



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting November 13, 2018 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were present.
- A closed session was held at 5:30 dealing with labor issues.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- **Years of Service Awards were to be given** to fire department volunteers **Timothy McHale** (25 years) and **Steve Thibodeau** (35 years), but one was away on a fire call and the other was in Butte County and he probably wasn't fishing.

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- No one spoke. **FYI:** During the Study Session a speaker got a little testy when Mayor Slayter informed him that one person could no longer cede their allotted speaking time to another. Mercifully, the city adopted that rule several months ago, in an open and public meeting and without any objections. Live with it, only your mama thinks you are that interesting for longer than three minutes.

Consent Calendar: (Passed 5:0)

- Minor text amendments to the zoning ordinance were approved and it was formally adopted. It will become law within 30 days.
- A **\$37,950** contract with [Willdan Financial Services](#) was approved to determine if the current water rates will allow the utility to remain financially viable.

Study Session: Informational Only

- On April 4, 2016, Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation (SB 3, Leno) which will raise California's minimum wage to **\$15 per hour** by **2022**. For reasons known only to them, a group showed up and urged the council to do that in **2020** in the city of Sebastopol. For thirty minutes they bludgeoned us with mind-numbing statistics designed overwhelm our frontal lobes in a blatant effort to establish mind control. Fortunately, the temporal lobe kicked in and, while we sat there in what appeared to be a state of suspended animation, we weren't really not listening. (My attorney said they came dangerously close to committing elder abuse.)

Well, maybe the council members were listening. **Council Member Carnacchi** asked if they had contacted the business community about this idea. **Answer: No.** **Vice Mayor Hinton** asked if we did this would we always be paying more than the state required as the rate will, from time to time, be adjusted for inflation. **Answer: Yes.** **Council Member Gurney** pointed out that supporting data was gathered from cities much larger than Sebastopol. **Answer: Dodged it.** **Mayor Slayter** asked who would enforce the law if a local worker was from a company not located in Sebastopol. **Answer: The State of California** (oh yeah!) **Council Member Glass** asked if they were addressing this issue regionally. **Answer: Waffle.**

This whole thing, questions, public comment and tangents, ran on for one hour and 25 minutes when it could have been expressed in less than five minutes by saying: “If you can’t pay your employees at least \$15.00 an hour here in Sonoma County, **YOU** are doing something wrong.”

Regular Agenda Items:

- A presentation occurred about the [FEMA High Water Mark Initiative](#) “to help improve the public’s awareness of flood risk and encourage communities to take long-term action to address this risk.”
- The council selected [W-Trans](#) to do a traffic corridor study. It includes “Healdsburg Avenue between the N. Main Street intersection to the Covert Lane intersection, and Gravenstein Highway North between the Covert Lane intersection and Mill Station Road at the northern City boundary.” Also included is the “two-way portion of Petaluma Avenue towards the south end of the City, and for the one-way parallel sections of Petaluma Avenue/McKinley Street and North & South Main Streets which encompasses the downtown core.” The council decided to award **W-Trans a \$70,000 contract** for Phase 1 (a study) that will take place after a two month cooling off period about the bike lanes (AKA The Green Mile). This may not have been their exact wording but hey, consider the source. (Passed 5:0)

Public Hearing: (Passed 5:0)

- The council considered amending the city **User Fee Schedule** that will amount to an aggregate increase of \$2,073. FYI, “A fee may not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service or performing the activity.”

City Council Reports:

- The City Offices will be closed from Wednesday November 21 through the Thanksgiving weekend. City staff is available in case of emergencies or if a major issue arises that needs immediate attention. Please feel free to contact City staff: mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org who will respond as soon as possible or if urgent, please contact the police department at 707-829-4400 who will contact City staff immediately.

A Parting Shot:

- Then there was the person sitting behind me who clearly hadn’t eaten for days and was making up for it now. Dipping into a noisy bag of who knows what and masticating away loudly only to finish up with slurp from a **plastic straw** drawn from the pit of some cavernous cup, that person eliminated any chance of having a Thanksgiving dinner at my place. Yo, eat before the meeting but if must eat don’t sit behind me and close your mouth when you chew.

Elapsed Time: 2 hours and 40 minutes.

Next City Council meeting is December 4, 2018, at the Teen Center, 425 Morris Street at 6:00pm.

Your can view this meeting and others at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

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