



Friends of Carefree, the Town Council meeting of May 5th included discussion and action on two major items, the Intergovernmental Agreement with Cave Creek regarding the ADOT Bike Lane Project and the 2016 Fiscal Year Budget.

Town Council Meeting, May 5, 2015

All Council members were present.

Items 1 – 6, Consent Agenda: All 6 items were related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, and financial reports); Councilman Miller asked that #5 be held for questions and then Councilman Farrar asked the same for #6. Items 1 – 4 were approved 7 – 0.

Item 5, Councilman Miller inquired why the March Local Sales Tax was higher than usual. Jim Keen (Town Accountant) responded that the State had deposited approximately \$160K - \$180K of April funds during the March cycle. It all balances out by the end of the fiscal Year.

Item 6, Councilman Farrar inquired if the festival permit process had been updated to assure residents access to town center facilities, such as the Post Office building and parking during events. Gary Neiss (Town Administrator) acknowledged that the forms were being revised. For already submitted permits, he indicated that a coordinator had been contacted (sorry, I missed the name) and that individual responded that people would be available to oversee parking and traffic flow issues.

After discussion, Items 5 & 6 were approved 7-0.

Item 7, Call to the Public: Lyn Hitchon stated that Sales tax revenue should be really good because the Resort just held a 500 person conference, for 4 or 5 days, and those people were eating in the dining room.

Mayor Peterson acknowledged that someone wishing to speak about a later Agenda item may not always be able to stay through the entire meeting until that item is reached. He said that a person may fill out the orange (?) 'request to speak slip', write their comments (no more than 3 minutes worth!), and then turn it in to the town clerk. He would then read the comments at the appropriate point during the meeting.

Item 8, Current Events: Councilman Crane complimented the Ambulance service for their prompt and professional handling of a situation at his home.

Item 9: Intergovernmental Agreement with Cave Creek regarding Bike lanes:

Resolution 2015-03 was presented for approval of the IGA with Cave Creek and to

authorize Carefree's payment of \$140,158.85 to Cave Creek for our portion of the local towns funding. That number may vary after Contract bids. As this project has moved forward some details and dates have been clarified/adjusted. **The now current estimate for the construction start date is September (no day indicated),** or about 3 months later than the original estimate.

A presentation by Stacey Bridge-Denzak, Town Planner & Streets Coordinator, provided some additional information. A copy of that presentation is now available at: www.CarefreesFutureMatters.com/Archives

The southbound bike lane will end **at** Leisure Lane, not between Leisure and Meander. Councilman Crane asked if trees will be moved. The response was that, if we are under the bid, trees could be included. There was further discussion about salvaging other median vegetation, but frankly I lost track of the back and forth. I guess we'll see when we see.

Someone (I think it was Councilman Farrar who posed the question, but I could not hear very well so I could be mistaken) asked if Rural/Metro had been included in the project plan or review. The Chief said that R/M had not been involved; he later stated that 11 foot driving lanes would not be a problem for them and that other vehicles could pull over and stop in the bike lanes if R/M equipment needed to get by. Councilman Miller had added that R/M would be shown the final construction timeline documents once they were available.

Mayor Peterson said he understands that some residents are unaware of, or not fully informed about, the project and requested staff to provide more communications to residents between now and the construction start.

Resident Ralph Pipp asked if the money for the ADOT project was coming out of the highway fund or General fund. Stacey responded that the HURF funds would be used. HURF funds are money that towns & cities receive from the State from the taxes paid on gasoline.

Resolution 2015-03 authorizing approval of the IGA and payment was Approved 7 – 0.

Item 10: Fiscal Year 2016 Budget: There was a quick review of the process that has been followed and the public meetings that were held to this point. The purpose of this agenda item is to provide opportunity for additional discussion/questions, if any, and then to approve the bottom line number, which for FY16 will be approximately \$7,068M. One \$50K expense item, which had inadvertently been left out, was added.

Although the bottom line number can no longer be changed, funds can be moved around between budget categories. The final budget is scheduled to be adopted at a special meeting on June 2nd, just prior to the regular council meeting.

The bottom line budget number was set and approved, 7 -0.

Item 11, Town Council updates: This item will be a regular agenda item going forward, reporting on, and reflecting areas of focus for the council. It will include Administrative tasks, Town Center Identification/Architectural, Liberty/Black Mountain Sewer, Council Chambers, land Use/Planning, Special Planning areas, Open House signs/permits, and Median upkeep. Updates on each area will be presented at council meetings as information becomes available.

Administrative: Update of the Town Code – A committee has been formed to address this important function. Members will include Mayor Les Peterson, Vice Mayor John Crane, Town Administrator Gary Neiss, Wayne Fulcher, Tom Rawls, and possibly Lloyd Meyers. Greg Gardner will serve if Lloyd Meyers cannot. Expected start date is the end of June.

A Long Range Financial Plan committee has been formed. Members include Mayor Les Peterson, Vice Mayor John Crane, Town Administrator Gary Neiss, Town Accountant Jim Keen, along with former members Gary Hayward and Jerry Wetta, and John Traynor. The objectives are to revise the 2012 Plan, determine actual base costs, and then project future revenue and expense trends. The new LRFPP will be an evolving document as opposed to a static plan. It will target a 5 year future window and will be updated as significant events dictate.

Liberty/Black Mtn Sewer (L/BMS): Several meetings with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) have been somewhat productive but no rate relief is yet available for Venues, or other restaurants in Carefree. A 2008 rate case permits L/BMS sewer rates to be calculated on the basis of either the number of seats in a restaurant or the number of meals served, neither of which is an accurate nor fair representation of the actual sewer use. L/BMS chose to use number of seats. With the help of staff and Carefree Water Company data, the ACC has been presented with information which shows that actual 'water in' to Venues is far less than the 'water out' billing by the sewer company. L/BMS has agreed to begin working on a new rate case shortly, hopefully based on water-in - water-out, but that process is not a quick one.

Council Chambers: The town and the owner of the current facility are considering various options for the current lease which expires 6/2016. Space previously occupied by the old town offices, and then the court, is obviously no longer needed. The Post

Office *may* wish to expand their space, so that could be in the mix of options under discussion.

Open House signs/permits: The Planning & Zoning commission will take up this matter at their next meeting. Under consideration is a moratorium on the requirement for permits, possibly for 6 months. Once the P&Z addresses the issue it will come before the council for action.

Median Upkeep / Landscaping Contract: The town has budgeted approximately \$60K in the upcoming budget for a maintenance contract with Desert Foothills Landscaping for median upkeep. During the discussion Councilman Crane commented on the current poor condition of the medians, which do not reflect favorably on the Town.

The town does maintain the medians in front of CVS and Lowes. However, the areas behind the medians were planned to be, and remain, desert-natural and not town property. Although staff has discussed the need for maintenance of those areas with managers at both companies they have been told that 'corporate' has not approved any funds for that purpose.

Because of the later than expected start of the bike lane construction project it was ultimately decided Carefree should begin the median upkeep contract in July, assuming the contract is presented to the council for consideration and is approved in June.

Item 12, Executive Session: The council voted to enter an Executive Session (private meeting), which would be followed by adjournment (Item 13).

Essentially the public meeting ended at 6:40 PM.

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Respectfully submitted by Jim Van Allen and John Traynor

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