



Friends of Carefree, there were two meetings of the Town Council on June 2nd. The first was a Special Meeting to adopt the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, which was followed by the usual monthly meeting.

Special Town Council Meeting, June 2,, 2015, 4:45PM

Councilman Farrar was delayed by traffic from Phoenix.

Item 1, Fiscal Year 2016 Budget: The \$7,117,680 Budget was formally adopted by unanimous vote 6 – 0. It becomes effective July 1, 2015.

Item 2, Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:50PM

Town Council Meeting, June 2,, 2015, 5:00PM

Councilman Farrar was still delayed by traffic from Phoenix.

Items 1 – 6, Consent Agenda: All 6 items were related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, financial reports, and event permits); Councilwoman Price asked that #5 be held for questions. Items 1 – 4 and 6 were approved 6 – 0.

Item 5, Arizona Regional Porsche Club of America Car Show, October 31, 2015:

Councilwoman Price asked the Club representative about the type of vehicles that would participate in the event. The response was that 75 to 100 vehicles were expected to participate comprised of any year, any model. After discussion, the permit was approved 6 – 0.

Item 7, Call to the Public: No requested to speak.

Item 8, Current Events: None noted.

Item 9: Moratorium on permits required for Open House Signs: The Planning & Zoning Commission had reviewed this issue, heard public comment, and then recommended implementing a moratorium from July 1, 2015 through April 30th. Council discussed the recommendation, heard from two realtors, and then decided to approve a moratorium, effective from 6/3/2015 through April 2016. Mayor Peterson noted that the town should support the realtors and Vice Mayor Crane added that the realtors should play by the rules. Approval was 7 – 0.

Item 10: Town Center Revitalization Master Plan: This was the final presentation after essentially a year-long study by The Baker Group. The presentation was a long one, and basically reiterated findings and recommendations discussed in prior public meetings.

Council questions and discussion ensued. Councilman Farrar referenced a 'White Paper' which the Baker Group prepared for the town (not made available to the public at the time of the meeting). He questioned the number and location of gateways (monuments and/or signs) which were being suggested. There seems to be some question or debate relating to **how many are needed now**, versus over a period of years as other aspects of the revitalization plan are implemented and become a reality.

[Editorial comment – it seems that a single gateway/monument on each of our two main arterial routes would be sufficient to alert unfamiliar visitors that they 'had arrived in Carefree'. Other more modest gateways or directional signs could be added within the core over time as features or new attractions dictate. To do otherwise now would add clutter and can become overwhelming, especially if they are redundant or are of questionable value. I believe there is a distinct line between help and eyesores. We have already noted there are a total of 22 signs right now, all of which advise that you are in Carefree. Will lots of additional Gateway signs result in boosting Sales Tax revenue or bring in new tenants? We encourage our readers to review the Baker study which recommends substantial financial investments by the town, both near and long term. The bulk of those funds will draw down from town reserves. A copy of the final Baker study presentation is available on the town website, via the following link..

[Final Baker Study Presentation, June 2, 2015](#)

– end of editorial comment]

Council approved, 7 -0 to enter the information into public record.

Item 11, Professional Services Contract with Mr. Steven Betts: In order facilitate exploration of P3 (Public / Private Partnership) opportunities in Carefree the council was asked to consider a 1 year contract for Mr. Betts, an extremely successful and noted expert in such matters. Mr. Betts has an exceptionally deep resume and is highly regarded by many other experts in this field. The contract calls for a fee of \$5,000 per month, considered to be very favorable for Carefree, and is covered in the new budget. Council approved authorizing the mayor to enter a 1 year contract, 7 – 0.

Item 12, LED Light Conversion: The town staff sought approval for a plan to convert all existing faux gas lamps in the town center to LED technology. The cost was cited as \$500 per fixture (46 mentioned) for a total of \$19,000 overall. *[I may have missed something since $46 \times 500 = 23,000$]* The question of break-even on that investment was raised but no definitive information was available. A local business, **Let The Be Light**, will be awarded the contract. The Plan was approved, 7 – 0.

Items 13, Restoration/Repair of the Sun Dial Reflective Pool: At the time the reflective pool fell into disrepair, it was considered too costly to repair and maintain. It was subsequently drained and filled with landscaping rocks. With new technologies now available, and with the desire to add interest in the core environment, it was proposed to enter a contact with another local business, *EcoBlue*, to replace pipes and resurface the pool with new coatings and materials to reduce ongoing maintenance. The cost would be approximately \$40,000; including other water features, which also need repair, will add another \$14,500. The work can be completed by July. The project was approved, 7 – 0.

Item 14, Median Upkeep / Landscaping Contract: The town budgeted approximately \$60K for a maintenance contract with Desert Foothills Landscaping for median upkeep in upcoming Fiscal Year. The contract provides a substantial discount for what is already known to be high quality work. Council approved awarding the contract, 7 – 0.

Item 15, Town Council Updates – Areas of Focus:

Administrative: – Mayor Peterson reported that a committee has been formed to update the Town Code and late June is the expected start date to begin work. A Long Range Financial Plan committee has already begun work on a new LRF that will be an evolving document as opposed to a static plan. It will target a 5 year future window and will be updated as significant events dictate. The target date for completion is August.

Town Center Improvement – Several projects were outline by Councilwoman Price. A Splash Pad, with a Scorpion feature is in planning; discussions are underway with Southwest Gas regarding two fireplaces, Glenn Miller to obtain cost data; the Gateway project is beginning, with architect plans expected late June and surveys to be done in July; work on new town logos and website is in the works and a Public Arts program is under consideration.

Liberty/Black Mtn Sewer (L/BMS) - L/BMS had agreed to begin working on a new rate case shortly. Optimistic estimates are 12 – 14 months but it could take a full 2 years. Our negotiating group offered several ideas to address the current rate constraints, but unfortunately no concessions were obtained.

Council Chambers: Council members Miller and Price have been responsible for negotiating a potential lease extension on the current space, which could include sub-leasing unused space formerly occupied by the Town and Court. The Council planned to enter Executive Session at the end of the public meeting to discuss contract issues.

Land Use / Planning - nothing to report at present.

Special Planning Areas – Councilman Farrar reported that he will be traveling to Sonora Mexico as part of a Trade Group Delegation to promote Arizona/Sonora business with that thriving economic area of Mexico. He also reported on a meeting with the Carefree Resort. There are plans underway to institute a Shuttle Bus service with Scottsdale in a co-marketing arrangement.

Item 16, Adjournment: The council voted to enter Executive Session prior to adjournment. The Public meeting essentially ended at approximately 7PM.

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Respectfully submitted by Jim Van Allen and John Traynor

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