

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – April 15, 2014 – Synopsis and Commentary

All council members were present.

Breaking news:

The City Manager asked for a closed session after this meeting because of some new developments with the CVS lawsuit that surfaced after the agenda was printed.

Proclamations and Presentations:

- April 25th was proclaimed **Child Memorial Day** in memory of all those who have died by violence. Representatives of [MOVES](#) presented the Council with a flag.
- The [Rotary Learn To Swim](#) program was recognized for 30 years of teaching water safety and swimming at Ives pool.

Public Comment (aka open mike):

There were only two speakers. One of them was sane, complaining about the car wash on Healdsburg Avenue. The other, well, it was difficult to follow but mostly he went on for three minutes about the importance of being brief.

Consent Calendar:

Approved without discussion (5:0) were:

- Preliminary approval of the **street lighting assessment**. Essentially no increase is being proposed and it will stay at \$23.32 per year.
- **Local street rehabilitation**. Construction plans have been submitted to the City by its consultant. Since the City doesn't have the funds to start an extensive repair project, this proposal covers the laying of a slurry seal on streets that would most benefit from it. Streets that are in worse shape will have to wait for repairs until the City can afford the more extensive repairs required. In their condition, the application of a slurry would do little good.

An herbicide will be applied during the above process to kill the weeds in the existing pavement cracks. **Resolution #5108** creating a toxic-free zone in Sebastopol can be

circumvented if there is no safe alternative. In that case, the public would be notified and professionals would apply the herbicide. This could prove interesting.

Presentations:

[Sebastopol World Friends](#) thanked the City for its support of their recent trip to Takeo, Japan.

Discussion and Action Items:

The **General Plan Advisory Committee** (GPAC) selection process was completed. Nine people will join the one from the Design Review Board and the two from the Planning Commission. Six alternates were also selected. Again, it was a long and laborious process but **Mayor Jacob**, as he did at the April 1st meeting, made the best of it.

There was a lot of discussion about GPAC, but **Council Member Gurney's** focus on the ratio of men to women was the strangest. Shouldn't she have focused on competence? It's moments like this that make me think our Council is rudderless in the river of reality.

So here's GPAC!

From the committees: **Linda Kelley, Scot Stegeman, and Ted Luthin.**

Newly Appointed: **Paul Fritz, Maureen Purtell, Kathy Oetinger, Marsha Sue Lustig, Geoffrey Skinner, Clare Najarian, Paul Andre Schabracq, Chrit Longmaid and Craig Boblitt.**

Alternates: **Rob Cary, Paul Jaffee, Buffie Harris, Erik Ohlsen, Jim Wheaton, and Omar Figueroa.**

The City is talking to De Novo Consulting about the feasibility of going back to a **two-way street** system. Even if it can happen (read Caltrans), it will cost **\$1,000,000** or more. De Novo thought there might be available grants and/or loans. The irony of this change is not lost on those of us who opposed the change to a one-way system years ago. This was in an age when you could drag race the train on Main Street and folks didn't sue the City just because they didn't get their way. Moving the process forward passed 4:1 with **Council Member Kyes** in the minority. After giving **\$20,000** to **Cittaslow** and what must have been over **\$5,000** for

Brier Patch berry removal, Kyes balked at paying a consultant who actually presented the City with a plan prior to asking for money.

Council Members Kyes, Slayter and Eder then shot down the staff's request for a consultant to help with the upcoming specter of extending the **Utility Users Tax (UUT)**. It was clear that staff dearly wanted the many services provided by the consultant. The consultant all but guaranteed the City recouping his fees by more accurate audits and enforcement that would also be provided. It failed 2:3 with **Mayor Jacob** and **Council Member Gurney** in the minority.

The [Sebastopol Community Cultural Center](#) remodel was budgeted in 2013/14 for \$168,000. Only about \$8,000 has been spent on plans and specs. The City is going to let the bidding process go ahead in the hopes that enough funds will be available in the 2014/15 year. With contingencies and other things, the amount requested for budgeting in 2014/15 will be \$214,255.

City Council Reports:

Council Member Eder was so jazzed about meeting a Marin family walking around town that he had to tell us all about it. Is this the first ripple in the Slow Mo Sebastopol tsunami that will soon wash over us?

And a parting shot!

Council Member Kyes takes great delight in finding typos in previous meeting notes. This time he found one on page 26! [This may help him get over it in the future.](#)

Duration 5:00

John Necker