

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

WHEN: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

WHERE: ZOOM WEB <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3229729660>
MEETING ID: 322 972 9660

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

Town Council Attending:

Mayor Les Peterson
Vice Mayor John Crane
Vince D'Aliesio
Stephen Hatcher
Cheryl Kroyer
Gene Orrico

Town Council Absent:

Michael Krahe

Staff Present:

Gary Neiss, Town Administrator; Michael Wright, Town Attorney; Stephen Prokopek, Economic Development Director; Jim Keen, Town Accountant and Assistant Clerk; Kandace French, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

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

Stephen Hatcher led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM #1 Approval of the September 1, 2020 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

ITEM #2 Approval of the October 6, 2020 Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

ITEM #3 Approval of the October 13, 2020 Strategic Planning Workshop Meeting Minutes.

ITEM #4 Acceptance into the public record of the October, 20208 paid bills.

ITEM #5 Acceptance of the cash receipts and disbursements report for September, 2020.

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and asked if there were any questions. There being none, he asked for a motion.

Council Member Orrico **moved** to approve the Consent Agenda. There was a **second** by Council Member Hatcher. The motion **carried** unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM #6 **Call to the Public: Public.**

Mayor Peterson asked the Town Clerk, Kandace French Contreras, if any public comment had been submitted to the Council.

Mrs. French Contreras stated that there were no public comments submitted.

Town Administrator, Gary Neiss, reiterated to the public that comments could be sent during the meeting for reading by the Town Clerk at ***Kandace@Carefree.org***.

ITEM #7 **Current Events.**

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and asked for current events.

Vice Mayor Crane provided an update on the Veteran's Day Program being held on November 11th and the COVID-19 precautions being taken to protect the staff and public during the event. He stated the new Veterans Memorial was completed and the program for Veteran's Day had been modified to reduce the number of attendees at one time and the program would continue from sunrise until 4:00 p.m. with various events throughout the day.

Vice Mayor Crane then provided an update on the AT&T Veteran's Day Run held on November 7, 2020. He stated it was successful and several thousands of dollars were raised. He thanked AT&T Veterans organization for acting as the bank in support of the Veterans Memorial, allowing donations to run through their website and making those donations tax deductible.

Economic Development Director, Steve Prokopek, provided information regarding the upcoming production of the *Sound of Music* being presented in the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion by the Desert Foothills Theater. The event has been so well received that the tickets have sold out. However, other ideas are being explored to enhance the availability of the event to make it available to additional audience members.

Steve provided the dates of the performance and explained the COVID precautions being taken.

(Taken out of order)

ITEM #10 **Presentation regarding COVID precaution plan for Thunderbird Artists' Fine Art and Wine Festivals January 15-17 and March 12-14, 2020.**

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item out of order and re-introduced Economic Development Director, Steve Prokopek and Denise from the Thunderbird Artists.

Denise explained that the wine tasting has been removed from the event to discourage people from gathering in areas and remove the reason for attendees to remove their masks. The cost of providing the wine tasting is also prohibitive should the event be cancelled for any reason.

Steve presented a Power Point and provided additional information regarding the layout and one way routes that will be implemented as well as additional measures set out in the COVID Management Plan. He said that Fountain Hills is holding their show prior to the Carefree event and he will attend and assess the event to observe what did and didn't work.

Steven said the COVID plan will be posted at the event and on the Carefree Town website. He didn't detail all the steps but provided general information and reiterated that the full plan is available to the public.

Denise also stated that the Thunderbird Artists are working with the Maricopa County Department of Public Health to make the event safe. There will be sanitizing stations throughout the event and at each tent. If any vendor is unable to comply with the mask requirement, they are required to post a notice at their tent.

Council Member D'Aliesio asked how the attendance numbers would be regulated to prevent over-attendance during busy times.

Denise responded and said that it was a difficult process but they would request that individuals practice social distancing and that approximately 300 people would be maximum attendees at one time. The lack of wine tasting is expected to significantly reduce attendance.

Council Member Kroyer commented that someone needs to monitor entrances to maintain a reasonable attendance without overwhelming the areas with too many people.

There were additional comments and discussion regarding music and monitoring attendance. Steve stated that several steps were also being taken to minimize any handouts or items that people would touch. Key codes and online information will be utilized as well. People will also be encouraged to follow a "rule of the road" pathway and only go in one direction. Periodic announcements will also be made and signage will be utilized. Security individuals will also encourage everyone to keep their masks on during attendance.

There were additional questions regarding masks. Denise and Steve responded.

Town Administrator, Gary Neiss, reiterated what other promoters are doing to hold events safely within the Valley and that continued communication will be utilized as the event gets closure.

Denise asked if the event had been approved because they need to begin promoting the event.

Steve reiterated that the event has already been approved.

ITEM #8 Review, discussion and possible action to accept the findings of the 2019-2020 Fiscal Year audit for the Town of Carefree and the Carefree – Cave Creek Consolidated Court.

A representative from the firm of Heinfeld Meech will attend.

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and introduced Town Administrator, Gary Neiss and Town Accountant Jim Keen as well as Heinfeld Meech staff.

Mr. Neiss provided a synopsis of the annual audit process and the three agencies, the Town, the Court and the Water District. He reminded the Council that the purpose of the audit is to ensure compliance with the standards set by governmental accounting standards. He stated that all the agencies received a clean audit yet again. He stated that this year a new auditor was used to continue to keep a fresh set of eyes on the process. The auditor is usually changed every five years for that reason and the Town went through the procurement process this past Spring to hire a new audit firm. Mr. Neiss commended Town Accountant, Jim Keen, on his excellent work that resulted in a clean audit and transparent procedures and transactions.

Mr. Neiss explained Mr. Keen would update the Council regarding the financial adjustments that were made to move transactions to the correct fiscal year. All that information is in front of the Council.

Mr. Keen presented a comparison by department and how things stand by department. He showed that the report restates June, July and August and the accompanying accruals. The only auditor's adjusting entry was the sales tax that came in July that they determined should be credited to June. He detailed the funds deposited into the Reserve Fund.

Two of the audit staff were introduced to the Council Jennifer Shields and Jaren Young.

Council Member Hatcher asked for details regarding the adjustment of funds from July to June. He also asked about the 11% tax revenue increase.

Jim Keen and the audit staff responded.

Jennifer Shield stated that she is required to send additional communication is required to explain the relationship between the auditor and auditee and asked that the Mayor share that information with the Council. It reflects that there were no disagreements with the staff or management, no difficulties were encountered and that all the reporting is in good standing. She reiterated the clean audit is a testament to the good practices by the Town staff.

Mr. Neiss asked for a motion to accept the audit into the public record.

Council Member Orrico **moved** to accept the audit. There was a **second** by Council Member Kroyer. The motion **carried** unanimously.

The Council thanked the staff for their outstanding work on the financial aspects of the Town of Carefree.

Later –

It was determined that the audit of the Carefree – Cave Creek Consolidated Court was inadvertently missed from the motion stated above.

Council Member Orrico restated and revised the Motion to include the approval and acceptance of the Audit of the Cave Creek Consolidated Court.

There was a **second** by Council Member Kroyer. The motion **carried** unanimously.

Mayor Peterson then reminded everyone that the next meeting of the Council will be on November 18th for the swearing in of the new council members and Town's strategic plan.

ITEM #9 **Review, discussion and possible action to approve of Resolution 2020-09, a preliminary plat request approving the request to subdivide approximately 7.55 net acres zoned R1-35 Single Family Residential into 6 residential lots for a new subdivision named Estates at Carefree.**

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and introduced and introduced the Director of Planning and Zoning, Stacey Bridge - Denzak.

Mrs. Bridge – Denzak explained the required approval of the preliminary plat to flesh out any obstacles or constructability issues in the project before the final plat approval. She explained the rezoning of the parcel last year and the creation of six residential lots. She provided a map that provided the location and layout of the property. She laid out the characteristics of the property and the existing home. She gave details regarding wash, right-of-ways belonging to Scottsdale.

Mrs. Bridge – Denzak provided details regarding the six lots and their sizes. Carefree Water will serve the lots and each lot will be on septic. She also reviewed grading and drainage which will comply with a 100 year, 2 hour storm event. There was work with the engineers to develop various basins for drainage. She also went over landscaping requirements.

Mrs. Bridge – Denzak reiterated the various public and Board meetings addressing the development and plat requests as well as conditions for approval and the CC&Rs. The applicant and development partner appeared by Zoom and were introduced.

The applicant addressed questions regarding home quality and value.

After additional discussion,

Council Member Kroyer **moved** to approve Resolution 2020-09. There was a **second** by Vice Mayor Crane. The motion **carried** unanimously.

ITEM #11 **Review, discussion and possible action to approve a temporary street closure for the Desert Foothills Theater production of Sound of Music on November 12 -14, 2020 and November 19-21, 2020.**

Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and re-introduced Economic Development Director, Steve Prokopek.

Mr. Prokopek explained the needs of the Desert Foothills Theater in putting on the production of the Sound of Music. He described the need for cast, including children, to go behind the theater during the performance and cast changes. Due to the darkness and safety reasons, the Desert Foothills Theater requested closure of that short section of the street for safety.

Mr. Prokopek explained the steps taken to mitigate any adverse effect on the businesses.

Council Member Kroyer **moved** to approve the agenda item. There was a **second** by Vice Mayor Crane. The motion **carried** unanimously.

ITEM #12 Adjournment.

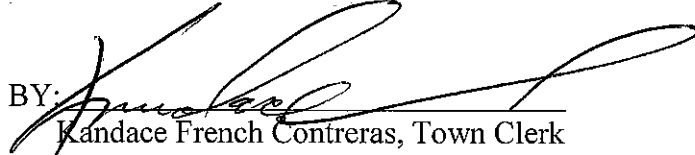
Mayor Peterson announced the agenda item and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Orrico **moved** to adjourn. There was a **second** by Council Member Hatcher. The motion **carried** unanimously.


The meeting ended at 6:13 p.m.

DATED this 11th day of November, 2020.

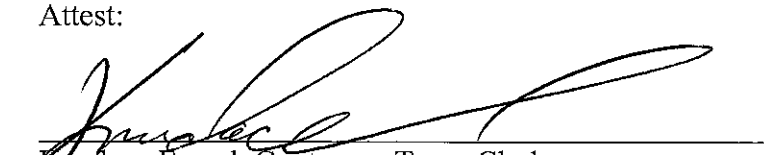
TOWN OF CAREFREE

BY: 
Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk

TOWN OF CAREFREE

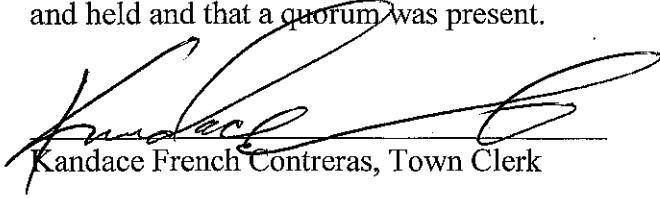

Les Peterson, Mayor

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 November 10, 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk

