



Sebastopol Citizens

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

Sebastopol City Special Council Meeting May 15, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

All council members were present for this special meeting. Its timing was to accommodate the consultant from [Bartel and Associates](#), who is busily engaged with other cities who are facing the ravenous ***Beast of CalPERS Unfunded Liabilities***. While in a better position than some other cities, our **\$9,000,000 obligation** (\$4,000,000 for miscellaneous employees and \$5,000,000 for police) will embark the Council and staff on a 20-year mission to pay that down.

Was that a gasp? Well, the consultant said that the focus should be on making the payments and not the total amount of the unfunded liability. There is going to be some pain but it can be managed.

Remember, agreements were made with employees in better times and in good faith all around and these agreements must still be honored. CalPERS and the City are now adapting to the new reality ([PEPRA](#)) and in time and with good management we should be able to dispatch the Beast. [If you like charts click here.](#)

Elapsed Time: 1:30 hours (6:00–7:30pm)

Sebastopol City Council Meeting May 16, 2017 – Synopsis and Commentary

All Council members were present.

Proclamations/Presentations: (Read in their entirety.)

- May 21-27 was declared [Public Works Week](#).
- The 2017 Community [Resilience Challenge was endorsed](#).

Public Comment (aka Open Mike):

- There were no speakers and my thanks to all of them!

Consent Calendar: (Approved without comment 5:0)

- A claim against the City was rejected and referred to the insurance company. It's not very clear but somehow involves a red zone and damaged tires. [More information here.](#)
- Weeds were declared a public nuisance despite Proposition 64. [Exhibit A has some interesting names listed.](#)
- [V.F.W. Post 3919](#), the [Sebastopol Gravenstein Lions Club](#) and the [Sebastopol Sea Serpents](#) will be allowed to sell fireworks this year.

- The Council approved mid-year **budget adjustment of \$234,600** for six unexpected expenditures. Leaking roofs at the police and fire stations, HVAC at the Community Center, and sewer pump failures were the culprits. [Details here.](#)
- Lynn Deedler was appointed to be the Design Review Board liaison to the Public Arts Committee.
- The Council approved executing a contract with [Questa Engineering](#) to design improvements to the [Americorps Trail](#). The **\$25,000 fee** is budgeted and will be covered by the Park Impact Fee Fund. [Details here.](#)
- The job description for the Senior Maintenance Worker position was updated.

Informational Items/ Presentation:

- [Sebastopol World Friends](#) reported on a recent hosting of young folks from our Sister City of Takeo, Japan. This is an excellent organization devoted to building lasting friendships around the world. It also must be praised for keeping its presentation under 15 minutes.

Public Hearings:

- An **overview of the 2017-2018 budget** was given by our finance director. While her presentation lasted a mere 17 minutes, the Council felt compelled to comment on it for another 33 minutes. *After that* they started the long, arduous and necessary review of the budget in detail that took just a few minutes short of an hour, and so begs the question was the first 33 minutes necessary? Changes will be made and the budget will come back for final approval.
- The Capital Improvement Program was also discussed. This was another long, arduous and necessary review of the City's projects and proposed projects. It took about an hour. The bad news is that the one fellow who is still **afflicted with a Willow/Jewell problem**, a problem that doesn't exist, seems to have infected **Council Members Carnacchi and Hinton**. They both gave it the kiss of life, lifting it from the great divide to live yet again and slouch toward another Council meeting.*

Regular Agenda Items: (Passed 5:0)

- The Council's position on issues related to various area agencies was established.

City Council Reports:

- This is **show and tell time** for the Council. The time they spend at these meetings is far exceeded by their duties away from the camera and they rightly want to be credited for that. But with only two members of the public present at the end of the meeting, close to 20 minutes of it is too much. Perhaps posting the reports on their City web page would be of more value to the community as it is usually consumed by only two of us die-hards and the other Council members.

A Parting Shot:

- *This fellow's Willow/Jewell fears are apocryphal and his solutions fanciful. The facts are there is no one who has ever been struck by a vehicle there (unlike Bodega and Nelson Way) and the only auto collision that has occurred in over ten years was so minor that no police report was filed. Since my residence is only two blocks away from Willow, my apocryphal facts should carry as much weight as his. Since 1977, there's never been a close call there involving me – walking or driving. His "solutions" could easily cost the City tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars when we are facing a likely CalPERS payment of \$600,000 in 2017/18 and \$1,000,000

in 2022/23. This matter only strengthens my long-held belief that someone you like very much can also be very wrong.

Elapsed Time: 4:15 hours (6:00–10:15pm)

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

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

John Necker

SebastopolCitizens.org