

**MINUTES OF THE CAREFREE  
TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING**

**WHEN:** TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020

**WHERE:** ZOOM WEB <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/86148712809>  
MEETING ID: 861 4871 2809\*

**TIME:** 4:45 P.M.

**Town Council Attending:**

Mayor Les Peterson  
Vice Mayor John Crane  
Vince D'Aliesio  
Michael Krahe  
Cheryl Kroyer  
Gene Orrico

**Town Council Absent:**

Stephen Hatcher

**Staff Present:**

Gary Neiss, Town Administrator; Jim Keen, Town Accountant/Assistant Clerk; Kandace French, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

**AGENDA:**

**ITEM #1** PUBLIC HEARING: Discussion and possible action regarding approval of Resolution 2020-04: Determining and Adopting Estimates of Proposed Expenditures by the Town of Carefree for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 and Ending June 30, 2021 and Declaring that Such Shall Constitute the Budget for the Town of Carefree for Such Fiscal Year.

**ITEM #2** Adjournment.

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and introduced Town Administrator, Gary Neiss.

Mr. Neiss provided a Power Point presentation and gave a history of the process of developing the current budget. He reminded the public that any questions regarding the budget can be emailed to [Kandace@carefree.org](mailto:Kandace@carefree.org) and they will be addressed.

He reminded everyone that this was the final meeting to adopt the fiscal year 20-21 budget. He stated the process started in May with the Budget Workshops outlining the budget overview and the line item review. In June an additional meeting was held to review and adopt the tentative budget and with the current meeting, the Council can adopt the final budget. The fiscal year started July 1, 2020. The tentative budget was adopted before July 1<sup>st</sup>. Due to COVID-19; and many municipalities have yet to adopt their final budget. Carefree is one of the first to do so.

Mr. Neiss noted some of the budget highlights, including an approximately 20% overall reduction in revenues due mainly to COVID-19, and a corresponding reduction in expenditures. However, the Town is fiscally conservative and the Reserves are currently at their highest levels ever for the Town at approximately \$10.5 million. Past fiscal responsibility and restraint will allow for reinvestment in infrastructure of approximately \$5 million forecasted for the next fiscal year.

Overall the town will break even in FY 20/21 despite the COVID-19 reductions. Mr. Neiss also went over the core contributors that are essential services. This allowed for stabilization of sales tax as well as construction sales tax over the balance of the next year due to large construction projects such as the Hampton Inn.

Mr. Neiss described the operation and maintenance revenues and investments for the next fiscal year under a cost recovery model. He explained the next and final steps to adopt the budget. He reminded the public and council that the Town staff is lean and wears many hats and are crossed trained and nimble. This result in about 30% of the revenue stream is invested in the Town's human resources. The required schedules were published for notice and the State Auditor will receive the forms for posting.

Council Member Orrico asked if the line item for Economic Development replaced Marketing.

Mayor Peterson responded that it did, but that Economic Development will have a minor role in marketing as well.

There were no questions from the public.

Council Member Orrico moved to approve the Resolution and adopt the final budget. There was a second by Council Member Kroyer. The motion carried unanimously.

Meeting ended at 4:58 p.m.

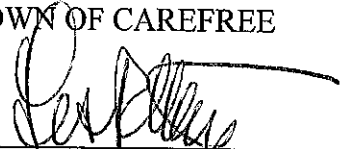
DATED this 8<sup>th</sup> of July, 2020.

TOWN OF CAREFREE


BY: 

Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk

TOWN OF CAREFREE

  
Les Peterson, Mayor

Attest:

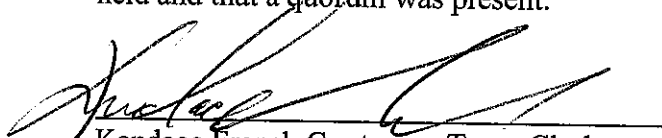


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Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Budget Hearing of the Town of Carefree held July 7, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



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Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk