

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CAREFREE TOWN COUNCIL**

**WHEN:** TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

**WHERE:** ZOOM WEB <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81187678842>  
MEETING ID: 811 8767 8842\*

**TIME:** 5:00 P.M.

**Town Council Attending:**

Mayor Les Peterson  
Vice Mayor John Crane  
Vince D'Aliesio  
Stephen Hatcher  
Michael Krahe  
Cheryl Kroyer

**Town Council Absent:**

Gene Orrico

**Staff Present:**

Gary Neiss, Town Administrator; Michael Wright, Town Attorney; Stacey Bridge-Denzak, Planning and Zoning Director; Kandace French, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

Mayor Peterson called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Vince D'Aliesio led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- ITEM #1** Approval of the July 7, 2020 Town Council Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes.
- ITEM #2** Approval of the July 7, 2020 Town Council Meeting Minutes.
- ITEM #3** Approval of the August 5, 2020 Town Council Special Meeting Minutes.
- ITEM #4** Acceptance into the public record of the July 2020 paid bills.
- ITEM #5** Acceptance of the cash receipts and disbursements report for June, 2020.
- ITEM #6** Authorize the disbursement of budgeted funds for the purchase of a brush/wood chipper for the Public Works Department.

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and went over the various Consent Agenda items. He reminded the Council that this was the last report for the fiscal year and we finished down in revenue by 6.2%. He said this was not as bad as we forecasted given the pandemic. The bulk of

the reduction came in March, April and May period. A deposit of \$600,000 was entered into reserves and investments in infrastructure took place. He asked if there were any questions or a motion.

Vice Mayor Crane **moved** to approve agenda items #1 through #4 and #6. . There was a **second** by Council Member Kroyer. The motion **carried** unanimously.

Council Member D'Aliesio had a question regarding agenda item #5. One of the line items on the July register – He asked if the \$32, 000 was paid to MCSO monthly and how did it work?

Gary Neiss responded and stated that, yes. That is our monthly payment for MCSO service.

Council Member D'Aliesio **moved** to approve agenda items #5. There was a **second** by Council Member Kroyer. The motion **carried** unanimously.

### **REGULAR AGENDA:**

#### **(Taken out of order)**

#### **ITEM #8**      **Current Events.**

Vice Mayor Crane announced an update to the Veteran's Memorial project and the installation of the flagpole. He said Mike Ferrell, the veteran managing the project, told him that the crane will be arriving Sunday or Monday to move the granite slabs as part of the memorial. They are 3 to 5 tons each. Within the next week or two they will install the benches and pavers. He said that Devin Smith, as an Eagle Scout project, has already managed the installation of the flagpole.

He also announced that the Census enumerators are now on the streets of Carefree visiting people in homes that have not responded to the Census. He encouraged residents to go online or on the phone and complete the Census in order to have a faster response time and to reduce the time the enumerators are out in the heat of the day counting residents for the Census. He gave more information regarding the website. He said about 25% of our revenue is typically based on the number of residents in Carefree. He said it was critical everyone responded.

Mayor Peterson spoke regarding an update on traffic control and the focus on Stagecoach Pass and Cave Creek Road. He has spoken with the new MCSO Captain of the District Four. Additional patrol will increase even further in October. Traffic control is a priority with MCSO.

Council Member Krahe provided an update on the Desert Foothills Leadership Program. He has been working on the program for two year. They are moving forward with the program in concert with the Chamber of Commerce and the Foothills Community Foundation. The group is ready to launch the program in January, 2021 and marketing will begin in the next couple of months. It will bring tremendous value to leadership to the community.

Council Member Hatcher asked for an update on the crosswalk project development.

Council Member Kroyer and Town Administrator Gary Neiss responded and said the traffic engineers are in the process of seeking grants to pay for the project since COVID created a loss of revenue. Mr. Neiss added that the majority of the MAG grants focus on fatalities, and thankfully, Carefree has not had any fatalities so it puts the Town at a disadvantage in the application process.

Mr. Neiss also stated that a tour with all of the Council Members of all the crosswalks had been postponed since last March, but it will still occur after it cools down to permit the Council Members to understand the unique challenges of each crosswalk.

**ITEM #7      Call to the Public**

James Dove submitted public comment which was read into the record by Town Clerk/Treasurer, Kandace French. Mr. Dove commented regarding the threat to public health by the water being supplied by Cave Creek to Carefree residents. He cited a listing of potential long-term health effects and urged the Town of Carefree to move forward on the condemnation of the water service of the Carefree residents served by Cave Creek.

Mr. Dove spoke regarding the rate increase by Liberty Utilities and that he felt the rate requested by Liberty was unreasonable and he urged Carefree to do everything possible to persuade the Arizona Corporation Commission to reject the proposed rate increase.

**ITEM #9      Review, discussion and possible action to approve Resolution 2020-06 regarding the position of the Town of Carefree as it relates to the proposed Liberty Utilities/Black Mountain Sewer rate increase.**

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and explained the history of the Town of Carefree's involvement as an Intervenor in the Liberty Utilities/Black Mountain Sewer rate increase request of over 32%.

A group of Homeowner's Associations, as well as Scottsdale resident, Bob Moore, are also involved as well as "RUCO", the Residential Utilities Consumer Office, who takes the position of residents and review Arizona Corporation Commission filings, and the Arizona Corporation Commission Staff have also weighed in on the matter. The Town of Carefree opposes the rate increase as submitted. Mayor Peterson explained the claims and the financial costs involved.

The Resolution provides the Town of Carefree with authorization to be active as an Intervenor and advocate for the residents, and support RUCO and others parties involved in the rate increase request.

Council Member D'Aliesio presented questions as to the last rate increase date and amount.

Mayor Peterson and Vice Mayor Crane responded. Vice Mayor Crane added that the hearing date is September 16<sup>th</sup>. Between now and that time, he encouraged residents to review the documents on the ACC website and express their opinion of the matter.

There was additional discussion on the matter.

Vice Mayor Crane moved to approve the Resolution as written. There was a second by Council Member Krahe. The motion carried unanimously.

**ITEM #10 Adjournment.**

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and asked for a motion.

Council Member Krahe moved to adjourn. There was a second by Council Member Kroyer. The motion carried unanimously.

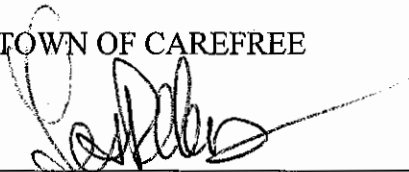
Meeting ended at 5:35 p.m.

DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2020.


TOWN OF CAREFREE

BY:   
Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk

TOWN OF CAREFREE

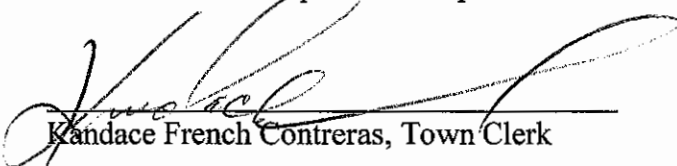
  
Les Peterson, Mayor

Attest:

  
Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Regular Meeting of the Town of Carefree held August 11, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

  
Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk