



Friends of Carefree, first and foremost we hope you had a great Christmas with family and friends and that you were welcomed into the New Year with health and happiness. The Council held another Executive session on January 5th, but as usual no details were made available. The regular monthly Town Council meeting followed at 5 PM.

Town Council Meeting, January 5, 2016, 5:00PM

There were no significant items on the agenda as of 5 PM on January 4th.

Items 1 – 9, Consent Agenda: All items were related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, financial reports, event permit(s), etc.). Items 3 & 7 were held for discussion, all others were approved 7 - 0. Councilwoman Price questioned paid bills relating to a drainage problem within the Sentinel Rock community and a payment to the law firm representing Carefree in negotiations with the Arizona Corporation Commission. Vice Mayor Crane inquired whether payments to Magic Bird Festivals during the Christmas Festival would be reimbursed. Mr. Neiss responded that it was a budgeted expense *[there will be no reimbursement]*.

Ms. Price then inquired about the festival *[Indian Art & Cultural Festival]* on 1/22-1/24 specifically regarding an extension of premises/patio permit for the now inactive AZ Wine store. Discussion ensued. With questions answered, items 3 & 7 were individually approved 7 - 0.

[A side note from Jim Van Allen: after the meeting I told the Mayor that whenever the Council Packet was delayed until late Monday, it was quite difficult for Council members, or the public, to seek answers to questions in a timely manner. He said he would work on that issue.]

Item 10, Call to the Public: John Traynor wished the Mayor and Council a Happy New Year and then spoke regarding the somewhat confusing orange 'request to speak' slips *[my unofficial terminology]* used during Council meetings. They currently provide 4 check boxes, none of which afford a potential speaker the opportunity to 'Request to speak' *without* declaring being *in favor of* or *opposed to* a specific Agenda item. I mentioned that I routinely cross out the "I am in favor" portion of the first check box because I simply wish to speak, as in during Call to the Public. A new check box should be added to reflect the desire of someone to speak without having to declare being for or against the topic.

My first point was an introduction to my second which dealt with the official minutes of the December Council meeting. At that meeting, numerous people spoke and/or completed the orange form mentioned above in regard to the General Plan amendment and Rezoning agenda item. One or more individuals were listed as "appeared and spoke in favor of the development" *[Eastwood]*, yet Jim and I attended that meeting and have no recollection of a few of them saying they were in favor. I phoned one person and asked them if they had actually said they were in favor. They

responded that they questioned building heights but did not say they were in favor or opposed. A return phone call from that person confirmed that the orange slip may have been the culprit because they did not remember which box they checked.

[The assumption that someone who speaks is either in favor of, or opposed to, a topic because of the current check box choices offered often leads to incorrect results, since “in favor and wish to speak” is the first check box.]

I asked a few general questions regarding the 12/1 official minutes which the Town Clerk was kind enough to clarify.

Sandee Simcox, the second and last speaker, introduced herself as the new Manager of National Bank of Arizona’s Carefree branch. She went on to say she was pleased to serve the community.

Item 11 Current Events: Councilman Farrar announced that Carefree had the opportunity to provide 10 scholarships for kids from 9 – 20 years of age to attend ‘CodeDay Arizona’. The nationwide program is a 24 hour event in ‘coding’ apps or games. It will span 2 days *[noon – noon, sleeping on-site]* and will be held 2/13 – 2/14. More information will be provided shortly.

Item 12, Presentation & Update on the Carefree Caring Corp: Debra Determan presented a 4 minute video on the Caring Corp and then outlined some statistics relating to their services in Carefree, Cave Creek, North Scottsdale, and North Phoenix. Volunteers supported 747 individuals in the coverage area, expending over 41,000 hours. 50 individuals receive daily meals. She thanked the town for providing LTAP matching funds which helped with the purchase of vans. *[LTAP is a national Local Technical Assistance Program. It is the primary way that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) helps local transportation agencies.]* She inquired where the Caring Corp would be able to park their vehicles when new construction projects necessitate they move from their current spots. The Mayor assured her that the town will work it out *[no details were mentioned]*.

Item 13, Town Council Updates: The Mayor advised that the Liberty Utilities/Black Mountain Sewer rate case is progressing through the Arizona Corporation Commission review process.

Ms. Price then provided an update on the Gateway project, indicating that APS had completed undergrounding the electric lines at Carefree Drive & Cave Creek Road. Drawings will be finalized in a few weeks and after re-configuration of the roadway at that location, Gateway construction will begin.

Item 14, Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:39 PM.

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Respectfully submitted by Jim Van Allen and John Traynor

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