo- Dorrell
James- Dorrell
Dorrell- Dorrell

Nominations and Selection - Vice-Mayor

Council Member Lorenzo nominated Anthony James for Vice-Mayor, There were no further nominations. Nominations closed.
Vote was called.

Roll Call Vote:
Waddell Reyes – James

Ahmann- James
Lorenzo- James
James- James
Dorrell- James

Orientation of 2024-2026 Council:

a. Committee Assignments

Mayor Dorrell explained that she will assign the Council Members to one of the four Committees: Grants & Funding, Roads & Streets, Buildings & Properties, and Rates & Fees. There will be approximately 2 Council Members per Committee. Also on each committee will be the Town Manager, a community member (if available) and 1 or 2 (if no community member) per committee for a total of 5 members.

b. Google Workspace

Clerk Jernigan walked the Council through Google Workspace, and informed the new Council Members their laptops were ready for pickup.

Call to the Public:

Mike Diegel, Resident spoke to the Council and explained that he had tried to purchase a building on Chase Creek to open a business. In that process he ran into multiple problems and ultimately was unable to secure any loans based on property costs vs property values. The discrepancy is mostly due to the high volume of unoccupied/abandoned buildings in the neighborhood that are in poor condition. He would like the Council to look into the possibility of adopting blight ordinances. He also shared ideas with the Council on other possible Chase Creek changes such as more business outreach, making the street one-way or blocking off a certain section and only allowing pedestrians and/or deliveries.

Daniel Cervantez, Resident thank you to the Clifton Social Club and Monica for the Festival of Lights. He updated the Council of the possibility of the County offices going to a 4-day work week same as the Town of Clifton's hours. The senior center will also be closed on Fridays, due to a lack of volunteers.

Consent Agenda:

The Motion to approve the following items as listed under consent agenda was made by Vice Mayor James, seconded by Council Member Lorenzo

1. Approval of the November 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes and November 25, 2024 Special Session Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of November 2024 Demands.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell
Reyes

Motion Carries

New Business:

Presentation of Arizona Department of Transportation Off System Bridge Program by Angela Galietti and David Benton

Clerk Jernigan reminded the Council that previously the Town had gone through the process for the STBG funding to replace Chase Creek Bridge #1. After that process did not work out the Council briefly discussed the possibility of a different funding source under Off-System Bridge Program, which does not require a match the Bridge Formula Program. The grant application is due at the end of the month for this. David Benton and Angela Galietti from ADOT are here to present on the program and answer questions. David Benton, presented.

Mayor and Council questioned both Angela and David on details of the Off System Bridge Program.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Town of Clifton to submit an application for the Arizona Department of Transportation Off System Bridge Program

Clerk Jernigan noted the town's apprehension to go through the application process due to the previous experience with the STBG application, however the bridge is in poor condition and needs to be replaced or repaired and the Town does not have the funding capacity on their own. Based on that the recommendation would be for the town to attempt the process for the Bridge Formula Program.

Motion to authorize the Town of Clifton to submit an application for the BFP, the Bridge Formula Program under the Arizona Department of Transportation Off System Bridge Program made by Council Member Ahmann, second to the motion made by Vice-Mayor James

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

Discussion and/or action regarding the purchase of Fitness Court and National Campaign Resources from National Fitness Campaign, under Clifton Town Ordinance 33.02 Exclusive Service for corrected amount of \$120,010.00

Clerk Jernigan informed the Council that previously when the Council approved the quote it did not have the correct tax rate. This quote has been updated and corrected.

Motion to approve the purchase of Fitness Court and National Campaign Resources from National Fitness Campaign, under Clifton Town Ordinance 33.02 Exclusive Service for corrected amount of \$120,010.00 made by Vice-Mayor James, second to the motion made by Council Member Lorenzo

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

Executive Session

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A.3), (A.4), and (A.7): Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney to discuss the town's public parking lot located at Property Parcel # 200-88-023, Lots 23, 24 and 25 in Clifton, Arizona in order to consider the Town's legal position and receive instructions regarding the purchase, sale or lease of property for the parking lot.

Motion to convene into executive session made by Council Member Waddell Reyes, second to the motion made by Council Member Lorenzo

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

Reconvened from executive session at approximately at 4:26 pm

Interim Manager and Town Clerk Report

Clerk Jernigan reported on the following:

Explained that the Council vacancy needs to be and at the Council/Mayor's direction we can begin advertising for interested residents to submit letters of interest. It was determined to start advertising soon for the vacancy.

Council and staff holiday party is next Tuesday December 17th from 11-1, optional white elephant gift exchange.

Met with the new Morenci Water & Electric Dan Gonzales along with, Bobby Pollock and Nicole Alcaez from FMI's Global Purchasing Dept. Discussed Park Ave paving, and work projects around Clifton.

Holiday hours most departments (not police and dispatch) will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.

Festival of Lights went well; however the Town will have some follow-up and feedback with the event organizers before next year's event

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Appreciated the staff and Council's help and participation with the float.

Had previously reached out to SEAGO for help on the RFP/RFQ for the Planning and Zoning update. They reached back out this week for more information and may be able to assist us.

Update on the new Town Manager offer letter has been sent, currently negotiating her requests for property improvements between Dr. Gaskin and the Town.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Ahmann, second to the motion made by Vice Mayor James

Voting in favor of the motion were Council Members: Dorrell, James, Lorenzo, Ahmann, and Waddell Reyes

Motion Carries

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:59pm