



Friends of Carefree, the Council held an Executive session on November 10th, no details were made available. The regular monthly Town Council meeting was also held on November 10th.

Town Council Meeting, November 10, 2015, 5:00PM

Items 1 – 4, Consent Agenda: All 4 items were related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, financial reports, event permit(s), and general agreement(s)). Item #3, Paid Bills, was held for discussion at the request of Councilman Farrar. All other Items were approved 7 – 0.

Councilman Farrar asked how many Adirondack chairs were purchased for \$1,824 and where they were to be located. Mr. Neiss responded that there would be four chairs located on the artificial grass near the Splash Pad. Councilman Farrar then inquired about the costs relating to the Splash Pad. Councilwoman Price responded that the Splash pad cost was \$131,000, a retaining wall cost \$20,000, and there was a donation from Kiwanis of \$135,000 (over 7 years). Councilman Farrar said he would appreciate the Splash Pad committee keeping the remainder of Council members informed about their activities [purchases - furniture, signs, etc.] so that they are not surprised at meetings. Councilman Farrar then jokingly asked Councilman Gearhart if he was going to return the cushions that had gone missing from the new Fireplace furniture. He thought it was 4, but Mr. Neiss stated that only 3 had been taken. The cushions are now secured.

The final question from Councilman Farrar related to an architect expense for the 33 Easy Street building. The town lease of that space to Mr. Lewis calls for Mr. Lewis to handle the cost of improvements. Mr. Neiss explained that the town paid for the architect to assure that any changes proposed by Mr. Lewis would be consistent with the Town's ultimate plans for that space (Council Chambers). *[The paid bills also listed a \$3,000 expense for concrete steps at 33 Easy Street. There was no payment listed in the October Check Register for the 33 Easy Street landscaping.]* With the questions addressed, Item #3 was then approved 7 – 0.

The Mayor announced that some Agenda items would be taken out of sequence.

Item 5, Call to the Public: Captain Kip Rustenberg of MCSO advised the Council that MCSO had acquired a new Bell Ranger helicopter. She indicated that it could be scheduled for display/inspection in Carefree if the Council would like to take advantage of the opportunity.

Item 8, Keystone Homes ‘Eastwood’ – Carefree General Plan & Zoning Changes:

The Mayor advised that the town had received a continuance request from Keystone Homes. The topic will now be addressed at the 12/1 Council meeting.

Item 9, Liberty Utilities – BMSC: The mayor provided a very comprehensive update on the negotiations (logistical, financial, legal, and practical), including a historical review of the situation. The material is far too extensive for inclusion here, but will hopefully be available on the audio recording of the meeting, once the town makes it available. This agenda item calls for authorizing the Mayor to sign a collaborative agreement by the Arizona Corporation Commission, Liberty Utilities, the Boulders Resort, the Boulders HOA, and the Town of Carefree. The agreement will be subject to final approval by the ACC *and* the withdrawal of an existing action pending in the AZ Court of Appeals. Approval will facilitate (over a 3 year period) the removal of a waste processing facility in the Boulders and allow the pending Rate Case to move forward, thus providing both commercial and residential customers with a more equitable rate structure. After hearing remarks from several attorneys, the Council approved authorizing the Mayor to sign the agreement, 7 – 0.

Item 7, Town Financial Audit: The town’s financials were audited by HintonBurdick, PLLC. Jim Keen, Town Accountant, reviewed the scope of the audit and outlined the minor changes suggested by the auditor(s). Those changes essentially addressed the manner in which the town should handle a grant (money not yet transferred by the State) relating to Monsoon storm damaged last fiscal year. The June, July, and August financial reports have been restated with the auditors adjusting entries. Mr. Neiss continued with a review of revenue and expenditures during the period 2006-2015. His slide presentation showed that Carefree had made a \$10M investment in itself with the largest portion going to Fire protection, followed by the Water Company, Roads, and Open Space preservation (60 acres). During the same period \$1,913,952 was added to General Fund reserves which totaled \$6,954,024 as of June 30th. If his material becomes available it will be posted in our Archives. He also pointed out that Carefree had been chosen to receive the American Planning Association 2015 Strategic Planning Award. The Audit Report was accepted by a vote of 7 – 0.

Item 6, Current Events: Vice Mayor Crane described the events planned for Carefree’s Veterans Day remembrance. He also mentioned that Rural Metro (Carefree) had received a grant of \$3,600 to purchase 2 Wild Fire radios thanks to a donation by the 100 Club of Arizona.

Mayor Peterson stated that the Enchanted Pumpkin event(s) drew an estimated 30,000 visitors into Carefree. Mr. Van Allen said that 75% of the merchants applauded the event. Councilman Farrar advised that both **Bodega 13** and **Speakeasy** were now open *[as of Friday, 11/6 I believe]*.

[Although not mentioned during this meeting, signs along our major roadways have been indicating that the ADOT Bike Lane project was to commence on November 9th. Construction will continue into April. The project was originally expected to begin in July but that date kept slipping. With our Festival season already underway, residents and visitors will encounter some travel disruption

into and out of Carefree along major roadways throughout our high season. Construction of Gateways will likely add to the mix.]

Item 10, Town Council Updates: Nothing major noted.

Item 11, Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:20PM.

Don't forget to visit CarefreesFutureMatters.com

Respectfully submitted by Jim Van Allen and John Traynor

If you wish to **Unsubscribe**, simply [Click here to Unsubscribe](#)
or

If you wish to **Subscribe** to this Newsletter [Click here](#)

Carefree, what life should be!

Copyright ©2015, CarefreesFutureMatters.com - All rights reserved