

Friends of Carefree, Election time approaches in Carefree...
the more things change in Carefree the more they remain the same. Please read on...

Town Council Meeting, April 3, 2018, 5:00PM, at 33 Easy Street:
Councilman Steve Hatcher was not present.

Items 1 - 5 Consent Agenda: These items were all related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, financial reports, event permits, etc.). Hearing no request to hold any item for discussion, the Mayor called for a motion and subsequent vote.
Approved, 6 - 0.

Item 6, Call to the Public: Five residents spoke. Tom Fiedler addressed the Council, now for the 3rd time, regarding traffic speed along Cave Creek Road just north of Carefree Highway. He was pleased to see that the town had the purchase of radar speed signs on the agenda. He went on to say he would now like to see the town reduce the present speed limit (45) down to 35 in his area. The area is 4 traffic lanes divided by a median.

Arthur Gimson and Cheryl Carmichael added their support for a lower speed limit. *[Arthur regaled the Council and audience with tales of speed limits from ancient Rome, or at least it seemed that way. He may have referenced horse & wagon, foreign countries, and turn of the century autos. I'll wait until the audio of the meeting is available (not online as of 4/8/18) to unmark this section as editorial commentary and post the revision on the website as V2.]*

John Traynor spoke briefly on two issues. After also thanking the Council for their service, as Arthur had done, I mentioned the Term Limits restriction in Carefree Town Code, enacted as a result of a voter approved (63% of votes) ballot proposition in 2011 and upheld by a substantial margin (2 to 1) in a subsequent ballot challenge in 2014. The issue of term limited council members surfaced during a Long Range Financial Planning Committee meeting last summer. At that time Mayor Peterson stated that the town was looking into ways to address the issue. At this council meeting I expressed my hope that the town would honor the will of the voters. *['Addressing the issue' could mean honoring the will of voters, or it could mean finding some way to circumvent the law. There might be several methods to circumvent the law, but the will of voters should trump any evasion scheme.]*

*[To expand on this issue, you may or may not be aware that at least one and probably two council members are term limited in the upcoming election (8/28 Primary, 11/6 general). I say **probably** because one Council member was **appointed** to a first term and then received the benefit of the expanded term following the 2013 election, due to a county mandate which changed the election cycle to even numbered years. Rather than the standard 2-year term, Carefree officials had the choice of serving a shorter 1½ year term or a longer 3½ year term – they chose a 3½ year term. After being reelected in 2016, that Council member has now served over 6 years, which should be the end of term-limited service. A technicality in the wording of the statute could be exploited to ignore the term limits and allow that Council member to run again this year. Mayor Peterson has a critical role in the course of action that will be followed. I believe voters expect honor and integrity from those they elect, and I would certainly hope legal tactics and evasion of the law will be avoided.]*

My second issue was related to the Budget. I thought the preliminary budget *[for the upcoming fiscal year]* had generally been available in March with workshops scheduled thereafter, but to date I had not heard anything about the Budget. Town Administrator Neiss quickly responded that the Budget workshops last year were in April and two dates have already been scheduled this year and are noted on the Town Calendar. *[I guess residents are expected to check that Calendar with regularity. I've scoured my email folders, including my Junk mail, and have found no trace of a COINS notice regarding those Budget Workshops, or anything related to the new fiscal year Budget. I did find 9 reminders about the Town Block Party. Some might assume that a COINS email would have been sent when the Calendar was updated with the Budget information, silly me.]*

Council member Farrar stepped down from the dais and spoke at the podium as a member of the public. He described the first Carefree Memorial Day event being planned with participation from every branch of our military. There would be no cost to the town except \$1,000 for artificial wreaths, which could be reused year after year like the new Christmas tree. Apparently, his request for the funds had been turned down. He outlined other costs the Town had covered recently which were far in excess of the current request. He asked the Town to reconsider the investment to purchase the military wreaths. *[The event is to honor all members of our military who have sacrificed their lives for our Nation. If we can afford multiple \$750 trash receptacles we can surely afford the military wreaths.]*

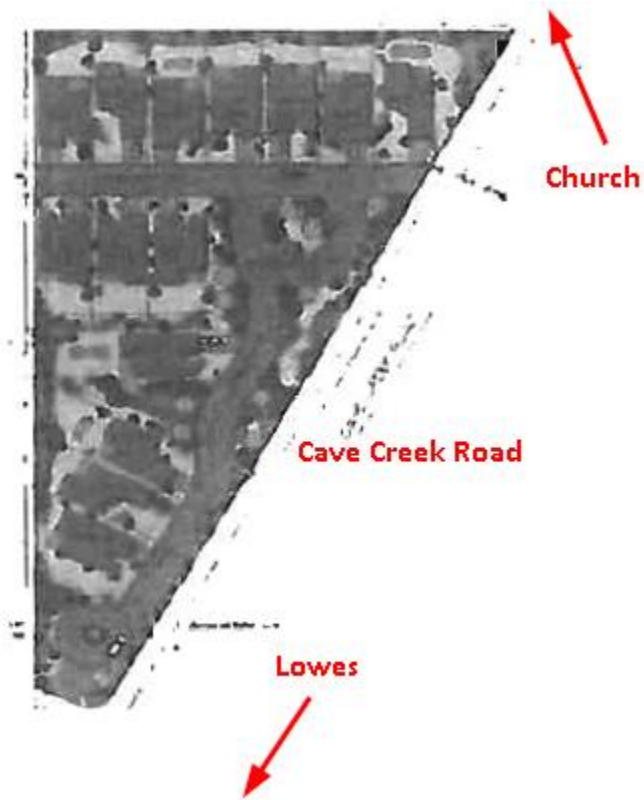
Item 7, Current Events: The Primary Election for Mayor and Council is scheduled for 8/28/18. If all positions are not filled at the Primary, a runoff will occur at the General Election on 11/6/18. Election information is available on the Town's website and Town Hall.

Budget Workshops are scheduled for 3:00pm @ 33 Easy St. on 4/17 & 4/24.

Councilman Farrar announced that the Carefree Italian Festival will be held on 4/14 & 4/15 in the parking area between Corrado's and the Amphitheater. Grape stomping and other activities are planned.

Vice Mayor Crane spoke of the final Garden Seminar, featuring 'Pleasing the Pollinators', which will take place on 4/14 from 9:30 until noon @ 33 Easy St.

Item 8, The Enclave at Carefree was on the agenda for discussion and approval but because of concerns by the P&Z Commissioners, regarding density, the developer was granted a continuance until the May Council meeting. The project is planned on the west side of town, north of Lowes and the proposed Storage facility and just south of Christ Anglican Church. As originally proposed, 14 units were planned, requiring General Plan and Zoning changes (R1-35 LDR to R3-Multi-Family).



Item 9, Carefree-Cave Creek Municipal Court's participation in the FARE program: The FARE program provides State aid to people who are unable to pay their court-imposed fines. The combined court administrator, Jennifer Wildeman, explained that approval was required to clarify outdated language in a prior resolution from 1995. Approved 6 – 0.

Item 10, Special Use Permit for a Self-Storage Facility: After a slide presentation by Stacey Bridge-Denzak, Planning Director, and additional information provided by the developer's attorney, the Council approved the SUP for an indoor self-storage facility (StorQuest Carefree) on commercial property north of Lowes on Cave Creek Road. The number of storage units will not exceed 650 and no outdoor storage is permitted. There were questions about height which will be just under 30 feet. The proposed building is to be two-stories (ranging from 26' - 30' in height to top of parapet) and contain approximately 64,800 square feet, with an approximate 32,400 square foot footprint. There will be an exit through a secondary gate on the west side of the building, heading south through the existing Lowe's shopping center.



A nearby neighbor in Cave Creek asked about the rear view of the property. Although not an enthusiastic supporter, she said she would remain neutral on the project. Construction to begin in late summer – fall this year. Approved 6 – 0.

Item 11, Purchase of Radar Speed Signs: The town researched several Radar signs and settled on units from ElanCity based on price and functionality. There was discussion of placement, with two signs destined for entry to Carefree on the west side, north of Carefree Highway on Cave Creek Road and two on east side on Cave Creek Road east of Tom Darlington. The initial request for approval was 4 signs totaling about \$11,000, but Council member Kroyer thought that an additional two should be utilized in the Tom Darlington area. So, in the end 6 signs have been approved for \$16,500 plus tax. Approved 6 – 0.

Item 12, Executive Session: The Council voted to enter Executive Session at 6:07PM.

Item 13, Adjournment: The actual adjournment time is unknown as are the topics.

In general, you can reach all Council members by email; Council@Carefree.org and Mayor Les Peterson at Mayor@Carefree.org

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

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