



Friends of Carefree, we have no intention of bombarding you with endless email. However when special Council meetings are scheduled, as was the case Tuesday, we are compelled to release a summary. There were two agenda items presented for discussion and possible action. The first dealt with appointing a mayor to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of David Schwan while the second addressed the formation of a committee to review applications to fill the vacancy on the council.

I must note that in attempting to fact check my notes from the meeting for this email, I attempted to listen to the official town recording of the meeting. To my dismay I soon learned that the only audible comments within those 60 minutes were from Vice Mayor Peterson and Councilman Saltzman who spoke through a speakerphone next to the Vice Mayor's microphone. Most, if not all other microphones were either not turned on or malfunctioned. I was unable to hear anything Councilwoman Price said or anything from the town clerk, town attorney, town administrator, Councilmen Crane, Farrar (barely), or speakers from the audience.

### **Town Council Meeting, February 10, 2015**

All Council members present, excepting Marty Saltzman who joined by phone.

Vice Mayor Peterson began the formal meeting by acknowledging David Schwan for his service and commitment to the town.

**Agenda Item 1:** The procedure to appoint a mayor was outlined by the town clerk. Nominations were then opened to the council. Council members Melissa Price and Les Peterson were nominated. It was agreed that each candidate would make a statement. The public was asked for comments or statements.

Jim Van Allen spoke about email directed to the town council members using the [Council@carefree.org](mailto:Council@carefree.org) address. He said he recently discovered that the email was no longer being given to all council members, and wanted to know why that was the case. Vice Mayor Peterson said it would be reviewed. *[The town clerk later admitted, by email to Mr. Van Allen, that she had not provided such email to council members since assuming the position. She advised that a correction to the procedure was now in place.]*

Jim Whitmor read a prepared statement that encouraged the council to work in harmony on pressing matters that were facing the town. Hopefully his comments will be included in the formal minutes of the meeting since the recording is of little use.

Each nominee then presented reasons why they would be the best choice, citing various experience and providing their perspective on important town

issues. Les Peterson said he had 2 ½ years of experience on the council. He highlighted two areas of concern: Economic Development and Liberty/Black Mountain Sewer [rates]. He said he has been involved with the sewer issue for 9 years. Unlike other towns, he said in Carefree 95% of sewer connections are residential and just 5% commercial. Commercial properties, especially restaurants like Venues, were being hit hard by rate increases. He anticipated action by the Arizona Corporation Commission by May.

Melissa Price stated she had 3 ½ years of experience on the council, 2 of which while serving as Vice Mayor. She said she was passionate about Carefree and was instrumental in securing the Sanderson pledge which then facilitated the shade/misting/sound systems in the Pavilion. She spends 30 hours a week on relationship building with stakeholders and HOAs and has the strong support of Carefree business owners.

Glenn Miller explained his support for Ms. Price. He mentioned that the council was clearly divided on the Economic Development effort. He read a long letter from Ed Lewis, received that day by the town, which essentially outlined [from Mr. Lewis' perspective] the reasons he had withdrawn his efforts with ASU and the town. Mr. Lewis left the door open to working with the town, but his frustrations were clear and he felt time was running out on his investments in Carefree.

Other council members spoke at various lengths to express their reasons for supporting either nominee. Mike Farrar discussed the steps taken in regard to economic development in general, the ASU/Butte/Carefree arrangement, and provided a commercial broker's perspective of the situation.

In the end the council was evenly split, 3 - 3; Peterson votes were from Farrar, Saltzman and Peterson; Price votes were from Crane, Miller, and Price. Based on the even split, with no 7<sup>th</sup> member on the council to cast the deciding vote, and after discussion with the attorney it was decided to wait before confirming a permanent replacement for the mayor's position.

The conversation jumped into the second agenda item which involved how to proceed with filling the now vacant 7<sup>th</sup> council seat. There was a difference of opinion with the town administrator as to how it had been handled previously. Glenn Miller pointed out how it had been handled previously and it was essentially agreed to follow that process.

John Traynor asked if **Agenda Item 1** had been closed. He (I) had comments not yet presented. I thanked the candidates and council for their comments. I mentioned that since residents had decided on direct election of the Mayor several years ago, I felt it was the voters who should select the mayor, not the current council. I also clarified the presumption that the second highest voter

getter in council elections automatically became vice mayor. That is not the case.

The end of the meeting seemed a bit confusing but ultimately here is how it breaks down:

Agenda Item 1: No decision on appointing the next mayor was made. Les Peterson will continue to serve as 'acting mayor' until the 7<sup>th</sup> council seat is filled at which time the issue will be revisited;

Agenda Item 2: A request for submissions will be issued by the town for anyone interested in serving on the council. Applications will be accepted through 2/25/15. Candidates will be interviewed and a council vote will follow for that 7<sup>th</sup> person.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6PM.

**CORRECTION:** 1- Edition VI, E1, V1 of CFM incorrectly made reference to A.R.S. 12-901 when summarizing comments by the town attorney. The correct Statute is A.R.S. 9-1201. Hearing-challenged ears were at fault during the meeting but microphones, once again, were an issue during a review of the official recording.

**Correction in V2:**

1 - standardized font for readability

Respectfully submitted by Jim Van Allen and John Traynor

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