

Sebastopol City Council Meeting – May 15, 2012 – Synopsis and Commentary

--John Necker, Sebastopol Citizen

Mayor Wilson, Council Member Slater and Council Member Shaffer were present for a very short meeting.

It opened with the news that our City Manager, Jack Griffin, will be moving on to the City of San Marcos as its City Manager. His competence, professionalism and personality were praised by the City Council and many other department heads. He was also praised for submitting a tight but balance budget for next fiscal year without having any layoffs.

City attorney Larry McLaughlin was appointed as our interim City Manager.

Public comments produced the usual speaker decrying EMF and Lyme disease dangers. Another speaker voiced concerns about perceived drug activity in her neighborhood and the speed at which they were being addressed by the City. Police Chief Jeffrey Weaver gave a detailed response citing the drop in such activity while assuring her that things are moving ahead but reminding everyone that investigations must proceed in a planned and legal fashion.

The public works superintendent, Richard Emig, presented a plan for bringing the City wells into regulatory requirements. It passed with a 3:0 vote.

The \$30,000.00 a year lighting assessment passed on a 3:0 voted. The cost is not expected to increase next fiscal year. Kathy Austin asked if there were plans to change the lighting to a more appealing and efficient LED based system. City Manager Jack Griffin replied that the City owned lights in the Plaza are now LED but the street lighting is owned by PG&E and plans to convert them are in the distant future.

The July 3rd meeting was canceled on a 3:0 vote.