

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

WHEN: TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022
WHERE: ZOOM
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; Stacey Bridge Denzak, Planning Director; Manny Bustamante, Town Prosecutor; Stephen Prokopek, Economic Development Director; Jim Keen, Town Accountant; Kandace French, Town Clerk/Treasurer.

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

Tony Geiger led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed hereunder are considered to be routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be discussed separately:

- ITEM #1** Approval of the December 7, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.
- ITEM #2** Approval of the December 14, 2021, Town Council Special Meeting Minutes.
- ITEM #3** Acceptance into the public record of the December 2021 paid bills.
- ITEM #4** Acceptance of the cash receipts and disbursements report for October 2021.

Councilmember Kroyer **MOVED TO APPROVE** items 1 THRU 4 of the consent agenda. **SECONDED** by Vice Mayor Crane. **CARRIED** 7-0.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

ITEM #5 Call to the Public: Consideration of comments from the public. Pursuant to Section 2-4-7(G) of the Town Code and A.R.S. 38-431.01 (H), those wishing to address the Council need not request permission in advance. The public may address the Council on matters not on the agenda. At the conclusion of an open call to the public, individual members of the public body may respond to criticism made by those who have addressed the public body, may ask staff to review a consideration and decision at a later date, or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, the Council may not discuss or take legal action at this time. Please limit your comments to not more than 3 minutes.

There was no submission for Call to the Public.

REGULAR AGENDA:

ITEM #6 Current Events.

Vice Mayor Crane presented information on the upcoming Garden Series presentation by Dr. Jacqueline Soule, on lush and low water landscapes, to be held on Saturday, January 08, 2022, at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanderson Lincoln Pavilion.

With the onset of new COVID variants, Mayor Peterson provided an update on the status of holding Council Meetings in person.

ITEM #7 Review, discussion, and possible action to accept the accrual reversals for the Fiscal Year '20 - '21 audit.

Carefree Accountant Jim Keen provided an overview of the accrual reversal process, which ensures that monies are reversed where they have already been booked into the previous fiscal year. Mr. Keen responded to questions from Council.

Mayor Peterson reiterated that Carefree had a completely clean audit for last year.

Vice Mayor Crane **MOVED TO ACCEPT** the accrual reversals for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 audit. **SECONDED** by Councilmember Hatcher. **CARRIED** 7-0.

ITEM #8 First Reading of Ordinance #2022-01; an amendment to the Carefree Town Code to address conflicting Class 1 misdemeanor penalties in *Chapter 10 Building* and general inconsistencies throughout Town Code regarding penalties.

Planning Director Zoning Administrator, Stacey Bridge-Denzak presented via PowerPoint details of amendments to Carefree Town Code. These amendments are important to how the Town manages and enforces the Carefree Town Code.

Ms. Bridge-Denzak summarized the ordinance "housekeeping" items, explaining, in Chapters 1, 5, and 6 in Town Code where a misdemeanor is defined as the violation's penalty, it is best to state that this is a *Class 1 misdemeanor*. Adding, to remedy Chapters 10 and 11 pertaining to Class 1 misdemeanors, the penalties shall be as they are described in Arizona Revised Statute. Director Bridge-Denzak reminded that this is the first of two required readings.

Vice Mayor Crane recognized that the Town is not changing any penalties, only amending the text in certain areas of Town Code.

Mayor Peterson pointed out Chapter 10 – BUILDING, states *any person, firm, or corporation* and questioned, should the definition be expanded to include LLC's, LLP's etc. covering all legal entities who could potentially build in the Town of Carefree and said suggested changes made to the text.

No one came forward with a public comment.

ITEM #9 Review, discussion, and possible action to consider approval of Resolution 2022-02 Update to the Economic Development Plan.

Economic Development Director, Steve Prokopek provided background of the Economic Development workplan. Presenting an overview of the Fundamental Focus, Key Economic Development Metrics as well as proposed changes to the plan.

Mr. Prokopek outlined, the next 12-month focus:

- Complete the signage circulation and parking plan
- Complete Town Center Redevelopment Area Plan
- Continue to implement a promotional strategy
- Work with the owner of the northeast corner of Cave Creek Road and Carefree Highway to identify development opportunities and outreach strategy
- Finally roll out quarterly business newsletter

Councilperson Hatcher asked if the driver for the relocation of Town Hall is due to the need for more space or is it to release an asset and bring value to the Town by utilizing the current Town Hall location as a business enterprise? Mr. Prokopek responded; it is both of those reasons. Town Hall's current location is an underutilized asset for the Town and has the potential to be a keystone site for revitalization.

Vice Mayor Crane inquired regarding the schedule for the General Plan Update. Planning Director, Stacey Bridge-Denzak responded, an RFP will be drafted in the near future, to bring on a consultant to, along with staff, help lead the process. Ms. Bridge-Denzak explained that it is approximately an 18-month process. Important to note, that the General Plan Update does go out to the public for vote.

Director Prokopek council action is not only to consider approval of Resolution 2202-02 and the update to the Economic Development Plan, but also includes the appointment of the Planning and Zoning Commission as Economic Development Advisory Board (EDAB) as well as the Consideration of the State Land Parcel in the upcoming General plan, update vs. General plan amendment.

Councilperson Kroyer **MOVED TO APPROVE** Resolution 2022-02 - Update to the Economic Development Plan. **SECONDED** by Councilperson Hatcher. **CARRIED**, 7-0.

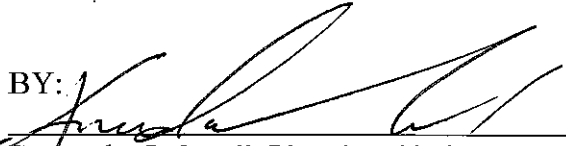
ITEM #10 Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

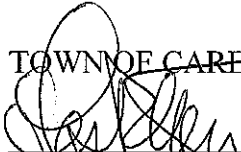
DATED this 4th day of January 2021.

TOWN OF CAREFREE

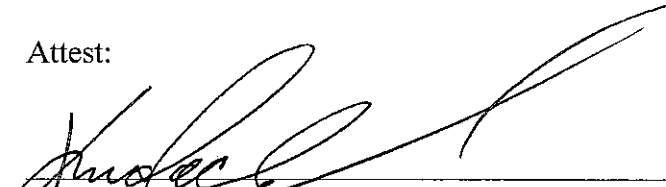
BY:


for Samantha J. Gesell, Planning Clerk

~~TOWN OF CAREFREE~~

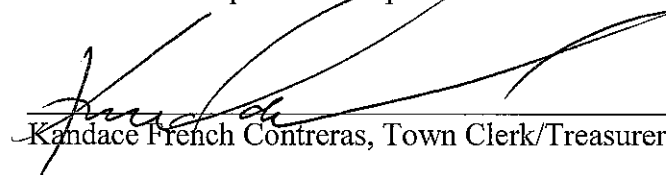

Les Peterson, Mayor

Attest:


Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk/Treasurer

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the Regular Meeting of the Town of Carefree held January 04, 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


Kandace French Contreras, Town Clerk/Treasurer