

Minutes
Clifton Town Council Special Session
July 15, 2024
2:30 pm
Council Chambers
510 N. Coronado Blvd.

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**

**Participated via telephone (Google Meet)

Quorum Present

The Town's legal counsel, Aaron Arnson, participated via telephone (Google Meet).

Call To Order:

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

New Business

Discussion and/or action to Terminate the Employment Agreement with Town Manager Rudy Perez. Note: The Town Council may convene in executive session pursuant to ARS § 38-431.03(A)(4) in order to consider its position and instruct its attorneys regarding the Town's position regarding the Employment Agreement.

Mayor asked if there was any discussion. Town Clerk Jernigan, informed the Mayor of the legal representation available on the phone. Mr. Arnson introduced himself and informed the Council, that our usual attorney Trish Stuhan was out of the office and he was here in her place. He's available if the Council has any questions.

Mayor asked if there was any discussion, stated that they had discussed this on Thursday, Council Member West also stated they had discussed it on Thursday.

Motion to terminate the employment agreement with Town Manager Rudy Perez made by Council Member West, second to the motion was made by Council Member Lorenzo

Voting in favor of motion Dorrell, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye, West, James Motion Carries
*Carrillo did not vote

Discussion and/or action regarding selection of an Interim Town Manager.

Mayor Dorrell opened discussion, stated that is important to have someone to fill in temporarily to conduct town business. Recommend Chief Omar Negrete and Town Clerk Cece Jernigan to temporarily fill in, Dorrell mentioned she spoke to both ahead of time and both are willing to help. Council Member West inquired as to whether anyone had approached former Town Clerk Espie Castaneda. She had not been contacted. Clerk Jernigan explained that the Council has different options available including looking at agencies that place interim managers. Council Member Crump-Frye asked whether the Chief would be able to handle the extra workload as he is already spread thin. Mayor Dorrell explained that by splitting the responsibilities between both the Chief for Personnel matters and the Town Clerk for day-to-day operations it would help alleviate the extra workload. Council Member Lorenzo stated he didn't think the Chief would agree to it if he didn't feel like he could handle the responsibility. Council discussed the possible duration of the interim and realize the interim plan may be adapted depending on how the market looks for permanent replacement options.

Motion to place for at least a few months the Chief and the Clerk in the temporary interim manager role made by Council Member West. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Lorenzo

Voting in favor of motion Dorrell, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye, West, James Motion Carries
*Carrillo did not vote

Discussion and/or action regarding the recruitment process for a new Town Manager.

Mayor Dorrell opened discussion, stating that this is something for the Council to look forward to. The City of Safford recently had success in recruiting and hiring an Assistant City Manager. The Mayor would like to have a sub-committee of the Council, she suggested herself, Vice-Mayor James and Council Member Carrillo. The Mayor emphasized that she would like input from all Council members and also would like to hear from staff on what they would like to see from a Town Manager. Council Member Carrillo and Vice Mayor James accepted the invitation to be on the sub-committee. Clerk Jernigan informed the Council that there is also the option to go through a recruitment agency. Council Member West spoke to the benefits of having an agency handle the recruitment process.

Motion to have the sub-committee of Dorrell, James, and Carrillo begin the process for the recruitment of a Town Manager made by Council Member West. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Lorenzo

Voting in favor of motion Dorrell, Lorenzo, Crump-Frye, West, James Motion Carries
*Carrillo did not vote

Adjournment

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

Meeting ended at approximately 2:45 pm