



Sebastopol Citizens

E d u c a t e - C o m m u n i c a t e

2019 City Council Meetings

(You may click on the dates to read the full summary.)

[January 15, 2019](#)

- Appointments made to DRB and Planning Commission (still one OPEN spot).
- \$150,000 grant approved for capital improvements in Park Village.
- Attempt to use 2% increase in TOT for CalPERs funding and homelessness fails.
- Changes made to process for filling board positions, given difficulties getting candidates.
- PS: Lest anyone forget, it is the Mayor who runs the meeting.

[February 5, 2019](#)

- Pretty quiet public comment.
- Apple Blossom Parade and Festival - April 13 and 14.
- Member Carnacchi pushed for formalizing selection of Mayor and Vice, but had no plan.
- Midyear budget adjustments approved 5:0
- Pretty quiet evening, still took 4+ hours.

[February 19, 2019](#)

- Special Election March 5. [Info here.](#)
- The HAWK crossing at Bodega Ave/Nelson Way is completed and accepted, \$284k total cost.
- Slab work at Park Village completed at \$119k.
- Occupy Bench (no, not financed by Mexico) will be dedicated April 7th.
- Bike to Work Day is May 9th.

[March 5, 2019](#)

- March 17-23 is National Surveyor's Week, ties to Kurt Vonnegut noted.
- Zero Waste Sub-Committee and Planning Commission seats filled.
- To Peace Wall: Jim Corbett, Lynn Woolsey, Tula Jaffe, Dr. Earl Herr.
- Building permit fees to be waived for rebuilding from flood damage.
- New ordinance coming "banning use of Food Service Ware and other Polystyrene materials within the City of Sebastopol."
- A martini needs no straw, and suffers irreparable harm should one be employed.

March 19, 2019

- Public comment alive and well.
- Street lighting assessment is underway, should be less now with LEDs approved.
- Ordinance approved that bans styrofoam containers in food service, effective in 6 months.
- Annual report from Ives Pool presented.
- Moving the Council to using tablets to save paper was, of course, controversial.
- Insurance payout of \$500k for the Community Center is expected

April 2, 2019

- Public comment provides the fodder to make one laugh, cry, and cringe.
- 18 ADA curb ramps getting upgraded for a mere \$450k.
- The City is moving quickly towards trying to regulate installation of cell equipment on utility poles. A speaker asserts as fact that "the sky is a plasma battery for Artificial Intelligence and we are antennas and our heads are turning into phones."
- CASA, a regional effort to solve the housing crisis, does not care to consult Sebastopol. The Council is not impressed.

April 16, 2019

- Emergency proclamation from flooding extended in hopes of receiving state/federal assistance.
- Yearly lighting tax dropped \$3.36 to \$33.14, should go down even more next year given new LEDs.
- Use permit approved for Good Run on May 3, start and finish at the Barlow.
- Telecom urgency ordinance adopted to try to gain control over cell phone network installations.
- Council Member Carnacchi makes several attempts to have an impact.

May 7, 2019

- Mary Gourley recognized for winning City Clerk of the Year for all of California!
- First Street has a leak in a water main. Major repairs coming.
- Sebastopol World Friends reported, delightfully, on the recent visit of 23 adults and students from sister city Takeo City, Japan.
- Big discussion on Davis Townhomes project, 18 townhouses between Coffe Catz and the Laguna.
- A case is made for Coffee Catz to offer something higher octane when times get tough.

May 21, 2019

- May 19-25 proclaimed National Public Works Week. Thanks, peeps.
- Giants baseball remembered. Same kind of Endurance need for Council Meetings.
- Polystyrene Foam container ban approved.

- An appeal of Planning Commission use permit approval was itself approved. Yes, a reversal.
- And yes, reads like it was kind of fishy.

June 4, 2019

- Swallow nest removal mistake not quite done, gets public comment.
- Budget discussed, not much progress.
- Did Mayor Hinton really draw an inside straight to the chagrin of Councilmember Gurney?
- The City is resisting [joining the GSA](#), and losing control of our own water. It's ugly.
- Meeting length: 6 hours. Plus a 1.5 hour closed session before.

June 18, 2019

- Lots of public comment, to be sure. Smart meters make a comeback.
- A review of Development Impact Fees and User Fees is underway, significant omissions notwithstanding.
- Garbage rates going UP.
- Weed abatement time. We are looking good, save one East Coaster.
- Is it time to add a full-time paid firefighter in Sebastopol?

July 16, 2019

- Assemblymember Mark Levine drops off a \$1.5M check to the city for flood damage repairs.
- Public comment abounds, as does commentary thereof.
- City switching to EverGreen service from Sonoma Clean Power, at a \$41k cost, passes 4:1.
- Can a person play Pong on an iPad? Would a Councilmember be tempted?
- Sat Sep 21, Sebastopol will host an early morning cycling event.

August 6, 2019

- Wheelchairs riding in the bowls of the Skate Park sounds problematic, don't you think?
- Greg Jacobs selected as next Locals Who Make A Difference.
- 45 day moratorium passed that prohibits non-hosted vacation rentals exceeding 30 days a year. An ordinance is expected in the coming weeks.
- Water and Sewer rates will likely continue to rise for the next several years.

September 3, 2019

- Several public comments regarding homeless issues on lower Palm Ave near Laguna.
- Solar panels to be replaced at Community Center. Other major repairs still needed from flood damage.
- Moratorium on non-hosted vacation rentals over 30 days in a year likely to be extended to a year.
- Paperless moves forward, electronic devices coming to a Council near you.

September 17, 2019

- Despite already decided lack of legal standing, the City is trying to keep Smart Meters out of Fircrest Mobile Home Park.
- Several seats on the Planning Commission will be termed out Dec 31. YOUR big chance to apply!
- Ditto on the Design Review Board and Public Arts Committee.
- Lots more juicy tidbits, many entertaining, may be found in the Notes...

October 15, 2019

- Several proclamations, including World Polio Day...vaccines do work!
- Astounding. No public comment. None.
- Prop 68 funds are coming to Sebastopol, for upgrades to Libby Park and Ives Park.
- Big discussion on how to use the \$1.5M from the state for flood repairs, with more coming from FEMA. Community Center will get a nice chunk of these funds.

November 5, 2019

- Thanksgiving Dinner at The Community Church - Everyone invited.
- ADA curb ramps coming to 116 thru town, at cost to City of \$450k.
- 2 hour discussion of the Morris Street encampment yielded no results.
- 50% reduction in fees for 2019 Peacetown Summer Concert approved.
- Sebastopol looking at joining proposal to transform PGE into customer-owned cooperative.

November 19, 2019

- Tree lighting at 5pm on 12/5 at Mario Savio Free Speech Plaza.
- City Building Inspector position open, upon retirement Jan 1 of Glenn Schainblatt.
- Community Center flood repairs going out for new bids, estimate \$386k.
- As we embark and imbibe through another holiday season, [accept this challenge](#) for responsible consumption.

December 3, 2019

- Pat and Craig Boblitt officially named as "Locals Who Make A Difference."
- Patrick Slayter named as Mayor, Una Glass as Vice-Mayor.
- Public comment yields another wild incoherent critique of nearly everything.
- Sebastopol signs on to support HR 763, climate plan to charge fees for fossil fuel extraction. If passed, will just add to the dust-gathering pile sitting on McConnell's desk.
- In an only in Sebastopol irony, appears that the EMF folks want to be excluded from the move

progressing towards eliminating gas hookups, in favor of all-electric.

December 17, 2019

- The project at Murphy and Healdsburg Aves seems to be endless, with lots of disruption to traffic.
- Calder Creek storm-water system is way overdue for some maintenance. Staff to pursue.
- We might get an actual sidewalk on Bodega Ave across from the cemetery.
- LANTERN group will have Councilmember Gurney as liaison to Council to look at improving the library.
- Full time Fire Engineer job description and salary discussed.

SebastopolCitizens.org