



**Friends of Carefree**, as we welcome this Christmas season, let us all remember the *"Reason for the Season"* and the special blessings we enjoy living in America. Also remember all those who sacrificed much to assure our liberty and freedoms, as well as those who continue to do so; our military, and locally here in Carefree, the dedicated members of MCSO and Rural Metro. **I wish all of you a Blessed and Merry Christmas along with health, happiness, and prosperity in the coming New Year.**

**Town Council Meeting, December 5, 2017, 5:00PM, at 33 Easy Street:** This was the first meeting held in the Council Chambers of the 33 Easy Street facility. The building will be the new venue for all official Town meetings (Council, P&Z, etc.). Space can be reserved for public functions as well, such as HOA meetings or educational presentations. Renovations are essentially complete, except for punch list items and miscellaneous furniture and equipment additions. The Council Chamber is very attractive and comfortable, with an audio/video system far superior to the temporary arrangement deployed at Holland Center. Special thanks to Town Administrator Neiss for his oversight of the renovation project. The formal dedication will be scheduled this coming spring.

The Mayor kicked off the meeting with an announcement that selection of a candidate to fill Jim Van Allen's Council position will be deferred until the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. The reason given is to allow more time for candidate interviews during the busy Holiday season. *[The deadline for applicant submissions was 11/17. As of that date 4 individuals applied, they are Thomas Cross (current P&Z Vice Chairman), Vincenzo D'Aliesio, Stephen Hatcher, and John Traynor. To date I have only been asked to meet with Council members John Crane and Michael Krahe.]*

Mayor Peterson also explained that the Agenda would be addressed out of order to accommodate visitors/guests in attendance regarding an Intergovernmental Agreement.

**Item 9, Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for property and facility use:** The town maintains an Emergency Communications facility and two water storage tanks in a northern part of Carefree known as the Silver Saddle site. Rural Metro also has an existing communications capability in that location; the property is owned by the Carefree Water Company. The IGA will essentially provide the County with control of the communications facility, which they will completely renovate and upgrade with current and improved technology. The improvements will enhance current communications capabilities and address 'dead spots' in the existing coverage areas. In addition to the substantial improvements in communications capabilities the County will make other site improvements, all beneficial to Carefree and at no cost. Rural Metro will upgrade their equipment to enhance their communications capabilities, and a local private wireless service company will install equipment to provide high-speed internet service to those in the area who don't currently have it. There is no Cox Cable there and existing CenturyLink service is said to be slow/poor. The IGA was approved 6 - 0.

**Items 1 - 6 Consent Agenda:** These items were all related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, financial reports, event permits, etc.). Hearing no request, The Mayor called for a motion and subsequent vote. Approved, 6 - 0.

**Item 7, Call to the Public:** No one spoke. Councilman Krahe thanked Gary for “all of this” (referring to the new Council Chambers).

**Item 8, Current Events:** The Mayor asked Gary Neiss to provide an update on the renovation. Gary outlined the status, including reference to the punch list and the additional items of furniture and/or equipment that will be available in time for the January meeting. He said the finish line is in sight.

The Mayor spoke about the extended Christmas Festival, which now spans 23 days. The initial weekend crowd was estimated to be about 3,000. The Christmas Parade was this morning, starting at 10AM and was to feature 40 entries (‘floats’) and about 500 people. He extended his thanks to Gina and Viki for their dedication and hard work.

Councilman Crane mentioned that the “Driven to Give” event sponsored by Sanderson Lincoln was a big success, with over \$3,500 donated to the Veterans’ Heritage Project.

Councilman Farrar spoke of the successful public/private partnership that made ‘Ollie the Trolley’ service possible. The service runs from 11AM until 9PM on a 30-minute loop over weekends until the end of April. In-town Carefree stops are at Brix, Spanish Village, and at the Sundial. He turned over donations of \$6,000 to the Mayor to help offset the Town’s investment in the Trolley service.

**Item 10, Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:35PM.

In general, you can reach all Council members by email; [Council@Carefree.org](mailto:Council@Carefree.org) and Mayor Les Peterson at [Mayor@Carefree.org](mailto:Mayor@Carefree.org)

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

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