



Friends of Carefree, there was yet another Special Meeting of the Town Council on Thursday, August 27th. There was no advanced COINS notice. As a result no 'civilian' residents were in attendance.

Special Town Council Meeting, August 27, 2015, 5:00PM

Councilman Orrico was not present but attempted to participate by phone.

Item 1, Additional funding for the Bike Lanes project. The Town Planner presented a summary of the actual construction bids, the lowest of which was \$127,635 higher than initially estimated. Carefree's share of the project increased by \$77,005. The Council approved the additional funding.

Item 2, Proposed Gateway Locations & Evaluation Matrix. Seven potential sites were considered (details available on our [Archives](#) page, in the Slides, Charts, Attachments section). Unfortunately the recording of the meeting did not start at the beginning of the meeting, and even with the new chamber sound system the recording is still not clear or entirely intelligible. In particular Councilwoman Price is very difficult to hear. She made announcements, one about a generous donation, but details were difficult to hear. When all was said and done, the 6 members of the Council present were split on the number of Primary Gateways needed with Gearhart, Miller, and Price wanting at least 4 and Crane, Farrar, and Peterson favoring only two (one on Tom Darlington and one on Cave Creek Road). Further action is pending.

*[Sorry, but an Editorial comment is sorely needed here –How many Gateways does it take for a visitor to realize they are in Carefree? Residents can only hope that common sense and moral integrity will lead **each** Council member individually to vote for a modest, rational approach to Gateways of any sort. Personal relationships between 4 of the Council members should never be a factor when they vote on Town projects. These Gateways are not 25¢ Tootsie pops. At the **preliminary** estimated cost of \$100,000 each, they should project Carefree dignity and class, not redundant gaudiness. Several years ago, some council members had their fling with what many residents called Circus Signs – thank God those are gone. It is far easier, not to mention less costly, to remove signs than to remove monuments. Ask yourself why it was necessary to rush the vote on such an important and visible Gateway project, at a special meeting, when the regular Council meeting will be held a few days later on Tuesday?]*

Item 3, Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30PM.

There will be another Special Council meeting on Tuesday, at 3:30 for the Council to again enter Executive Session (private). The *regular* monthly Council meeting will follow at 5PM. The agenda for the regular meeting, posted Friday, contains numerous items on the Consent Agenda to be approved but, in essence, there are only three action items to be addressed. Those include appointment of an applicant to fill a vacancy on the Planning & Zoning Commission, a purchase for the Public Works department, and approval for the number and location of Primary Gateway Monuments.

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Respectfully submitted by Jim Van Allen and John Traynor

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