

**Minutes
Town of Clifton
Regular Town Council Meeting
October 9, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

Members Present

Felix Callicotte, Mayor*
Luis Montoya, Vice-Mayor
Barbara Ahmann, Council member
Mary Beager, Council member*
Raymond Lorenzo, Council member
Armida Moir, Council member
Ray West, Council member

*Absent

A quorum was present.

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

Call to the Public: Steve Ahmann, Representing the Community Garden, provided an update on the town's sponsored Community Garden Grant. He reported that a solar panel has been purchased and installed providing solar power for an automatic watering system.

Mr. Ahmann also informed the Council that he had applied for a grant through the National Park Service to provide Technical Assistance to seek additional funding to enhance the local birding program.

Vera Irvin expressed her dislike of town policy regarding park reservation fees. She further stated that she would consider resigning from her volunteer activities associated with the town as a protest to the park fee policy.

Council Reports: Council member Ray West provided information on the 2nd Annual Colors of Copper Art and Wine Festival sponsored by The Business Association of Chase Creek Arizona. The event is scheduled for November 1 & 2.

Council member Barbara Ahmann reported on the status of her fund raising activities to obtain sponsorships for the Community Calendar as well as her progress in reaching out to the school's art teachers hoping to coordinate the art work with the local children.

Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Council member's Moir and Beager for their public service to the town as Council members whose terms will expire in November.

Council member Moir thanked her fellow council members as well as members of the public for their continued support during her service.

Consent Agenda: Motion to approve the following items listed under consent agenda to include correction to the September 11, 2014 Regular meeting minutes was made by Council member Armida Moir;

1. Approval of the September 10, 2014 Work Session Minutes; September 11, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes (Correction to reflect that Vice-Mayor Luis Montoya was absent); and September 17, 2014 Emergency Session Minutes;
2. Receive Department Reports;
3. Approval of September 2014 Demands.

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

New Business

Introduction of new town employees: Town Manager, John Schempf began the introductions of new employees with the Librarian, Sabrina Dumas. Ms. Duman in turn introduced one of her new part-time assistants, Margaret Ronnerud. Police Chief, Omar Negrete presented his two newest part time dispatchers as Brandon Tellez and Mathew Grove.

Discussion and/or action to approve a notice of intention to increase wastewater rates and set a public hearing date as required per A.R.S. §9-511.01 Water and Wastewater business; rates; procedures. Section (A.2): Town Manager, John Schempf reported that the current user fee does not cover the operation and maintenance of the town's sewer system. Efforts by the town to obtain grant funding or loans to attempt any improvements to the current system do not qualify due to the insufficient rate we currently charge. Staff is recommending a \$5.00 user rate increase for residential users, a \$2.00 minimum user rate increase and a total review to reclassify all commercial users.

Additionally, Mr. Schempf explained that staff had done a thorough review of the current customer base in the town's billing system and discovered the following issues that should help generate adequate funds in addition to the proposed rate increase to support the sewer budget:

Staff compared the Morenci Water & Electric water user list to the town's current billing list and found a significant difference in customer count due to service address discrepancies. In part, MW&E did not convert their customer user service address to the town's new addressing system. Another discrepancy resulted in customer names on the billing account. Town sewer bills are issued to property owners and MW&E bills are issued to owners or renters. Town Staff is working on matching up new addresses with service addresses currently used by that utility company. Also found were businesses were not classified correctly. Many small businesses were incorrectly classified as residential users. This too will

have to be addressed. Final comments included the need to review the sewer's operating budget annually to determine if the user fee is sufficient to cover the expense.

Council member Armida Moir made a motion to approve the notice of intent notifying the public of the proposed rate increase affecting the waste water rates scheduled for November 13, 2014. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to authorize the Mayor to execute the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact as one of the political jurisdictions within the State of Arizona and the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs: Council member Armida Moir made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute the Arizona Mutual Aid Compact as one of the political jurisdictions within the State of Arizona and the Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs. Second to the motion was made by Council member Barbara Ahmann. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to award the bid for the Splash Pad Construction: Town Manager, John Schempf reviewed the two proposals provided in the information packet and recommended Exerplay, Inc. whose bid submittal was \$202,648.00. Additionally, Exerplay, Inc. is a contracted vendor with BuyBoard a National Purchasing Co-op of which the town is a member.

Motion to award the bid for the Splash Pad Construction to Exerplay, Inc. in the amount of \$202,648.00 was made by Council member Ray West. Second to the motion was made by Council member Barbara Ahmann. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to approve the fundraising projects as initiated by Council member Barbara Ahmann to pay for the town's "Splash Pad" groundbreaking event: Council member Armida Moir made a motion to approve the fundraising projects as initiated by Council member Barbara Ahmann to pay for the town's "Splash Pad" groundbreaking event. Second to the motion was made by Council member Barbara Ahmann. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action authorize town funding to cover the cost of the expansion of the Wards Canyon Road Concrete Project beyond the original scope which is funded by ADEM as a Hazard Mitigation Project: Mr. Schempf explained additional concerns presented by Public Works Director, Larry Barela regarding the water course normally observed when Ward Canyon is flooding. Expanding the concrete along Wards Canyon Road will further help retain the road from possible erosion.

Motion to authorize the town funding to cover the cost of the expansion of the Wards Canyon Road Concrete Project beyond the original scope which is funded by ADEM as a Hazard Mitigation Project was made by Council member Armida Moir. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action accept the FY 2014 Financial Statements for the Town of Clifton as prepared by CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP.: Council member Ray West made a motion to accept the FY 2014 Financial Statements as presented. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray Lorenzo. Motion carried.

Discussion and/or action to send an "ADOT letter" follow-up to the Governor: Mr. Schempf informed the Council that it had been approximately 4 weeks since the initial letter had been mailed to the Director of the Transportation Department with no response.

Council member Armida Moir made a motion to authorize sending the follow-up letter to the Governor. Second to the motion was made by Council member Barbara Ahmann. Motion carried.

Town Manager's Report: Mr. Schempf reported on the following activities he had been working on during this past month:

- *Successfully participated in the Ritchie Brothers Auction to purchase an 8 ft. boom unit;
- *Attended the SEAGO Transportation Board where discussion on the Zorilla Bridge evaluation/condition was discussed and possible funding consideration for bridge maintenance.
- *Reported on positive results from a meeting with Morenci Water & Electric on street light maintenance issues, customer addressing etc.
- *Provided members of the Council with his response to town issues presented by Mayor Callicotte via memo.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Council member Armida Moir. Second to the motion was made by Council member Ray West. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 p.m.

Approved:

Felix Callicotte, Mayor

Attest:

Esperanza Castaneda, Town Clerk