

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Regular Town Council Meeting
January 10, 2019
2:06 P.M.**

Members Present

Luis Montoya, Mayor
Barbara Ahmann, Vice-Mayor
Laura Dorrell, Council Member
John Freida, Council Member
Ray Lorenzo, Council Member
B. Waddell Reyes, Council Member
Ray West, Council Member

*Excused

A quorum was present.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Luis Montoya followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Montoya informed the Council that the Town Attorney, Susan Goodwin would be participating in today's meeting via telephone conference.

Call to the Public: Daniel Cervantez expressed his support on the recent meeting time change. He also thanked the Clifton Police Department for sponsoring the annual gift program to the children of the community.

Council Reports: Council member Laura Dorrell provided information on the forthcoming Women's Exp scheduled for January 26, 2019. She also mentioned the Health Fair which will be held on February 13, 2019.

Vice-Mayor Ahmann also provided information on a new Senior Program focusing on Chair Yoga.

Members of the Council also expressed a Happy New Year to all those in attendance.

Mayor Montoya was encouraged that the meeting time change resulted in more public participation.

He also extended his personal appreciation to all local law enforcement agencies by acknowledging National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day which was officially celebrated on January 9, 2019. Mayor Montoya also reported that the development of the General Plan is moving forward.

The Mayor recognized town employee's who recently retired from employment with the town to include: John Basteen- 4 years; Ruben Campos – 5 years; Larry Barela - 9 years.

Consent Agenda: Motion to approve the following items listed under consent agenda was made by

Council member Ray West:

1. Approval of the December 13, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of December 2018 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell. Motion carried.

New Business

Discussion and/or action to authorize the following expenditures to be paid by Mayor & Council's Contingency Fund:

a. Emergency Flood Sirens Maintenance – Joe Goddard Enterprises, LLC:

Town Manager, Heather Ruder explained that recent monthly testing of the sirens has resulted in “no audible tone” emitting from the siren on Park Avenue. After researching the files, it has been determined that the last maintenance to the sirens was done in February 2015. Ms. Ruder provided a cost estimate in the amount of \$3,875.

Motion to authorize the expense for the emergency sirens maintenance was made by Council member John Freida. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: West, Dorrell, Freida, Ahmann, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Information Technology (IT) Security Upgrades – Town Hall & Police Dept :

Town Manager Heather Ruder reported on the current state of the town's IT protection, backups and networking which is severely lacking within the Administration Department as well as within the Police Department. She expressed concern related to the rapid rate of cyber security attacks and the current state of the towns exposure.

Ms. Ruder further explained that the town's IT specialist, Mario Pedregon, has evaluated our current situation and provided the recommendations and quote. Additionally, the hardware will be purchased from a one of the town's cooperative purchasing contracts, Mohave Arizona Cooperative Purchasing.

The Town Manager offered the following options regarding the request:

1. Authorize the purchase now;
2. Schedule the purchase closer to the end of the fiscal year;
3. Include the expense in the next budget.

Ms. Ruder reviewed the status of the Mayor & Council's commitment from the Contingency Fund towards the sludge removal. She explained that due to the successful grant award from Freeport's Greenlee Community Investment-Fund to cover the sludge removal expense, the contingency fund has not been utilized.

After a brief discussion from members of the council, motion to authorize the purchase of the Information Technology Security Upgrades was made by Council member John Freida. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: Freida, Dorrell, Ahmann, Lorenzo, Reyes, West and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and/or action to award the proposal from Play It Safe Playgrounds & Park Equipment for playground equipment as funded by United Way of Southern Arizona Grant Funds: The Town Manager reported that she had receive two quotes from cooperative purchasing vendors for the playground and park equipment. After reviewing these proposals, she recommends Play It Safe Playgrounds & Park Equipment.

Motion to award the proposal from Play It Safe Playgrounds & Park Equipment in the amount of \$150,064 was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: Ahmann, West, Dorrell, Freida, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

First Reading of Ordinance No. 01-2019: Adopting Uniform Technical Standards by reference; and amending the Town Code by Amending Title XV Land Usage, Chapter 151 Building Provisions, by adding Section 151.11 Adoption of Uniform Technical Standards: The Town Clerk Read the title paragraph of the ordinance as required in the ordinance adoption process.

Discussion/information from Police Chief Omar Negrete regarding the following:

a. Police Academy training Program – New Recruits: Police Chief Negrete provided information on the changes forthcoming changes to the Southern Arizona Law Enforcement Training Center (SALETC) Program. Specifically, the extension of the training program timeline from 17 weeks to 22 weeks and the implementation of tuition fees estimated at \$15,000 per session. The Chief has not disregarded utilizing other training programs offered within the State of Arizona at this time.

b. Information regarding School Resource Officer: Offering information on a proposal to collaborate with the Morenci Unified School District to seek grant funding for a School Resource Officer was provided by Chief Omar Negrete. Also present was Dr. David Woodall, School Superintendent. Information included the importance and benefits of a full-time resource officer, specifically to address current issues affecting the security and safety of schools. Additionally, the town would benefit from the position during emergency situations, school breaks and summer months. This officer would then dedicate his time to the town.

The Mayor appointed a committee consisting of Council members Ahmann and Freida to meet with the Chief and Dr. Woodall to further discuss this proposal.

Discussion and/or action to accept the resignation of Magistrate, John Basteen and authorize staff to implement the recruitment process: Motion to formally accept Magistrate, John Basteen's resignation and initiate the recruitment process was made by Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member John Freida.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: Ahmann, Freida, Dorrell, West, Lorenzo, Reyes and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and/or action to formally accept the resignation of Heather Ruder, Town Manager: Mayor Montoya read a prepared press release outlining Ms. Ruder's personal reasons for submitting her letter of resignation effective January 10, 2019.

Motion to formally accept Ms. Ruders's resignation was made by Vice-Mayor Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: Ahmann, Lorenzo, Freida, Dorrell, West, Reyes and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and/or action to initiate the process to seek applicants for Town Manager: Council members questioned the Town Attorney as to the possibility of referring to the same pool of applications from which Ms. Ruder had been selected since the time frame is recent. The Town Attorney advised, that normally employment applications are kept on file for a reasonable amount of time and is comfortable with Council's idea to consider those recent applications who filed for the Town Manager's position.

Discussion from the Council included the possibility of contacting the remaining top 5 candidates to determine whether they might still be interested in the position.

Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann made a motion to initiate the process by contacting the top 5 applicants from the recent list of applicants for the Town Manager's position. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: Ahmann, Lorenzo, Freida, Dorrell, West, Reyes and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion and/or action regarding an Interim Town Manager: Mayor Montoya reported that he had discussed the position with the Town Clerk and she agreed to assist the town while the Council actively searches for a full-time Town Manager.

Motion to appoint Esperanza Castaneda as the Interim Town Manager was made by Council member Ray West and seconded by Council member B. Waddell Reyes.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: West, Reyes, Lorenzo, Freida, Dorrell, Ahmann and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Manager's Report: Town Manager, Heather Ruder reported on the following activities and projects:

a. WWTP Updates- Informed the Council that the final 38,000 gallons of sludge were removed earlier this week and it appears that the walls of the existing clarigester tank appear to be in decent condition. It is anticipated that by the end of January a determination will be made regarding the rehab option for the WWTP.

b. ADA Community Center Update-Reported that the town has re-advertised the project and that she has reached out to several consultants whom appear to be interested in the project. The submittal deadline date is January 17, 2019.

c. General Plan Update-Explained that the general plan continues on track to be completed in late summer/early fall with an anticipated date for presentation to the electorate in November 2019. Reminded the Council that the next meeting of the guidance/stakeholders team is January 31, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

Executive Session Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 A. (7) Discussion with the Town Manager to consider and instruct her regarding the sale of town property on Chase Creek Street. Motion to table the executive session was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo. Motion carried.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: Reyes, Lorenzo, Freida, Dorrell, Ahmann, West and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Council member Laura Dorrell, second to the motion was made by Council member John Freida.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members: Dorrell, Freida, West, Lorenzo, Ahmann, Reyes and Montoya.

There was no opposition to the vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:55 p.m.