

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

WHEN: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021

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
Tony Geiger
Stephen Hatcher
Mike Johnson
Cheryl Kroyer

Town Council Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Gary Neiss, Town Administrator; Michael Wright, Town Attorney; Jennifer Shields, CPA, Heinfeld Meech; Jared Young, Heinfeld Meech; Jim Keen, Town Accountant; Mark Milstone, Town Engineer; Kandace French, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

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

Judge Tara Parascandola led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

ITEM #1 Review, discussion and possible action to accept the findings of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year audit.

Representatives from the firm of Heinfeld Meech attended electronically.

Presenting via PowerPoint, Town Administrator Neiss provided introductory remarks and background information regarding the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year audit for both the Town of Carefree and the Carefree/Cave Creek Consolidated Court. Mr. Neiss was pleased to announce, the Town of Carefree and Consolidated Court have clean audits and are compliant with GASB requirements. Emphasizing there are very transparent financial procedures in place within the Town of Carefree. Mr. Neiss commended Town of Carefree Accountant/Deputy Clerk, Jim Keen, for establishing the many checks and balances, working with auditors very closely, year in and year out, reviewing the towns respective receipts to ensure the required principals are met.

Due to onetime construction sales tax receipts and COVID relief funds earmarked for water infrastructure, reserves have significantly increased this past year.

Mr. Neiss provided a table exhibiting, 10-year revenue vs. expenditures 2012 through 2021, expressing the importance of going over these capital reserves, as the funds are allocated to aging infrastructure that in the future, the town needs to invest in.

Town of Carefree Accountant/Deputy Clerk, Jim Keen provided additional information to clarify specific documents on the Town's clean audit. Judge Parascandola addressed the Consolidated Court's clean audit and was pleased to announce that there were no findings acknowledging that this reflects the careful and detailed work of Court Administrator, Marilyn Dodge. The clean audit results reflect the strict compliance with minimum accounting standards and all of the protections and procedures that are in place at the court.

Town Administrator Neiss and Mr. Keen responded to questions and comments from Town Council.

Councilperson Hatcher **MOVED TO APPROVE AND ACCEPT** the findings of the FY 2020-2021 annual audit for the Town of Carefree Arizona and the Carefree/Cave Creek Consolidated Court and the annual expenditure limitation report for the Town of Carefree Arizona for the year ending June 30, 2021. **SECONDED** by Councilperson Geiger. **CARRIED** 6-0, with Councilperson Kroyer abstaining because she was unable to hear the presentation during the Zoom meeting.

ITEM #2 **Review, discussion, and possible action to approve temporary improvements for the existing crosswalk located at Ridgeview Place/Ho Road.**

Carefree Town Engineer, Mark Milstone presented via PowerPoint, updated drawings from Rick Engineering exhibiting 3 different methods of crosswalk improvements for the Ridgeview Place crossing at Tom Darlington Drive - Ho Road intersection. Mr. Milstone presented the following are the three options:

1. Striping, Chevrons/Diagonals and DAGMARS (traffic buttons) in the paint stripes.
2. Rubber curbing to narrow down the lanes, raised pavement markers on top of curb or post mounted reflectors and rock filled islands.
3. Modular medians. (A large, raised platform)

Mr. Millstone provided comparative costs associated with the 3 options and responded to questions from Town Council. Town Engineer Milstone informed the group that for two years in a row the Town of Carefree has not been granted MAG funding, concluding, this is a low-cost scenario that addresses the safety improvements at one of the intersections. Town Administrator Neiss added that a step approach like this, allows citizens to adjust. If the Town receives criticism or concerns it will be easier to make any necessary changes. This temporary lane configuration allows the Town to introduce this concept and have the community acclimate to these changes while we move toward a more permanent solution and make the associated changes. Mr. Millstone addressed questions regarding timeframe to complete the improvements.

Councilperson Kroyer **MOVED TO APPROVE** Option #1, for temporary improvements for the existing crosswalk located at Ridgeview Place/Ho Road with an estimated total cost of 20,000.00. **SECONDED** by Councilperson Geiger. **CARRIED**, 7-0.

ITEM #3 Approval of the temporary, partial street closure of Cave Creek Road to one lane from Mule Train to Pima to accommodate parking for the Wheels and Wings event at SkyRanch at Carefree for on April 2, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Peterson introduced the item. Explaining that this is the same parking configuration as it was a year ago and there were no known issues. The event hosts were very conscientious about directing traffic. Mayor Peterson remarked that this was a wonderful event with tremendous participation.

Vice Mayor Crane announced, this year is the 60th Anniversary of the SkyRanch Airport. Vice Mayor Crane also summarized the event details and responded to questions.

Vice Mayor Crane **MOVED TO APPROVE** the temporary, partial street closure of Cave Creek Road to one lane from Mule Train to Pima to accommodate parking for the Wheels and Wings event at SkyRanch at Carefree for on April 2, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **SECONDED** Councilperson Kroyer. **CARRIED**, 7-0.

ITEM #4 Discussion and possible action to go into Executive Session in accordance with A.R.S. § 38-431.03(A)(3) for discussion or consultation for legal advice with the Town Attorney.

Vice Mayor Crane **MOVED** to go into Executive Session. The motion was **SECONDED** Councilperson Kroyer. **CARRIED**, 7-0.

Executive Session began at 6:04 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 7:00 p.m.

ITEM #5 Adjournment.

Councilperson Kroyer **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED** by Councilperson D'Aliesio. **CARRIED**, 7-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

DATED this 14th day of December, 2021.

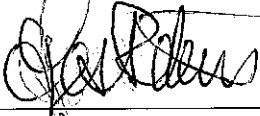
TOWN OF CAREFREE

BY:



Samantha J. Gesell, Planning Clerk

TOWN OF CAREFREE



Les Peterson, Mayor

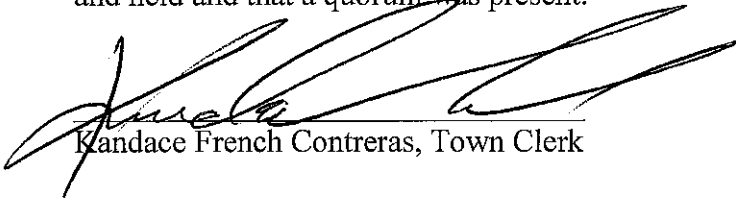
Attest:



Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Special Meeting of the Town of Carefree held December 14, 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk