



Friends of Carefree, this edition will cover disconcerting issues from the July and August council meetings - disappointing for varied reasons, all anti-resident in substance or intent.

The July 11th council meeting was a huge disappointment. The hot item on the agenda was to appoint one of 10 candidates to fill the council seat vacated by the resignation of Tony Geiger.

Following the mayor's obvious attempt to make an inclusive introduction, the team of Kroyer/Amoroso appeared to have staged a sneaky coup. Their pick was Clint Miller, an architect. No disrespect to Mr. Miller, but Carefree does not need an architect on the council at this stage of our development.

The selection process was certainly not spontaneous. It resembled a theatrical production created to select the Kroyer/Amoroso chosen candidate. Given the composition of this council, the outcome was disappointing but not totally unexpected. The Carefree town council needs a thorough house cleaning and strong leadership.

Despite numerous efforts to clarify the message during Call to the Public, the council disregarded the very loud message voters sent them on May 16th. They had the opportunity to appoint someone who would have finally given a much larger segment of our voters the attentive representation they deserve – **they failed**. Two excellent candidates were essentially ignored. Carefree voters will have to send a louder message to several tone-deaf council members. Current members, or phone-in former members, who claim to represent 100% of our residents are either delusional or have had a psychotic break.

During one of her monologues, council member Kroyer made a statement so blatantly false that it prompted a resident in attendance to shout "Liar". Her support of, and behavior during, the Property Tax campaign was despicable; filled with lies intended to induce fear

in elderly residents. Her actions, if not criminal, bordered on a violation of her oath when she sought donations for the Carefree Improvement PAC (supporting the Tax) at the Post Office. Her blind ambition to become mayor was unveiled that evening. The Oath of Office she swore is evidently meaningless to Cheryl Kroyer. More on this follows in the August summary.

Unfortunately, because of the newly implemented **[overly generous]** Term Limits ordinance Cheryl Kroyer, Sheila Amoroso, and now Clint Miller will serve 4-year terms. They will not be up for reelection until 2026 – think about that neighbors.

Other noteworthy items on the agenda (all approved unanimously) included, the purchase a new fire truck at a cost of \$935,000; stucco repair and painting in a section of the Gardens; refreshing the decomposed granite in the Gardens, and replacing vegetation in the planter in the NW corner of the Amphitheater. All reported by the town administrator.

Unless my hearing is even worse than I perceive, the existing fire truck may not bring more than \$8,000 to \$10,000 at auction! It originally cost Carefree over a half-million dollars when purchased new as part of a large order from the then newly formed Scottsdale fire department. One must wonder if the town administrator is just lazy, too focused on a new scheme for a property tax or is he still seeking favor with someone in Scottsdale. 😊 I suppose we will have to wait and see who buys the old truck on the cheap.

It is abundantly clear that the council and town hall staff intend to continue business as usual, hoping we will go back to sleep and forget their lies and their Tax \$hakedown. This is especially obvious from the Kroyer/Amoroso duo. Since we cannot trust those that were elected to represent us and to uphold their responsibilities to protect our zoning, our open space, and the future of Carefree we must actively and tirelessly monitor the progress of the new General Plan as it slowly advances to the voters in the **November 2024** election.

We must carefully guard against all attempts to alter Carefree before the new General Plan goes into effect in 2024. The town administrator and economic development director are hell-bent on changing our main arterial roadways and adding unnecessary and expensive signs throughout the town core. How many more million\$ are they going to squander in their attempt to make us little Scottsdale?

Residents will have a 2-month period to review the General Plan Final Draft **before the end of this year (10/01 - 12/01)**. That is our last chance to make sure residents' decisions are respected. The administration and staff will continue to have the opportunity to make further changes. However, residents will not see the plan again until **a year later** when it will be on the ballot for approval. Every word of the Plan submitted to voters will be examined to determine what changes were made after our last look. **The 11/2024 election will be your opportunity to either accept or reject the Plan. If the Plan does not meet your expectations and wishes, reject it until it does.**

The August council meeting was noteworthy for several reasons and all should be a concern to residents. The first emerged from the 'Current Events' agenda item. In a prepared reading, delivered with a serious and somber tone, council member Kroyer read a portion of the proposed "Official Public Meeting Policy", the intent of which is clearly to silence critics - like those who point out her publicly stated lies. She indicated the staff had been working on this policy. I suspect they worked on it after Cheryl was called out for lying during the July council meeting - ***correctly called out for lying***. I wonder who directed staff to work on a draconian and unnecessary public meeting policy?

In a directly related matter, the resident who had called out Cheryl's lie appears to have been slandered by the town clerk who allegedly said the resident '**physically threatens women**'. The targeted

resident spoke at the meeting during 'Call to the Public', bringing attention to that egregious claim and demanded an apology. My understanding is the resident has retained legal council in pursuit of justice and clearing his good name and reputation.

The mayor is the CEO of the town. He sets council meeting agendas, no one else. Council members and/or staff may suggest agenda items, but the mayor makes the final decisions. It is therefore perplexing why the mayor allowed such a ridiculous policy to be aired during the meeting, and even more incomprehensible why he allowed Cheryl Kroyer and staff to pursue such an obviously anti-resident policy at all. If someone else has been setting the agenda, it needs to stop now.

I was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. However, the video recording provided most of the relevant information, except for the beginning of the meeting. The recording did not commence until a resident was already speaking during 'Call to the Public'. It is unfathomable why it is so difficult for the staff to properly handle a relatively straightforward task, month after month. Problems with microphones, problems with the sound system, even problems with the video recording itself are repetitious and annoying.

The remaining 2 hour and 42-minute affair was captured on the video. **Additional note to the council:** *all* Council members need to use the microphones in front of them properly and intelligently. Members Kroyer and Amoroso are barely audible at various points during the meeting. If they do not want residents to hear them clearly, they should not speak.

During 'Current events', and after Kroyer's insulting reading of the decorum policy, mayor Crane introduced the new 'Meet the Mayor' program, beginning September 8th at the Visitor's Center from 9AM

to 11AM. It may not be perfect, but it is a start, assuming he can keep Kroyer & Amoroso away from those meetings.

The meeting then focused on an update for the council [the first since May] regarding the status of the General Plan, by Matt Klyszeiko from the Baker Group. The presentation was long, yet informative and worth the time it was afforded, unlike the subsequent presentation by the economic development director, which was the usual blabber regarding *his* opinion of the needed changes to the town of in Carefree. IMHO, the only changes necessary are much tighter control of the town administrator [or his replacement], elimination of economic development as a staff function, and a new vice mayor. Those would be the three good steps in the right direction.

The final segment of the meeting was a presentation on a traffic calming program that sounded like an idea that had not yet crystallized in anyone's mind. It contained lots of 'ifs' and 'whens', and to be determined. *If* 'traffic calming' is necessary anywhere in Carefree there should be sound engineering and real safety issues that form the basis of any proposed action plan. We don't need any more hazardous vehicle obstacles like several already on Blood Basin. Unlike gated communities, our roadways are not private driveways ruled by 3 neighbors and a nearby council member. Some folks forget that almost all residents need to use our roadways to get to or into the commercial core, the Post Office, or anywhere else in Carefree. Common sense may not yet be dead in Carefree, but it sure seems battered.

You have my apology if you feel that my comments are a bit too harsh. I have a 5-decade technology background, not in liberal arts or political correctness. A lack of common sense, which should cross all disciplines and levels of management, seems to be missing in

certain areas of town management. That reality necessitates that straight, clear talk and appropriate focus on real issues should trump economic development blabber, traffic calming roulette, unnecessary expensive signs, and destroying our main roadways.

And there you have it, for now.

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

Notice: In addition to reporting *facts*, this Newsletter will contain the author's perspective on topics or events affecting Carefree residents. That perspective may not be popular with the mayor, council members, staff, town attorney, or Facebook Trolls. The fact is, I don't care what they think.

If we lived in a perfect world, we would need but one newspaper.

God Bless America.

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“The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.”

Attribution not verified; Not JFK and Not Edmund Burke. Possibly philosopher John Stuart Mill, 1867.

I attribute it to Common Sense!