

Minutes
Town of Clifton
Regular Town Council Meeting
November 9, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Members Present

Felix Callicotte, Mayor
Luis Montoya, Vice Mayor
Barbara Ahmann, Councilmember
Laura Dorrell, Councilmember
Ray Lorenzo, Councilmember
B. Waddell Reyes, Councilmember
Ray West, Councilmember

*Excused

A quorum was present.

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

Call to the Public: Local resident, Daniel Cervantez expressed his thanks to the Arizona Department of Transportation for their continued work in the area.

Greenlee County Sheriff, Tim Sumner stated that he had recently attended the FMI Community Partnership meeting where he was given an opportunity to ask their position and interest in the proposed closure of the Coronado Trail. He stated that FMI's response was that they had not initiated the proposal.

Other comments from the Sheriff included an update on the recent "Code Red" lock down training drills recently held at both Duncan and Morenci Schools.

Council Reports: Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya provided the Council with highlights of events scheduled for the Festival of Lights.

Council Member Dorrell reported that the first meeting of the Roads/Streets Committee will be held next week. She also expressed her appreciation to the Chamber of Commerce for their efforts to recognize students from the Gila Institute For Technology Program (GIFT) and also thanked local law enforcement for their continued efforts in overseeing the "Code Red" drills for the local schools.

Council Member Ahmann reported that this years Colors of Copper Event had been a success. She stated that comments from the business community were positive and most notable was that event participants were visitors from outside the area. This is encouraging in that the success of the event is reaching out to other communities.

Council Member Reyes also commented on the success of the Clifton Police Department's sponsored annual Haunted House as well as the Fall Festival sponsored by the Morenci/Clifton Alumni Association.

Consent Agenda: Motion to approve the following items listed under consent agenda was made by Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya:

1. Approval of the October 5, 2017 Work Session Minutes and the October 12, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of October 2017 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council Member Ray West. Motion carried.

New Business

Introduction and welcome of Police Officer Calvin Forgach to the Clifton Police Dept: Chief of Police, Omar Negrete provided the introduction and welcome of Calvin Forgach, a recent graduate of the Arizona Law Enforcement Academy (ALEA). He explained that Officer Forgach had successfully completed 20 weeks of training. Officer Forgach will be in assigned to work with Officer Clark who has been assigned as his Field Training Officer.

Officer Forgach offered his sincere thanks and gratitude to the Town of Clifton for giving him the opportunity to serve and protect its citizens.

Discussion by Bill Harmon, District Engineer, Arizona Department of Transportation, Southeast District: Mr. Harmon began his presentation by reviewing recently completed construction projects within Greenlee County. He also discussed the current construction projects affecting the town which is known as US191 Clifton Smelter Hill to Horseshoe Curve Drainage & Traffic Calming Improvements. Additionally, he reviewed Project under Development and/or Programmed for Construction. In this category he focused on the Clifton Zorilla Street San Francisco River Bridge Rehabilitation.

Discussion on the future of the Coronado Trail was discussed at length. The future of US191 from Morenci to Alpine is not a new issue for ADOT as stated by Mr. Harmon. He noted two major concerns which involve results of the ADOT Low Volume State Routes Study: low traffic volume (80 vehicles per day) with old features, high maintenance cost (estimated at \$5,000 per mile). Second is the Freeport Morenci pit is growing deeper and larger in diameter making it more difficult to design an alternative route through the pit.

At this point in time, Mr. Harmon recommends approaching the issue with open, transparent collaboration dialogue, engage all stakeholders. The concerns identified so far include the impact to lifestyle and livelihood in Apache and Greenlee County; access for all emergency response personnel; access to all land owners affected.

Mr. Harmon explained that the next steps could include to develop an engagement plan with ADOT leadership this fall and begin to inventory stakeholders, land use, and other concerns. Mr. Harmon recommends that everyone with an interest in this proposal need to make their concerns known.

Public comments and questions included concerns that the traffic survey was not accurate and whether other funding sources were available to support the maintenance of the route. Concern that the impact of the proposal could severely impact tourism for the town. Questioned whether a timeline has been established to provide all stakeholders?

In closing, Mr. Harmon provided his contact information and encouraged the public to reach out to him with concerns or possible solutions.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the letter of support to preserve Private Activity Bonds as proposed by the Council of Development Finance Agencies: Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya explained that he had attended a recent meeting of the Council of Development Finance Agencies, (cdfa) where this issue had been discussed. This week, the House Ways & Means Committee introduced the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in the United States House of Representatives whereby the bill would eliminate all Private Activity Bonds. A further explanation could be stated that “Private Activity Bonds are a staple of economic development efforts nationally, and cities and states would be dramatically and disastrously impacted by their loss”

Motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the letter of support to preserve Private Activity Bonds as proposed by the Council of Development Finance Agencies was made by Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya. Second to the motion was made by Council Member Barbara Ahmann. Motion carried.

Executive Session Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03 A. (7) Discussion with the Town Manager to consider and instruct him regarding the sale of town property on Chase Creek Street: At approximately 8:21 p.m. motion to convene into executive session was made by Council Member Barbara Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council Member B. Waddell Reyes. Motion carried.

Motion to reconvene to regular session was made by Vice-Mayor Montoya, second to the motion was made by Council Member Dorrell. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Town Manager to initiate the process to sell property parcel #200-88-003: Town Manager, Ian McGaughey reported that the Buildings and Properties Committee had met earlier this evening to discuss recommendations related to the potential sale of town-owned properties on Chase Creek Street. Their recommendation was to split the parcel into three distinct lots and sell the properties.

Motion to accept the Buildings & Properties recommendation to split the parcel into three distinct lots and sell by auction was made Council Member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya. Motion carried.

Manager’s Report: Mr. McGaughey reported on the following activities and projects:

- Informed the Council that the town had been awarded \$91,000 from the FMI - Community Investment Funds for the town’s General Plan Project.
- Reported that he had submitted the grant application, (round 3) to the pre-disaster mitigation and flood mitigation assistance grant funds for improvements to the town’s 21 small flood gates.
- Will be attending a pre-scoping of the Chase Creek Bridge rehabilitation project on Tuesday December 12th.
- Notified the council that AJP Electric, Inc., the contractor hired by ADOT to construct the highway calming improvements will begin construction to install the speed table in front of the United States Post Office beginning on Thursday, November 11th and should be done by Monday, November 20th
- Reported that the town’s soccer field grass issue has been resolved with the cooperation of Curtis Landscaping. He explained that there is a bald spot where the grass has not grown and the

company has provided 500 sq. ft. of sod to address the issue. Unfortunately, the ribbon cutting has been postponed.

- Informed the Council that there has been an agreement reached relating to the sale of the Frank Johnston property to Empire Southwest.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member B. Waddell Reyes, second to the motion was made by Council Member Ray Lorenzo. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:46 p.m.

Approved:

Felix Callicotte, Mayor

Attest:

Esperanza Castaneda, Town Clerk