



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Council Meeting December 15, 2020 – Synopsis and Commentary

- All council members were virtually present.

Proclamations/Presentations:

- Elizabeth Smith was nominated to be the next local who made a difference. [You may find one of here projects here.](#)

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- The first speaker again urged the council to pursue [ranked voting](#).
- Evert Fernandez, who did not win a seat on the council, congratulated those who did. He also had kind words for former Council Member Carnacchi, thereby demonstrating to others how it should be done in the United States.
- Another speaker urged for safe parking for the homeless.
- A voice from the past castigated the council for not upholding the Constitution and not bringing the troops home.
- Another speaker thanked the council for the bike lanes.

Regular Agenda Items:

- After interviews held earlier, Paul Fritz and Beau Anderson were appointed to the Planning Commission (5:0.)

Consent Calendar: (Approved)

- The minutes for the November 17 and December 1 meetings were approved and will appear here shortly. [Scroll down to Past Council Meetings](#). Not all minutes are available on the website.
- The Local Emergency Proclamation was extended for another 60 days.
- The city will solicit bids for repaving the following streets: The base bid is for Hansen Court (\$48,710), Michael Place (\$133,670), Kathleen Court (\$29,143) and Cleveland Avenue (\$101,094.) The alternative bid is for Eastside Avenue (\$56,821) and Strout Street (\$61,318.) This format “allows the City to adjust the actual list to be addressed to accommodate the bids and available money.” The current budget of \$451,920 currently includes a 5% contingency allowance.
- A fourth parklet in town was approved just behind [Ramen Gaijin](#). There was some polite resistance from some other downtown businesses that are not restaurants. Parking remains the big issue.

Regular Agenda Items: (No action: Informational only.)

- The fate of the Sebastopol Inn was discussed. While all the council members supported the county purchasing the inn, they had, and still have, many questions. Question as they might,

Mayor Glass summed up Sebastopol's position in an uncharacteristically brief statement: "We have no control." And nothing could make that any clearer than learning tonight that escrow is closing this Wednesday morning, with move-ins to be completed by the end of December. The county stated it will house "COVID-vulnerable unsheltered individuals...65 years or older and/or with chronic or acute health conditions." Sex offenders and violent felons will not be allowed. The residents will be from [non-congregate sites](#) and not people who have been dragged in off the streets kicking and screaming. There will be two on-site security guards on duty 24/7. Many other services will be provided. [You may see the county's presentation here](#). It also contains public comment on the project.

Most of the objections tonight had to do with the location and the effect it would have on the businesses in the area. The other was \$6,375,000 the county is paying for 31 rooms before upgrading them. Only two of the rooms have kitchenettes. The county plans to give \$370,000 to the city for lost transit occupancy taxes, but it looks like the city is going to be on the hook for dispatching first responders to the location.

A Parting Shot:

- Just a thought: A very nice, new and self-contained travel trailer can be had for around \$20,000. Trailers could have been setup just east of the Sebastopol Inn at Park Village. If a danger of flooding occurred, they could easily be towed to safety. \$6,375,000 can buy a lot of them.

Elapsed Time: 5:00 hours (6:00–11:00pm)

Next regular city council meeting is January 5, 2021 via ZOOM
Your can view this meeting and others at: <http://bit.ly/sebcctv>.

John Necker
SebastopolCitizens.org