



Friends of Carefree, I hope you're ready for 80° temperatures because they'll be here this week! This month, after the Council meeting, there was also an Executive session, topic(s) undisclosed.

Meeting Alert: Mayor Les Peterson has scheduled a Council Workshop (a public meeting) for February 28th to discuss a number of important topics relating to Carefree's economic picture and the future of entertainment events, fairs, & festivals. This will be a very important meeting for Carefree's economic future. I strongly urge residents to attend if at all possible. According to a COINS notice just received, the meeting will now be held at 6:00pm in the **Mesquite Room** at the Holland Center. [*The Town Meetings Calendar shows 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM @ Holland Community Center, Building B, Quail Room.*]

Town Council Meeting, February 7, 2017 at 5:00PM

Items 1 - 7, Consent Agenda: All items were related to routine town business (meeting minutes, bills, financial reports, event permits, etc.).

Jim Van Allen asked for #2 to be held for discussion and Mike Farrar asked that # 6 be held as well. All others were approved 7 - 0. Item #2 related to a payment to Ray Villafane. Mr. Neiss explained that the payment in the check register was an anticipated part of the \$150K committed in the current budget year. The question on Item #6 related to street closures during various fairs & festivals. Mayor Peterson asked if the item could be deferred until a future meeting, subsequent to a public meeting covering topics such as Carefree fairs and festivals strategy, scheduled for February 28th.

Item #2 was approved, 7 - 0; Item #6 was deferred by a similar vote.

Item 8, Call to the Public: There were 3 speakers. Robert Jacobsen brought attention to dangerous/unsafe road situations resulting from the ADOT Bicycle Lane project. In contacting ADOT he learned that their responsibilities ended when the project was completed. After further discussion, at the Council meeting, he agreed to a follow-up meeting with Town staff to pursue the issue(s).

Tom Fiedler commented on the dangers he perceives on Cave Creek Road north of Carefree Highway near Canyon Ridge Drive. He suggested reducing the speed limit, installing a traffic light, or using other speed control techniques to address his concerns. [*In the past, residents have expressed strong opposition to traffic lights in Carefree.*] The Mayor asked MCSO Captain Rustenburg if we could obtain MCSO accident statistics for that area. Once again a follow-up meeting will be scheduled.

Lyn Hitchon commented that she is involved in her HOA (Sentinel Rock) and interacts with other HOAs in the area. She said their communities would not look favorably on street lighting, and referred to their appreciation of dark skies.

Item 9, Current Events: Councilman Van Allen spoke about the public meeting that is scheduled for February 28th, which will focus on Carefree's economic future, and encouraged residents to attend. Councilman Farrar mentioned that he was invited to participate in a GPEC meeting (Greater Phoenix Economic Council) tentatively scheduled for Feb 23rd. It will be a "Ted Talk" format to highlight the many advantages of living and doing business in Carefree.

Item 10: Appointment to fill a vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission: Mayor Peterson introduced the topic and mentioned that there were 6 fine candidates interested in filling the vacancy. Those candidates were Heather Burgett, Joseph DeVito, Ralph Ferro, Stephen Hatcher, Gary Hayward, and Elena Pavlova. The Mayor went on to say that while currently only one vacancy is to be filled he hoped that the remaining candidates would still be interested in serving the Town in other capacities. He put forth a recommendation that Heather Burgett be the person selected and that the council consider also naming Joe DeVito as the alternate, in the event there is another vacancy. A motion was made, and seconded, to accept the Mayor's recommendation(s). Council approved, 7 - 0.

Item 11, Architectural contract for 33 Easy Street: Mr. Neiss presented material relating to the Town's purchase of the building at 33 Easy Street, including the timeline associated with that purchase, including subsequent and future events. Since the termination of the Ed Lewis Sales Office lease, the building is now available for conversion to the new home of the Carefree Town Council Chambers. A Professional Services Contract to develop "a biddable set of construction documents and specifications" was presented. The costs outlined total \$18,100. The council approved the contract, which will be awarded to Mike Uhler of Kenneth C. Bartels & Associates. A 10% contingency was added. Approved, 7 - 0. The tentative occupancy date is September 2017. The proposed *[estimated 85 seat]* layout can be viewed [here](#).

Item 12, Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:05PM.

Question of the Month: *Are you interested in Carefree's financial future, and are you aware of the things that comprise the town's income?* On February 28th there will be a Town Council Workshop, open to the public. The focus of the workshop will be on Carefree's financial situation and strategies for the future.

Feel free to suggest future questions and keep 'em coming!

Let me hear from you.

Respectfully submitted by John Traynor

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