



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting August 1, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

Council Member Gurney was absent.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Michelle Beckman was recognized for 15 years of service with the police department.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker encouraged the Council to discourage cigarette litter and admonished them for not making changes to the Constitution. The two suggestions may not have been related. It was difficult to tell.
- Two Flynn Street speakers complained about the frequent smell of spray painting on a wall at the skate park. They also reported used paint cans and brushes in the trash cans and said some of the images were inappropriate, especially for small children. Parking is also becoming a problem.

Consent Calendar: (All approved without comment 4:0)

- The Council approved an “Out of Area” sewer hookup at [7511 Witter Road](#), providing several conditions are met. [More information here](#).
- Approved were **water line** replacements at Hayden Avenue, Edman Lane, and Lilian Way. **Sewer lines** will be replaced at the police station and on Flynn and Johnson streets. This is currently budgeted and the **\$1,216,503** will be covered by water and the sewer capital funds that are funded by your water and sewer payments.
- Purchase orders were approved for [Daniel O. Davis](#) for the demolition of the existing community building and pad and to [Earthtone Construction](#) for the renovation of the manager’s building at Village Park (recently upgraded from the less tony Village Mobile Home Park.) The city has contracted with West County Community Services to manage the property and this renovation is one condition of that agreement. However, WCCS must provide “alternative bathroom facilities” before the community building is demolished. According to the city, “**No date exists yet for this to happen.**” The total cost for the above, plus some already accomplished fencing, is within budget at **\$115,070**.
- The city manager was authorized to purchase two, three-quarter ton [Ford 250 XL](#) pickups and one plug-in [C-Max Energi SE](#) hybrid vehicle from [Hansel Ford](#) to replace two, three-quarter 1997 Ford pickups and one 1994 three-quarter Dodge pickup. **Cost \$94,000. It’s completely fake news** that the Council also wanted a [Lamborghini](#) so they could tool around [Gravenstein Apple Fair](#) in style.
- Able Fence Company will install a six-foot **galvanized chain link fence** (complete with barbed wire) to replace the damaged one at the Pleasant Hill Reservoir – [an antenna-free zone](#). The cost is **\$27,000** unless there is another lawsuit.
- The replacement of some aging play equipment at [Ives](#) and [Libby](#) parks got the green light.

- [Playground Pros](#) will receive a **\$19,653.36** purchase order for the equipment and installation.
- Again this year, **Diane Davis** was awarded a **\$27,268** contract for [Operation 1:4:1's](#). The cost is covered by a grant that trickled down from California Board of State Community Corrections due to the efforts of the **Sebastopol Police Department**.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- The Council approved a request from the Police Chief to implement **Responsible Beverage Service training**. Sugar-free, vanilla latte with soy milk isn't the issue (although that combination of ingredients should be avoided.) We are talkin' booze here. The training will enlighten the **63 purveyors of alcohol in Sebastopol** to the many benefits of not serving alcohol to minors or to those who have already had too many. Several of those purveyors were in attendance, largely because of **Council Member Hinton's** outreach. It seems not everyone noticed the memo. The program is focused on education and not enforcement. Although a laudable program, **it doesn't excuse a 45-minute presentation.***

Regular Agenda Items:

- The Council discussed the proposed location of [Ned Kahn's sculpture](#). Three of the Council members were good to go with placing it on one of the two pads on the east side of the bridge that were kindly provided by Caltrans. **Council Member Carnacchi**, however, was not in favor of that location because it's "not conducive to **standing under the structure and meditating.**" He then criticized members of the public arts committee and his fellow Council members for **lack of "due diligence"** by failing to physically view it. Then he made a motion to table the issue for further review and actually looked surprised when the very people he just criticized declined to second the motion. [What can one say except.....](#) **Mayor Glass** then introduced the idea of two smaller towers on each side of the bridge. **Vice Mayor Slater** agreed and then began giving design advice to a [renowned sculptor](#). **Council Member Hinton** suggested we hear the artist's ideas. Can you imagine my shock when **Mr. Kahn not only agreed with the vice mayor** but said he was already pursuing the idea of two small towers? The city will now approach Caltrans with the idea. (Passed 3:1 with Council Member Carnacchi in the minority.)
- Caltrans has asked the city to consider replacing the **in-pavement** flashing lights with flashing [pole-mounted lights \(RRFBs\)](#). Caltrans says the pole lights, a newer technology, have a higher "yield" rate and a lower cost. This comes as Caltrans is working with the city to repave Hwy. 116 through the city and then adding bike lane markings. For this work, the city has agreed to revamp the [ADA curb ramps](#) along Hwy. 116 as its part of the project. (Passed 4:0.)
- A contract with [W-Trans](#) for **\$34,000** was discussed. Caltrans is having some problems with the earlier 2016 study provided by another consultant, [AECOM](#). Time is now an issue and the Council is more comfortable with the input they are likely to get from W-Trans, a local firm that has worked with the city before. Any reimbursement from AECOM is unlikely. (Passed 4:0.)
- Voting delegates were chosen to represent Sebastopol to the League of California Cities. (Passed 4:0.)

City Council Reports:

- Mercifully short.

A Parting Shot:

* **There is no presentation that should go on for 45 minutes.** A modest proposal: If the city manager agrees to limit them to 15 minutes, **lunch is on me** the Wednesday following a Council meeting.

Elapsed Time: 4:30 hours (6:00–10:30pm)

Next City Council meeting is September 9, 2017 at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

You can view this meeting and others at: <https://livestream.com/accounts/14608643>.

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SebastopolCitizens.org