

Minutes
Clifton Town Council Special Session
March 20, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Members Present

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

**Participated via telephone

Quorum Present

The Town's legal counsel, Jon Paladini participated via telephone

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Laura Dorrell followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Old Business

Discussion and/or action to approve awarding a contract to Veolia Water Technologies to provide short-term operational support services of the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$6,525.00/month pursuant to Section 33.08 Professional Services of the Town of Clifton Code of Ordinances.

Town Manager Perez explained he had sent an updated contract from Veolia that better explains the overtime and holiday hours. He stated that Veolia's original contract did not state the overtime hours correctly. Perez broke down the hourly rates of pay for both Veolia and Skinny Horse, depending on the hours worked per week some breakdowns are cheaper per hour for Skinny Horse some are not. Perez and staff still recommend Veolia as they will be here 7 days a week. Perez stated that they will be able to learn more from Veolia than from Skinny Horse. Vice-Mayor James pointed out that the contract with Veolia does not state that they will train or mentor the current staff. Town Manager Perez stated that Public Works will be shadowing them. Council Member Montoya discussed concerns with the long-term plans on getting our staff trained and certified. We can not go with Veolia long term it is not feasible. Mayor Dorrell inquired why this has not been addressed sooner when our previous WWTP operator left employment. Council Member Montoya inquired about making it mandatory for someone to do it. Perez stated that it has been discussed to hire someone directly that currently works for Veolia. Montoya pointed out that the contract states that neither party can hire the others employees. Council Member Crump-Frye asked if it was possible to add a clause to an employee's contract if the Town pays for their certification that they are required to work for the town for a certain amount of time. Legal Counsel Paladini explained that you can, but enforcing it is difficult. Council Member West stated his concern that the Council is getting in the weeds and should trust the staff to do their jobs. Mayor Dorrell questioned how long it takes to get a level one and level two certificate. Town Manager Perez stated that we would not be having this meeting if our current WWTP operator was willing and able to stay on and come

one day a week. We would stay with him. Mayor Dorrell asked for clarification how that is different from Skinny Horse then. Perez stated that it is a preference to go with Veolia. Council Member Montoya suggested that the Council approve the contract until the end of the fiscal year, stressing to the staff that this cannot be a long-term plan, and the staff should understand by now the concerns of the Council and the need for them to come up with a plan. Mayor Dorrell and the staff discussed and clarified requirements for the testing, staff then realizing that nobody currently on staff would be able to take the level two test for some time.

Motion to approve awarding a contract to Veolia Water Technologies to provide short-term operational support services of the wastewater treatment plant in the amount of \$6,525.00/month pursuant to Section 33.08 Professional Services of the Town of Clifton Code of Ordinances made by Council Member Montoya. Second to the Motion was made by Council Member West.

Voting in favor of the motion was Mayor Dorrell, Vice-Mayor James, Council member West, Council member Lorenzo, Council member Montoya, Council member Carrillo, Council member Crump-Frye

Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session made by Council Member West. Second to the motion was Vice-Mayor James.

Voting in favor of the motion was Mayor Dorrell, Vice-Mayor James, Council member West, Council member Lorenzo, Council member Montoya, Council member Carrillo, Council member Crump-Frye

Convened at 2:49 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 3:50 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.

a. Performance Evaluation – Rudy H. Perez, Town Manager.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member West. Second to the motion was Council Member Carrillo

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:51 pm