

**Minutes**  
**Town of Clifton**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**July 12, 2018**  
**7:02 P.M.**

**Members Present**

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

\*Excused

A quorum was present.

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

**Call to the Public:** Police Chief, Omar Negrete reported that he had attended the Graham/Greenlee County PTSD Support Group. He explained that this issue has become more common among Emergency Responders and feels by actively participating in this support group may be beneficial to our community.

**Council Reports:** Council member B. Waddell Reyes reported that the refurbishment of the Community Center doors has been completed. She also reported that she had attended a meeting together with the Mayor on the ongoing county housing feasibility study.

Vice-Mayor Ahmann reported that the Community Garden is at full capacity.

Council member Laura Dorrell provided an update on the recent meeting with representatives from the Community Investment Funds Grant Program. (CIF). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential project concepts prior to grant submittal from the Town of Clifton. She further explained that the town has approved the streets/sidewalks equipment project for consideration.

There were no further reports.

**Consent Agenda:** Motion to approve the following items listed under consent agenda was made by Council member Ray West:

1. Approval of the May 22, 2018 Special Session Minutes; June 14, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes and June 19, 2018 Special Session Minutes
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of June 2018 Demands.

Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

Comments from Mayor Montoya included special thanks to Linda Beavers, daughter of Emilie Brutinel, who made a \$500 donation in her honor. Emilie Brutinel grew up in Clifton and was an avid reader.

Motion carried.

**Public Hearing on the FY 2019 Budget for the Town of Clifton:** At approximately 7:20 p.m the Public Hearing was called to order. Informational packets providing budget history and planned projects for FY 2019 for each department were provided. The Interim Town Manager reviewed the packet information and addressed any questions offered by those present.

Mayor Montoya also offered information on the proposed tax rate impact affecting town residents as presented in the budget. He explained that there is minimal impact to the citizens of Clifton.

Daniel Cervantez, local resident, had questions regarding local sales tax collections and the impact to the town's budget.

He also expressed concern on the lack of participation from the public.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Montoya closed the Public Hearing on the FY19 Budget at approximately 7:50 p.m.

### **Old Business**

**Discussion regarding the vacancy on the Board of Directors for the Town of Clifton, Municipal Property Corporation:** Interim Town Manager, Espie Castaneda explained that she is still searching for a local resident to fill the vacancy. She reminded the Council that a full board should be in place prior to moving onto the next steps in the establishment of the MPC.

### **New Business**

**Moment of silence honoring former town public servants, Mary Arlene Beager and Vangie Medina:** Mayor Montoya provided the Council with information on years of service for each of these former Council members. A moment of silence was observed to honor these former public servants.

**Discussion and/or action to adopt the Primary Property Tax Levy for FY 2018-2019 pursuant to A.R.S. §42-17107(A) 4:** Members of the Council were provided with information on the proposed tax levy and tax rate for their consideration. The proposed tax levy would result in approximately \$485,209 with a tax rate of 4.1549

Motion to adopt the Primary Property Tax Levy for FY 2018-2019 with a tax rate of \$4.1549 was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Councilmember B. Waddell Reyes. Voting in favor of the motion were Council members' West, Dorrell, Montoya, Lorenzo, Ahmann and Reyes. There was no opposition to the motion.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to adopt a Resolution No. 2018-09: Adoption of the Budget for FY 2018-2019:** Vice-Mayor Barbara Ahmann made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2018-09: Adopting the Budget for FY2018-2019 as presented. Second to the motion was made by Council member Laura Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members' Ahmann, Dorrell, West, Montoya, Reyes, and Lorenzo. There were no votes opposing the motion. Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action regarding the long-term financial forecast and rate plan as proposed by Willdan Financial Services/Economists:** Interim Town Manager, Espie Castaneda explained that although the Council had heard the proposal for a long-term financial forecast and rate plan as proposed by Willdan Financial Services, she is seeking direction from Council regarding moving forward with implementation of the rate plan. She explained that prior to initiating the process, legal counsel should be contacted for guidance adopting a long-term plan. Arizona Revised Statutes provide guidelines on any rate increases.

Motion to initiate the process to implement the long-term financial rate plan as proposed by Willdan Financial Services 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, Montoya, Lorenzo and Reyes. There was no opposition to the motion.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action regarding "No Parking" designations in the South Clifton Residential neighborhood:** Police Chief, Omar Negrete explained that the Code Enforcement Officer had been notified of parking issues in the South Clifton neighborhood. These parking issues have resulted from fading paint previously marked as "No Parking Zones". Chief Negrete explained that parking in this neighborhood had been an issue several years ago and fortunately Chief Ortega recalled the rationale to designate the now faded "No Parking Zones". Chief Negrete and Chief Ortega visited the neighborhood to observe the situation and recommend a routine maintenance plan to paint the "No Parking Zones" and space the designated "No Parking Zones" at a distance of 20.5'.

Motion to authorize the Chief of Police to implement the "No Parking Zones" as recommended was made by Council member Laura Dorrell. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members' Dorrell, Lorenzo, West, Montoya, Ahmann and Reyes. There was no opposition to the motion.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to re-appoint John Basteen as Town Magistrate:** Interim Town Manager, Espie Castaneda reported that Judge Basteen's original appointment to serve as the Town's Magistrate had expired some time ago. In order to update his status, she recommended that Council re-appoint him.

Motion to re-appoint John Basteen as Town Magistrate was made by Vice-Mayor Ahmann. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members' Ahmann, West, Dorrell, Montoya, Lorenzo and Reyes. There was no opposition.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action to formally accept the resignation of Akos Kovach as Council member and determine the method to fill the vacancy:** Motion to formally accept the resignation of Akos Kovach was made by Vice-Mayor Ahmann, second to the motion was made by Council member Dorrell. Motion carried.

Interim Town Manager, Espie Castaneda explained that Council had three options for consideration regarding filling the vacancy. These were: continue with a 6- member Council until January, when a seventh member of the Council would be seated after the regular election process; initiate the advertisement process seeking an interested candidate for council's consideration and appointment or consider the recent pool of candidates who were recently interviewed to fill Mayor Callicotte's seat.

After a brief discussion about the options presented, Vice-Mayor Ahmann made a motion to appoint John Freida who was recently interviewed with the pool of candidates who would replace Mayor Callicotte. Second to the motion was made by Council member Dorrell.

Voting in favor of the motion were Council members' Ahmann, Dorrell, West, Montoya, Lorenzo and Reyes. There was no opposition to the motion.

Motion carried.

**Discussion and/or action regarding Jeff Gaskin's property rental:** Mayor Montoya explained that Mr. Gaskin had proposed that the town consider retaining the lease in the town's name on the property currently being held as housing for the town manager. He offered to reduce the month-by-month rent by \$100 and no other amendments to the lease were offered.

Several questions from members of the council were presented with regards to the content of the current lease and renters property liability.

By consensus of the Council, the item was tabled until further information could be obtained from Mr. Gaskin.

**Manager's Report:** Ms. Castaneda reported on recent activities to include:

- Updated Council on the USDA-RD Grant Application status regarding receipt of a definitive answer on the required WWTP site elevation for a 500 year-event. The elevation requirement would be a 6'.5 flood depth.
- Provided an update on the status of the pumps previously ordered for the WWTP. The solids handling vertical close-coupled pump has been delivered and the pump grinder was installed and was operational as of June 21, 2018.
- Accompanied the Mayor to FMI on July 9, 2018 to brief FMI on the status of the town's WWTP issues and expressed gratitude to the company for their continued assistance and support in keeping the WWTP somewhat functional.
- Reported that she and Council member Dorrell had participated in the Community Investment Fund "one-on-one" meeting to discuss the town's grant project (purchase of street improvement equipment-chip spreader) to obtain feedback as to whether this is a fundable project.
- Reported that the 2018 CDBG Regional Grant has been submitted to ADOH.

- Reminded the Council of the forthcoming deadline to review the “Background and Current Conditions Technical Report” and “Maps” as provided by The Planning Center for the town’s General Plan.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Council member Ray West, second to the motion was made by Council member B. Waddell Reyes. Motion carried.